



SACRED HEART
OF JESUS CATHOLIC PARISH



COMMITMENT OF FIDELITY COMPANION GUIDE





What is the Commitment of Fidelity (CoF)?

The Commitment of Fidelity is Sacred Heart's model of giving.

- The Commitment of Fidelity is a question: How is God calling you to serve Him and your neighbor through the work of Sacred Heart?
- The CoF model is designed to grow and sustain our community in a spirit consistent with the life of our unique parish.
- The model hinges upon the individual responsibility of parishioners, parish families, and friends as we prayerfully take spiritual inventory, appraise gifts, and examine our commitment to God's Church and each other.

How does CoF work?

Every year, Sacred Heart Parish calls everyone in the community to assess the gifts that God has given them and to respond to His generosity by committing some of those gifts back to His Church.

- For a designated series of weeks each year, parishioners are encouraged to undergo the process of personal examination together, and after this period of holistic and prayerful discernment, to submit to the Parish what they are planning to commit in fidelity to aid in its work for the year.
- CoF postcards for submission of your commitments are available after Masses during Commitment of Fidelity weeks and all year round in the parish office.
- While the "Commitment of Fidelity" is a name for the scheduled period of discernment and the subsequent giving, it is also the relationship we hope to foster between the Parish and its community– a partnership of mutual, intentional commitment and loving sacrifice.
- The CoF model encourages the community to be continually mindful of how we praise and thank our Lord all year round. Through this spirit of gratitude, we are best able to humbly discern His will for our lives and the role we are each to play in His Church.

What do commitments of fidelity look like?

- Prayers
- Volunteer hours
- Skilled work
- Financial assistance

How does the CoF model benefit the Parish?

The CoF model enables the parish to help community members fulfill the precepts of the Church, while also getting a more clear picture of the resources we can count on for the year.

- Encourages communal intentionality– intentional commitment to prayer, intentional commitment to tithing, intentional commitment to volunteering
- Increases fiscal responsibility and transparency
- Allows the parish to do more work through its apostolates
- Gives pastor and staff a more clear picture of what can be accomplished during the year
- Helps parish identify opportunities and needs

How does the CoF model benefit YOU?

The CoF model is designed to benefit our parishioners both spiritually and practically.

- Provides opportunity for you to grow spiritually, as an individual as well as in your commitment to your fellow parishioners
- Promotes community health and relationship through a sense of “belonging to each other”
- Establishes a period of time and a system of accountability for individuals, families, and the parish as whole toward the responsible stewardship of our gifts and resources
- Enables the parish to be the interface with the Diocese for CSA and certain other Bishop appeals–in other words, Sacred Heart pays the Diocese directly on your behalf, making giving to the Church and Her initiatives less complicated and onerous for you
- Sustains and grows all of Sacred Heart’s wide range of apostolates, ensuring there is something for everyone





PARISH COMMITMENT of Fidelity

Now that you have considered what the Commitment of Fidelity is and means, let the following pages of the booklet serve as a guide to enter into prayer, and using the questions provided, to examine your gifts and discern how God is calling you to live as a member of Sacred Heart.

Spiritual Inventory – PRAYERS

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." - Phil. 2:1-2

Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Spend a few minutes in silence, brushing away preoccupations and anxieties as they arise. Pray the Our Father three times, pausing after each for a few moments before praying: *"Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine."*

What steps will we take to conform our hearts more fully to Christ's Sacred Heart?

Questions for prayer and discussion:

- * How does our home embrace a family culture that helps us to live out our faith?
- * How do we observe the Lord's Day as set apart for prayer and rest in addition to attending Mass?
- * Are we careful to prepare for the liturgy by prayer and observation of the Eucharistic fast?
- * Are our words and actions reverent before, during, and after Mass?
- * Do we frequently access the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- * Have we cultivated our desire to receive Christ in the Eucharist?
- * Are there ways in which we can more actively engage in the liturgical life of the parish?
- * Do we pray for the needs of our parish, diocese, bishop, and nation?
- * Do we ensure that we are devoting time daily to personal prayer, particularly in gratitude?
- * Do we regularly spend time reading Scripture?
- * Do we celebrate Solemnities and the patronal feasts of our family members?
- * How can we make loving sacrifices or offer up personal sufferings in more intentional ways?
- * Is there a particular habit of virtue or sacrifice that would challenge us to more fully rely on Christ's grace and provision?



PARISH COMMITMENT — of Fidelity

Examination of Fidelity – SERVICES

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.”

– 1 Peter 1:22

Opening prayer:

After prayerfully contemplating the verse above, bring to mind God’s love and providential care for you. Take some time to listen to the Spirit as He guides your mind and heart.

How can we sustain or deepen our practice of the Works of Mercy in our parish and beyond?

Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✧ Is my faith animated by acts of love for my neighbors?
- ✧ What are each of our roles in the body of Christ?
- ✧ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven corporal works of mercy– feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit the imprisoned/ransom the captive; bury the dead?
- ✧ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven spiritual works of mercy– instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; admonish the sinner; bear wrongs patiently; forgive offenses willingly; comfort the afflicted; pray for the living and the dead?
- ✧ Do I advance the mission of the parish to bring Christ and His Mercy to others? Do I feel equipped to do so?
- ✧ What activities excite us and bring us energy?
- ✧ What activities tend to drain and discourage us?
- ✧ Are we most joyful when working with people, ideas, or physical things?
- ✧ Do I give of my time in a way that is generous, sacrificial, and proportionate?





PARISH COMMITMENT
— of Fidelity

Appraisal of Gifts – RESOURCES

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” - Matt 11:29

Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Spend a few minutes praying exclusively in gratitude for God’s providential love and care for you. When you begin to pause and search for what to add to the list, wait in silence for the Spirit to bring you the greater depth of insight that flows from earnest gratitude.

What gifts has God given us that He is calling us to return to Him?

Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✧ How has God blessed our family?
- ✧ What makes each of us unique in our personality, gifts, and perspective?
- ✧ How have we built on these natural gifts by good stewardship and growth in virtue?
- ✧ Does our family provide financial support for the material needs of the Church?
- ✧ Do I give of resources in a way that is generous, sacrificial, and proportionate?
- ✧ Does the support we provide for the parish come from our firstfruits? Is it dependable in frequency and amount?
- ✧ Do I take advantage of opportunities to grow in and share our faith beyond satisfying the precepts of the Church?
- ✧ How have we been uniquely situated to love specific people?
- ✧ In what ways do our gifts and contributions complement those of our neighbors?
- ✧ How have we been prepared by God’s providence to serve Him and the Church?
- ✧ What is one concrete way we can use our gifts to more fully serve our God and neighbor?





PARISH COMMITMENT of Fidelity

Supporting and Sustaining Our Apostolates



Did You Know?

- If everyone supported the parish at 5%, we could sustain our current apostolates, invest in the infrastructure of our campus, and meet the needs of our community for the corporal works of mercy.
- If everyone supported at 8%, we could eliminate additional fundraising for our ministries and invest in the growth of our vibrant and increasingly ant-fragle parish.
- Currently, half of registered parishioners support our mission with gifts of at least 5% of their income.

All that we have, we have received as a gift from God, for "the Lord's are the earth and its fullness: the world and those who dwell in it." (Psalm 24:1)

- The Christian faithful are obligated to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers. (CIC 222, sec. 1)

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. (Luke 6:38)

- The fifth precept of the Church is for the faithful to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. (CCC 2043)

Supporting Our Mission

Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Annually		2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$10	\$400	\$1,733	\$20,800	➔	\$8	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$40
\$12	\$480	\$2,065	\$25,000	➔	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48
\$15	\$575	\$2,500	\$30,000	➔	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58
\$17	\$675	\$2,915	\$35,000	➔	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67
\$19	\$770	\$3,335	\$40,000	➔	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77
\$24	\$960	\$4,165	\$50,000	➔	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96
\$34	\$1,345	\$5,835	\$70,000	➔	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135
\$48	\$1925	\$8,335	\$100,000	➔	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192
\$72	\$2,885	\$12,500	\$150,000	➔	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$288

*Thank you for making the work of
Sacred Heart of Jesus possible!*

Additional Modes of Giving to Sacred Heart

For your convenience, there are other ways to financially support our work. These venues allow you to give more and save more on taxes!

Appreciated Stock Donation– donation of stock to charity that has increased in value significantly

Qualified Charitable Donation– donation directly from an IRA to a charity

Donor-Advised Fund– a special giving account set up with a sponsoring organization that lets taxpayers make large one-time gifts that can be spread out over time

Another way to invest in our largest apostolate, Sacred Heart Academy...



This foundation is a Type II supporting organization and its own registered 501(c)3 non-profit. Its sole purpose is to grow gifts given to the Academy and support general operations, teacher salaries, and student scholarships– our greatest ongoing areas of need. You can give directly to the Foundation by check, or through one of the modes above.

If you have additional questions about the avenues of giving or anything else contained in this booklet, please contact Amber Hiske, Director of Strategic Advancement, by email at ahiske@shgr.org

After prayerful reflection and discernment, please visit sacredheartgr.org/support where you will find the Commitment of Fidelity form and other resources to confirm your commitment. Alternatively, you can submit your commitment by scanning the CoF postcard, or physically filling it out and returning it to the parish office.

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