



SAINT MARY  
MAGDALEN  
CATHOLIC PARISH

SACRIFICIAL  
GIVING  
2020



BLESSINGS  
*Count*

# TO BE A CHRISTIAN STEWARD



## *Pastor's Message*

As we enter into our season of Sacrificial Giving, we hear in the Gospel of Luke Jesus' teaching that our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. "He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive."

That very insight, that all are alive in the plan of God, is at the heart of Christian Stewardship. We believe that all that we are (the gift of life itself) and all that we have (family, friends, work, income) is a gift from God.

These gifts are not ours for the keeping. Ultimately, we must

surrender them all at the moment of death. Rather, they are to be received with gratitude and returned to God through our work of discipleship with increase.

It is that Stewardship action that brings life and vitality to the Body of Christ, and purpose and truth to each of our lives. As a Stewardship parish we have seen firsthand how our "Blessings Count" - our 2020 Sacrificial Giving theme.

In this, our 60th anniversary year, the Year of Witness, we are more connected to the charitable works of the larger community (The Sharing Center, Hope CommUnity Center, Pathways to Care, Catholic Charities of

Central Florida, Habitat for Humanity, Feeding Children Everywhere, Peace Orphanage in Mexico, the list goes on) than ever before. Our excellent school and faith formation programs (R.C.I.A., Quest, Small Faith Sharing Groups) are thriving as are our prayer opportunities – none stronger than our experience of Sunday worship!

I know you have felt the blessings that have been gifted to our parish community. That is why you and your family are here. And the uniquely wonderful thing about these Christian blessings is just this: the more we share them – the more we give them away – the more we feel the return of them in our own lives. Blessings

count because you have made that a hallmark of Saint Mary Magdalen.

In Christ's love,



-Father Charles Mitchell, pastor

## GIVING OF TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

*What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is the generous giving of time, talent, and treasure.*



**L**et us begin with being a disciple— a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples.

Jesus' disciples, and Christian stewards, recognize God as the origin of life and source of all things. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards.

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries.

- Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.
- Christian disciples experience conversion—life-shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord.
- Stewardship has the power to mold our understanding of our lives as disciples and the way in which we live.



# LIVING A STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

*...is pleasing to God...is a blessing to others...leads us to true happiness.*



## How will you respond? — — — — — →

All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out God's mission:

- Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith.
- Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community.
- All Catholics who give generous support – time, money, prayers, and service according to their circumstances – to their parish and to the universal Church.

Stewards of God's gifts cooperate with God in their own redemption and in the redemption of others.

Every year you will have the opportunity to reflect on and re-evaluate your giving. This spiritual planning guide is designed to help you prayerfully consider and plan your giving.

Your gift enables our parish leaders to plan a budget for the year. Please use the Sunday envelope each week as the way in which you share your gift and give witness to the support of our parish.

# YOUR BLESSINGS COUNT

*In the past year, the generous giving of time, talent and treasure has enabled our Saint Mary Magdalen Parish and School to live out our Gospel-centered mission.*

- **Baptized** 100+ new Catholics
- Welcomed 300 new **families**
- Enrolled more than 1,200 children and adults in school, religious education and faith **enrichment** programs



- Provided **comfort** through 21,500 visits to the sick
- **Accompanied** more than 550 people through our parish's ChristLife evangelization experience



“Give and gifts will be given to you;  
a good measure, packed together,  
shaken down, and overflowing,  
will be poured into your lap.”

Luke 6:38



- **Collected** more than \$22,140 and 3,390 pounds of supplies for hurricane relief
- Prayed in the presence of the Lord for 1,060 hours at **Adoration** in the chapel

# WHAT IS SACRIFICIAL GIVING



“  
*Sacrificial Giving begins with the recognition that everything we have has been given to us by God...our time, our talents, our money, even life itself. Sacrificial Giving is based on an understanding that as Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.*

”

-United States Bishops’  
Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

## As Christian Stewards Giving is...

### PLANNED

The decision to give is just that – a decision. It requires thought and time, so that it is integrated with other financial decisions as part of a careful, intentional response to God’s generosity.



*wards, our*

## A PRIORITY

Part of our planning ensures that we give the “first fruits” – gifts given first and not after other obligations have been satisfied. Our giving should be proportionate or commensurate to what God has given us. Most people use the biblical concept of the tithe, a tenth, as a guide.

## SACRIFICIAL

Our gift becomes sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance. When we give out of our substance, we are changed in the process. We have given away something we thought we needed for ourselves, thus changing our lifestyle. We have acted on our belief that our security lies not in our material resources but in God.

## AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

If we truly believe that God gives us all that we have, gratitude is our first response. The Christian Steward dedicates a portion of these God-given gifts – our time, talent, and treasure – to furthering God’s Kingdom.





## TAKE A STEP

*In prayerful thanksgiving  
for the many blessings  
received from God.*

**P**rayerfully consider setting a Sacrificial Giving goal. Most people use the biblical concept of the tithe of 10%. It may take a few years to get there, but this is a worthy and rewarding goal for all on the road of discipleship.

You are asked to give an equal percentage to other charities (for example: if you're giving 5% to the parish in the regular Sunday envelope, please give an additional 5% to other charities for 10% total giving). Other charities might include Food Pantries and other programs for the Poor, Missions, Catholic Education donations, the Diocese, vocations or Parish Maintenance.

## ESTIMATE YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING COMMITMENT

- 1** Find your household income at the left of the chart.\*
- 2** Move across on the same line to find the amount you currently give weekly.
- 3** Move straight up the chart to find what percentage of your income your current giving represents.
- 4** Please consider taking a step by pledging up a level. For example: if you presently give 2% to the parish, consider pledging 2.5% or 3% now.

# Weekly Giving to Your Parish

|         | 1%  | 2%  | 3%  | 4%  | 5%   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 10,000  | \$2 | \$4 | \$6 | \$8 | \$10 |
| 20,000  | 4   | 8   | 12  | 15  | 19   |
| 30,000  | 6   | 12  | 17  | 23  | 29   |
| 40,000  | 8   | 15  | 23  | 31  | 38   |
| 50,000  | 10  | 19  | 29  | 38  | 48   |
| 60,000  | 12  | 23  | 35  | 46  | 58   |
| 70,000  | 13  | 27  | 40  | 54  | 67   |
| 80,000  | 15  | 31  | 46  | 62  | 77   |
| 90,000  | 17  | 35  | 52  | 69  | 87   |
| 100,000 | 19  | 38  | 58  | 77  | 96   |

**MY GIVING  
COMMITMENT  
FOR 2020 IS**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

(keep for your records)

\* If your income does not match those listed on this chart, please approximate by using combinations of two or more amounts listed.

# AUTOMATED GIVING

*We offer a convenient way to make your regular Sunday Offertory donations (Sacrificial Giving) via secure automatic debit (ACH) from your checking account.*



*If you would like to enroll in our Automated Giving program, simply complete the Enrollment Authorization Form. It can be found on our website [StMaryMagdalen.org](http://StMaryMagdalen.org) under the Stewardship tab.*

*When complete, please return the signed form along with a voided check to the Parish Office.*

*I intend to make a Sacrificial Gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly in the Sunday offertory to support our church's operations, ministries, missions and operations.*

- I "took a step"     I "took two steps"     I "took \_\_\_ steps"  
 I want more information about Automated Giving

*Please print*

**Name**

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**Address**

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**City**

**Zip**

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**Email**

**Phone**

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Your commitment is made before God. It is not legally binding and may be changed if necessary by contacting the Parish Office at [Office@StMaryMagdalen.org](mailto:Office@StMaryMagdalen.org).

**TEAR OFF AND PLACE IN THE OFFERTORY OR RETURN TO THE PARISH OFFICE**

## OUR PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING GOALS FOR 2020

Encourage 1,500 families to plan and prioritize their giving by completing the commitment card.

Encourage families to give progressively by taking 1,000 steps as a parish community.

Encourage families to sacrificially give \$3,000,000 for regular Sunday & Holy Day offerings during the next year, 2020.



Good and Gracious God,  
I believe that You are the source of every blessing,  
and you have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.

Teach me to be a good Christian Steward.  
To be generous with my time, talent and treasure.

Give me the resolve, and the heart, to live every day  
loving my neighbors and loving you.

AMEN.



[STMARYMAGDALEN.ORG](http://STMARYMAGDALEN.ORG)

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