

Automated Contributions

Complete only if interested in this service or if you already make your contributions automatically and would like to change the amount or your banking information.

To have your Sunday contributions withdrawn directly from your financial institution, please complete the form below. Withdrawals will be made on **either** the 5th or the 20th of each month (please check the appropriate box below). You will continue to receive your offering envelopes in the mail. At this time, only your Sunday contribution will be withdrawn automatically. Contributions for special collections such as CSA, Monthly Green Envelopes & Holy Days will **not** be withdrawn automatically. Please continue to use your regular envelopes for these collections.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

I hereby authorize St. Thomas More Church to initiate debit entries to my/our checking account indicated on my attached voided check. I/we authorize such banking institution to honor such debit entries on my/our account. I/we understand this authorization is to remain in full force and effect until St. Thomas More has received written notification from me/us. I agree to give 14 days written notice of any changes to, or discontinuation of, this program.

I/We hereby authorize St. Thomas More to debit my/our account in the amount of \$_____/month from my/our checking account (**attach a voided check**)

on the 5th of each month &/or 20th of each month

Name _____

Address _____

Cell # (____) _____ E-mail _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Return this form, along with a voided check to:

St. Thomas More Church

Attn: Susan Strain

8501 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321

Contact Noreen Bickel at (219) 836-8610, #330 or e-mail: nbickel@stm-church.com for more information.



Stewardship PRAYER

Almighty God, I give thanks for all the gifts you have given me; my life, my family, all that I have and all that I am. Most of all, thank you for the gift of Your Son Jesus. Jesus, the perfect steward of Your gifts, shows me that by simply loving and trusting in You I need not worry. You created me, and You will sustain me.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit upon me, bringing knowledge and understanding. Teach me to be a “good” steward of your gifts. Help me to serve joyfully, give generously, follow faithfully, live responsibly, and possess sensibly.

I give thanks for the abundant gifts you have so graciously lavished upon me. In gratitude for the spiritual and material blessings you have given me, I give to you the first fruits of these gifts by acts of service and by generously sharing all that you have entrusted to me.

Heavenly Father, help me to be a gift to others in your name.

Amen

SACRIFICIAL GIVING:

- **It isn't about simply writing a check.** It is about sharing the gifts God has given us.
- **Do something counter-cultural** by committing a portion of your hard-earned treasure to St. Thomas More Parish. In return, you won't receive anything of consumer value. You will receive a change of heart — your faith life will change for the better.
- **Make a leap of faith; take the challenge.** In thanksgiving, share what you have. Just as God has enriched your life, your stewardship enriches the lives of others.

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING BASED ON MY SALARY

Annual Income Weekly Income	\$26,000 \$500	\$52,000 \$1,000	\$78,000 \$1,500
1% per Week	\$5	\$10	\$15
3% per Week	\$15	\$30	\$45
5% per Week	\$25	\$50	\$75
8% per Week	\$40	\$80	\$120
10% per Week	\$50	\$100	\$150

WHAT PORTION SHOULD I GIVE BACK TO GOD?

			
90% My Family's Needs	5% Parish Needs	3% Needs of Others	2% Diocesan C.S.A.



Sacrificial Giving & Stewardship at

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

8501 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321
(219) 836-8610

Noreen Bickel — Director of Stewardship
(219) 836-8610, #330

Sharing THE JOY OF Stewardship 2012



SACRIFICIAL GIVING
BRINGS

Peace

OF MIND AND

Balance

TO YOUR LIFE

Sharing THE JOY OF Stewardship

Our giving to the Church should not be about giving to the needs of the Church. It should be about what **we as Christian stewards need to give**. As we know, all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. These gifts are given to us for a purpose. We are the caretakers of all the gifts He has given us.

Through giving, we offer ourselves in service and devotion to God. We become stronger in faith and develop a more personal relationship with God. Through our weekly offering at Mass, we are simply saying thank you to God for all that He has given us.

Often we are tempted to put our Church offering at the bottom of the pile of bills to be paid. Our contributions come from what is remaining, rather than what is first. How much do we spend monthly on gourmet coffee, cable, dining out, cell phone packages, etc.? If all of these items come first, we give to God from our leftovers. By putting our donation to the church first, we are acknowledging that everything we have is a gift from God and we are returning a portion to Him with gratitude.

REMEMBER, GOD IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE SIZE OF YOUR GIFT. HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU!

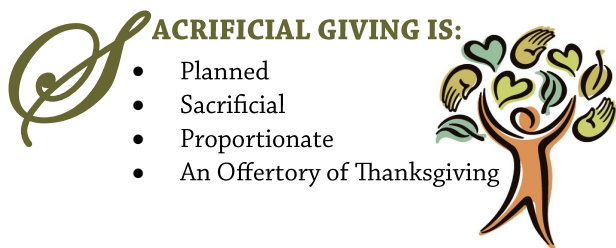
“For where your treasure is, there also is your heart.”

Matthew 6:21

Our giving is a powerful statement of faith because we are saying publicly that we trust God to provide all that we need from the remainder of His gifts to us.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

2 Corinthians 9:6



ACRIFICIAL GIVING IS:

- Planned
- Sacrificial
- Proportionate
- An Offertory of Thanksgiving

It begins with the recognition that everything we have is a gift from God.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Sacrificial giving doesn't mean giving until it hurts. Rather, it means a willing, planned and proportionate sacrifice of some of our income. Giving to our Church is a practice that we are all familiar with, but many of us are still giving the same amount that we have given for years, out of habit, not considering if our giving is in proportion to what we have been given. Sacrificing a significant part of our income requires a conscious decision to return a fair portion of the Lord's gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have.

Some people use the biblical tithe of 10% of all income as a guide for their giving. Each person must determine what is appropriate for himself or herself. Thoughtful prayer, asking God, "What is it that you want me to do to fulfill the will of your Church?", will help you.

Making a weekly offertory to the church that is substantially more than one is accustomed to giving requires a leap of faith, trusting in God's promise...

“...Those who believed—shared.”

Acts

Sacrificial

GIVING CARD



Thankful for God's gifts, I gladly share them as a partner in the mission of Jesus at ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH.

Name _____

Envelope Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

My 2012 Sacrificial Gift Will Be \$ _____

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Annually

If you are interested in automated giving, please complete the back of this form.
If you are not interested in automated giving, please continue to use your weekly contribution envelopes.

