



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
Roman Catholic Church

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November 11, 2009

Dear Parishioner,

With Thanksgiving on our hearts and minds, you will recall that last year at this same time I came to you and asked that each household--each family--give prayerful consideration to examine their regular offertory contribution here at St. Michael the Archangel. I asked each family to decide if their giving was too much, just enough, or too little. *So many of you came forward with generous weekly commitments to the offertory in December 2008.* We noticed a marked increase in sacrificial giving--as high as 15% compared to the year before. Unfortunately, in these days of economic uncertainty, for some it is difficult to follow through with intended pledges. We must all address finances as we look into the future. Without sufficient income, little else can happen. This is as true for a parish as it is for a family.

At Saint Michael the Archangel, every effort is made to meet our pastoral and school needs of each parishioner, sustain parish ministries and continue to maintain and improve the condition of our physical plant. While much has been accomplished, there is still much more work to be done in the parish.

It is quite possible that you have been faithfully yet anonymously supporting the parish each week. However, since you may not have use for parish envelopes or contribute by check, there is no means of acknowledging your contribution. In order for us to create a realistic budget we rely on those who make their weekly contribution either by envelopes or *Parishpay* ([www.paritypay.com](http://www.paritypay.com)). That way when you pledge accordingly, we can budget more accurately. Your participation in using envelopes or *Parishpay* will greatly help us in effectively managing our parish.

I pray that you will continue to join our parish family and embrace this opportunity to express your gratitude to God for his many blessings through a consistent offering each week. Your gift in these economic times is a significant blessing to our parish family.

A few weekends ago we celebrated our time, talent, and treasure with a successful Stewardship Fair. I thank all the volunteers who helped made the fair a success. Now I will invite your response for the need for sharing financial blessings. *If each parishioner does a little bit more, we can continue our mission without sacrificing cuts to services.*

As I asked last year, *please make your offertory commitment on a weekly basis to begin on the first weekend of December 2009.* **When you complete the pledge card the weekend of Saturday & Sunday, November 14 & 15, please remember that it should be a weekly figure for offertory only—not to include Special Collections or holy days.** In the event that you have any questions about this program or the Parish budget, please call the Parish office and we will be happy to answer them.

Gratefully in Our Lord,

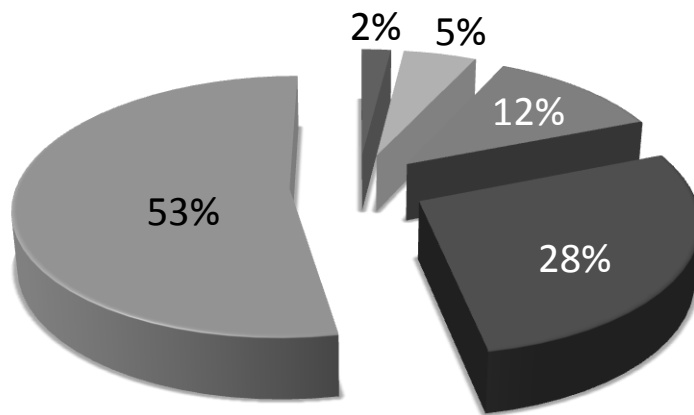
Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Pastor

## CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Envelopes are sent out to 1,423 households each month. Throughout the year, approximately 661 households use envelopes. An analysis of the last 10 months of offertory showed that 136 households gave less than \$1.00 per week, and 762 households either did not give at all or did not do so using envelopes.

The giving pattern of our parish for an average Sunday is shown in the following chart:

### St. Michael the Archangel - 2008 Offertory Registered Families



- 2% of families give more than \$3,000 per year.
- 5% of families give more than \$1,500 but less than \$2,999 per year.
- 12% of families give more than \$500 but less than \$1,499 per year.
- 28% of families give more than \$1 but less than \$499 per year.
- 53% of families do not use envelopes or do not participate in offertory.

## REFLECT ON YOUR GIFTS

I ask that every parishioner consider the gifts that God has given to him or her. Then, compare those to the amount that you return in gratitude for those gifts.

Reflect on your spending on items such as fast food, movie attendance or rental, going out to dinner etc. Think about the ratio of these expenditures to your support of our parish. A look at the above chart will indicate that the average St. Michael parishioner probably spends more in a week on pizza than on assisting in the mission of our parish.

Ask yourself if the portion of your income that you give to the work of the Lord is enough, too much, or not enough. Look at the sample of the commitment card that is on the last page of this brochure. Then, decide what amount you will give weekly when you receive the card for your household at Mass this weekend.

**Without receiving a commitment card from each household, we have no way to predict our annual income. It is our firm belief that through sound planning, we can avoid any financial crisis and preserve our parish's well being now and in the years to come. We pray that parishioners will carefully review the chart above and the succeeding pages of this brochure and will respond generously.**

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**  
Estimated Budget  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-10**  
**(JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010)**

PARISH INCOME AND EXPENSES:

**EXPENSES**

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Parish Life and Worship   | \$215,438.52        |
| Rectory and Parish Clergy | \$134,295.00        |
| Religious Education       | \$ 67,409.02        |
| Social Concerns           | \$ 11,000.00        |
| Administration            | \$210,263.70        |
| Physical Plant            | \$212,565.80        |
| Other Parish Expenses     | <u>\$ 81,393.44</u> |

**Total Parish Expenses:** **\$932,375.48**

**INCOME**

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Collections    | \$745,000.00        |
| Other Revenues | <u>\$325,313.72</u> |

**Total Parish Income:** **\$1,070,313.72**

**Total Parish Income less Total Parish Expenses:** **\$137,948.24**

SCHOOL INCOME AND EXPENSES:

**INCOME**

**EXPENSES**

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Instruction               | \$918,060.13        |
| Operation and Maintenance | \$134,165.37        |
| Administration            | \$277,929.91        |
| Auxiliary Services        | \$ 3,500.00         |
| Nursery School/Day Care   | <u>\$ 78,562.14</u> |

**Total School Expenses** **\$1,412,717.55**

**Income** \$1,297,525.00

**Total School Income less Total School Expenses** **(\$115,192.55)**

## Commitment Weekend

At all Masses this weekend you will be asked to indicate the amount that you wish to give weekly. If you give monthly, quarterly, etc., please indicate the average weekly amount of that gift. A sample of the offertory commitment card is shown at the bottom of this page.

Please carefully consider the gifts that God has given you and contribute part of them to help with the work of the parish. Come prepared to complete the commitment card that will be provided. **If you change the amount that you give, please begin giving the new amount by December 5-6, 2009.**

### How Much Should We Give?

Many people ask whether or not there is a standard for giving. Each person, or family, must arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for those that are interested in using it.

Suggested Weekly Offering

| Annual Family Income | 2.0%         | 4.0%         | 6.0%         | 8.0%         | 10.0%        |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>\$10,000</b>      | <b>4.00</b>  | <b>8.00</b>  | <b>12.00</b> | <b>15.00</b> | <b>19.00</b> |
| <b>\$15,000</b>      | <b>6.00</b>  | <b>12.00</b> | <b>17.00</b> | <b>23.00</b> | <b>29.00</b> |
| <b>\$20,000</b>      | <b>8.00</b>  | <b>15.00</b> | <b>23.00</b> | <b>31.00</b> | <b>38.00</b> |
| <b>\$25,000</b>      | <b>10.00</b> | <b>19.00</b> | <b>29.00</b> | <b>38.00</b> | <b>48.00</b> |
| <b>\$30,000</b>      | <b>12.00</b> | <b>23.00</b> | <b>35.00</b> | <b>46.00</b> | <b>58.00</b> |
| <b>\$40,000</b>      | <b>15.00</b> | <b>31.00</b> | <b>46.00</b> | <b>62.00</b> | <b>77.00</b> |
| <b>\$50,000</b>      | <b>19.00</b> | <b>38.00</b> | <b>58.00</b> | <b>77.00</b> | <b>96.00</b> |

The following is a sample of the card that you will receive at Mass this weekend. Please determine which member of your household will complete the card, and what your commitment will be before coming to church.

### Sample Offertory Commitment Card

#### *Commitment of Treasure*

**"GIVE TO THE MOST HIGH AS HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU, GENEROUSLY, ACCORDING TO YOUR MEANS, FOR THE LORD IS ONE WHO ALWAYS REPAYS, AND HE WILL GIVE BACK TO YOU SEVENFOLD." SIRACH 35:9-10**

**I understand that St. Michael the Archangel Parish is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough. My/Our new average commitment per week for the next 12 months is:**

( ) \$150.00 ( ) \$100.00 ( ) \$75.00 ( ) \$50.00 ( ) \$40.00 ( ) \$30.00 ( ) \$25.00 ( ) \$20.00 ( ) \$15.00 ( ) Other \$\_\_\_\_\_