

## CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

### Stewardship and Generosity

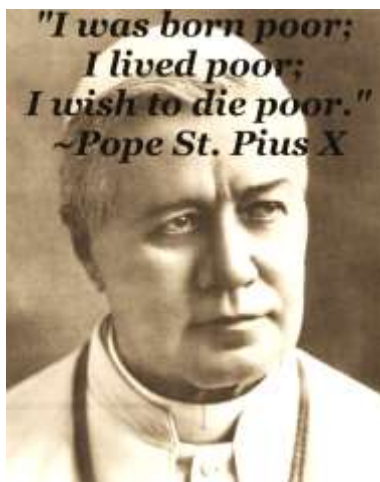
#### Practice love as something freely given

A stewardship way of life means extending one's self beyond the minimum requirements. It means living with generosity in all aspects of one's life. This is not easy, due to the effects of sin. In the document of *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the bishops write, "Sin causes people to turn in on themselves; to become grasping and exploitative toward possessions and other people; to grow accustomed to conducting relationships not by standards of generous stewardship but by the calculus of self interest: 'What's in it for me?' Constantly, Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong and how they are to live.

With God's grace, Christian stewards can overcome the temptations of self-interest and generously follow Christ. In his encyclical letter, *Veritatis Splendor* (The Splendor of Truth), Pope John Paul II speaks of going beyond the minimum requirements. He uses the example of the rich young man (Mt 19: 16-21) who asks Jesus what good he must do to inherit eternal life. The Holy Father explains that Jesus responds by inviting him "to enter upon the path of perfection." Doing this means going beyond the minimum requirements. It means generously living the commandments, loving God and others, and following Christ.

The Holy Father writes of this generosity in the following way: "Those who live 'by the flesh' experience God's law as a burden, and indeed as a denial or at least a restriction of their own freedom. On the other hand, those who are impelled by love and 'walk by the Spirit' (Gal 5:16), and who desire to serve others, find in God's Law the fundamental and necessary way in which to practice love as something freely chosen and freely lived out. Indeed, they feel an interior urge--a genuine 'necessity' and no longer a form of coercion--not to stop at the minimum demands of the Law, but to live them in their 'fullness.' "

As we grow with God's grace in a stewardship way of life, this "interior urge" to freely give--no matter what the personal cost--grows in us as well. And each time we give what is hard for us-- whether time, talent, or treasure, we take one step closer to freedom, to perfection, and to eternal life.



### A Generous Saint: Pope Saint Pius X

Giuseppe Sarto 1835-1914 Throughout his life, this child of poverty who grew up to become pope demonstrated great generosity. At age 10, Giuseppe wanted to be a priest. His family could not afford to educate him, so a parish priest stepped in to help. But Giuseppe had to walk five miles to school each day. To save the soles of his shoes, he carried them over his back. During Giuseppe's years at the seminary, his father died. Knowing how his family would struggle financially, Giuseppe offered to stay home and help. His mother, however, reassured him that God would provide. After he was ordained, Giuseppe became assistant pastor in the village of Tombolo. His love and kindness extended to every parishioner, but most of all, to the poor. Having little of his own, he would at times pawn his silver watch in order to be more generous with the poor. On the way home from preaching in other parishes, he would give away the stipend he had received to those in need.

Soon Father Giuseppe Sarto was assigned to the parish of Salzano, whose parishioners were of a higher class. They complained to the bishop about having to accept as pastor this poor, country priest, but Father Sarto won them over with his generosity and love. He often gave away food and clothing from the rectory. He was generous with his time as well, working so hard that he usually went to bed after midnight and rose at four in the morning. During a cholera epidemic, Father Sarto went to care for the sick himself, to spare the other priests from possible infection. He believed strongly in educating children and adults in the faith, and worked hard to promote this. Father Sarto was named bishop in 1884 and cardinal in 1893. In 1903 he was elected pope, even after he had declared himself unworthy and agonized over whether or not to accept the office. He took the name Pius X. Throughout his papacy, Pope Pius X's motto was "to renew all things in Christ." He fought Modernism and tried to live simply. He was instrumental in giving aid to disaster victims and was known for his continued generosity to the poor.

Perhaps the greatest evidence of Pope Pius X's generosity can be seen with his desire to make the Eucharist more readily available for people to receive. He decreed that children receive communion at the age of reason, instead of waiting several more years as they had at that time. He urged Catholics to receive communion daily. And, he encouraged daily reading of the Bible. Pope Pius X had predicted that war would break out in 1914. When it did, it caused him great suffering. He said, "I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge." On August 20 of that year, he died.

Catholic Stewardship, Diocese of Wichita

## PARISH DIRECTORY

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Fr. Babu Mathew  
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2465 CROWN STREET  
VANCOUVER  
B.C. V6R3V9  
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### MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm  
(Anticipated Mass)  
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm  
Monday – Wednesday 8am  
Thursday Mass/Novena:  
8am & 7pm  
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am  
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)  
Reconciliation  
Saturday: 4-4:45pm  
Adoration  
Saturday 9:30-10am  
Library Hours  
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

### STAFF

#### Pastor

Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.

#### Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.

#### Office Manager

Virginia Fong

#### Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

#### Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

#### Youth Ministry Coordinator

Theresa Barao

#### OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

#### IN RESIDENCE

William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

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# OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

September 24, 2017

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## God gives and gives... let us give in turn.

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

People often shun the topic of money... pastors especially! My own view is it is a very important and necessary aspect of our development and maturity in the faith. We spend many years of our lives educating ourselves and our children, giving them the skills we or they need in order to be good, independent, successful adults as they mature. And rightly we should.

Along with this we need to develop a mature attitude about the place of money in our lives. We all know of families sadly riven by conflict over money and inheritance. It is not because money is the root of all evil. It's because few things reveal the nature of our hearts like money. Jesus shows the connection in the Sermon on the Mount when he said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6.21).

In today's readings, we see God is just and generous in ways we don't always understand. The workers who come in at the last hour get the same wages as those who started early in the day. It only makes sense when seen from the perspective of an extremely giving employer! And taking it on a much higher spiritual plane, when God gives us his Son to suffer so that we can make it into heaven, that is in fact an incredible act of generosity that we need to be thankful for.

When we remember that we are stewards of God's kingdom we begin to understand that our gifts are to be deployed for His work in the kingdom. As his children, in the spirit of gratitude, we have the responsibility of ensuring God's abundant wealth on earth is put to good use.

In this week's bulletin, there are a few articles on how we can be good stewards of our wealth. Let us teach our children too. From next week's Children's Mass, we will put out envelopes that children can use to help them understand the concept of giving back to God for all he has given to us. Let us pray this week for those who are struggling to make ends meet.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R



The Lord is near to all who call on him. - Psalm 145



## NEWS & NOTICES

**Food Bank:** The next Food Bank Collection is for baby food. It will be held on Sept 23/24. Thank you for supporting this appeal.

**Lectors Needed:** If you have a clear voice and would like to spend more time on Scripture, please consider being a reader at our parish. Help is especially needed at the 11am Mass on Sundays. For more info please call Roger Poirier 604-224-0426

**Sunday Coffee Helpers:** Hospitality is a very important aspect of our parish community. For years we have served coffee after the 9am Mass and it has always been a great gathering spot for newcomers to our parish. We need more helpers to keep this tradition going. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the church foyer if you can help. It would be very much appreciated!

**Children's Mass Helpers Needed:** Parents are needed to help coordinate the monthly family mass. Starting in October, the parish holds a monthly mass on the first Sunday of every month for children to participate in as readers, gift bearers, ushers, and choir members. A social gathering is held after the mass. We are looking for two helpers who want to contribute a little time each month in service to their parish. Please email Heather Leach Sage or Tamsin Plaxton if you would like to help a family mass: olphfamilymass@yahoo.com

**Bridge Getaway:** The OLPH Parish bridge group getaway to Harrison Hot Springs is Oct 24-26. We are inviting bridge players for fun bridge. Singles are welcome, as well as couples. If you don't play bridge you can come for a relaxing time. Contact Joan Stewart at mjoanstewart@gmail.com or call 604-228-1293 for more info.

**Children's Mass:** The first monthly 9am Children's Mass will start on Sunday October 1. We look forward to seeing families with young children there.

**Join the Music Ministry:** If you have a love for music and have some experience singing with a choir, please consider sharing your talents with us. We rehearse on Mondays 7-8pm. For more info please contact Catherine Walsh Email: catherine.organist@gmail.com.

**Children's Liturgy:** This Catechism for children under 8 who have not received First Communion will now take place every Sunday during the 11am Mass except those Sundays when we have the 9am Children's Mass (usually the first Sunday of the month.) Children will be invited to go downstairs to the Madonna Room before the Mass readings.

**Infant Loss Awareness Mass with Archbishop Miller:** October 15 is National Infant Loss Awareness Day. On that day, we remember our little ones who have gone too soon. To honour them, Archbishop Miller will be celebrating Mass at the Evangelist Chapel at the Gardens of Gethsemani. This is our second annual Infant Loss Awareness Day event. We will light up the cemetery in their honour, so please come and join us for this special Mass. Register at rccav.org/events/128.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Auersperg who passed away on 17 September 2017.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*  
-- Psalm 23:6

### AUGUST COLLECTION: THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH-FILLED GENEROSITY

	AUGUST
Regular Sunday Collection	\$27,824.35
Collection for the Needy	\$1,410.00
BC Wildfires	\$1,500.00
St. Joseph's Society	\$20.00
Famine Relief	\$20.00

## Stewardship Reflection

**"So the last will be first and the first last" - MATTHEW 20:16**

You've heard the saying "it's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our gratitude and generosity helps us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### Becoming Catholic



If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith or if you have not been fully initiated into the Church with the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, please join us in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). We meet on Sunday mornings at 9am in the Madonna Room. Pick up an application form in the church or at the parish office. The commitment to RCIA is from September 2017 to June 2018.

### OCTOBER

#### Door Is Open

The next Door is Open outreach effort is on Tuesday October 3. This wonderful outreach opportunity involves preparing lunch for the poor and homeless in Eastside Vancouver. We start at about 8am and finish at about 2:30pm. If you would like to help, please put your name down on the sign-up sheets in the church foyer. We need about 25 volunteers.



## Stewardship of Treasure:

### Gratitude that goes beyond words

While our parish has many particular needs for which funds must be raised, we must continue to reflect on the fact that stewardship is different from fundraising appeals. Stewardship is rooted in the need to give. Our gratitude can so easily become a matter of words only, unless we are returning to the Lord, the giver of all gifts, a truly grateful share of our time, talent, and treasure.

When Jesus saw the widow putting her "two pennies" in the Temple treasury, He told His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living" (Mk. 12:43-44). God expects generous giving to be our priority.

#### How do I set a stewardship of treasure goal?

We often hear the Biblical reference that tithing consists of 10% of our income. Realistically, most of us start below that and keep trying to increase our giving little by little. All are encouraged to give proportionately to our income and our blessings, and to move upwards.

The most important point is to set a goal and work towards it. Our parish is a community that helps carry out Christ's mission. Plan your pledge for Sacrificial Giving from your first fruits. Consider giving 1 hour of your wage a week.

Similarly, consider giving one hour of your talent each week or 1 hour of prayer, or spiritual reading, listening to a podcast from a religious leader or watching a video that helps you learn more about the faith.

## The Characteristics of Generosity:

Would you let someone take credit for your idea? Hold on a minute...

Generosity is not giving what is easy to give but giving what is hard to give. That is why it is possible to give, without being generous. True generosity exacts something from the giver. To be generous is to give to the point that it costs. Those who give generously do so at great cost to themselves. Jesus taught this with the example of the widow's mite.

Although the widow's offering of two small coins appeared to be much less than those who gave larger amounts, she "put in more than all the rest. They made contributions out of their surplus, but she, from her want has given what she could not afford—every penny she had to live on." (Lk 21: 3-4) The widow gave generously because she gave at great personal cost. In her case, her generosity exacted a material price—she sacrificed her own material comfort for the sake of others.

Generosity, however, does not end with sharing material goods. To be generous is to give at personal cost in all aspects of one's life. From letting someone else take credit for an idea shared earlier with them, to getting up in the middle of the night with a child so that one's spouse can stay in bed; from parking further away from church or the grocery store so others can have closer spaces, to foregoing a much-anticipated day of relaxation in order to care for someone else's needs—all of these can be examples of generosity. The test as to whether or not they are, is if the giver finds them hard to do.

Catholic Stewardship, Diocese of Wichita

## CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP



*To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything he has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.*  
- Thomas Merton

## Children's Mass: Special Envelopes for Them Too!

Children's Mass usually happens on the first Sunday of the month at 9am. Occasionally this is cancelled due to conflicts with the school schedule such as March break or the first week back in January and September.

Starting Sun Oct 1, special children's offering envelopes will be put out at each Mass for children to use. Funds raised will go to Chalice sponsor a child program.

The Coordinators for this Mass are Heather Leach and Tamsin Plaxton. At each Mass children help as readers, gift bearers, ushers and choir members. New readers are always welcome. Usually they are recruited by asking families directly that attend the 9am mass, or by posting a note in the school and church bulletins. Readers are identified by the Wednesday prior to Children's Mass.

There is also a very informal choir. Any child is welcome to join and they don't need to sign up in advance. The kids in the choir sit near the musicians on the steps that lead to the altar. Melina Ivanovic assists with the kids in the choir.

Additional parent-helpers are needed to help with coordination. This includes helping with refreshments after Mass. Please email Heather Leach Sage or Tamsin Plaxton if you would like to help: olphfamilymass@yahoo.com.

