

PLANNED OFFERING PROGRAM (P.O.P.)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Stewardship? Stewardship denotes our Christian belief that we are called to share our prayers, time, talent, and treasure with others in our community and our Parish out of gratitude for the gifts we receive from God.

What is P.O.P.? P.O.P. is our Annual Planned Offering Program to secure donations to support the daily operations of the Parish. **Everyone is requested to pledge what they will donate next year to Gesu through P.O.P.** We pledge because we are called in Scripture to prayerfully plan our charitable giving and because it helps the parish to create a sound budget.

What amount should I/we pledge? If everyone gives *what they are able*, we are stronger as a whole. Hopefully, the decision is made based upon prayerful reflection of what Gesu provides each year and our call to be good stewards of our Parish. We are all asked to examine what proportion of our income we can afford to give, and begin with that. Then, we try to increase the proportion gradually each year. The goal is to commit to a realistic amount and then aim to fulfill the pledge by the end of next calendar year. The chart below illustrates proportional giving based on income level.

EXAMPLES OF PROPORTIONAL GIVING – BASED UPON % OF ANNUAL INCOME

% Giving	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
1% weekly	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$60
1% annually	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,000
3% weekly	\$15	\$30	\$45	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$180
3% annually	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$9,000
10% weekly	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$600
10% annually	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$30,000

Why is Gesu asking for a 3% increase in our donations? First and foremost, to ensure our ability to provide programs and services that meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners, such as the Parish Mission, Retreats, Forums, Speakers, Adult Education, Youth Ministry, and more. Additionally, we make this request in order to:

- Keep pace with inflation and other cost increases;
- Keep Gesu School tuition and Parish School of Religion fees reasonable and affordable, thereby keeping these programs accessible to as many Parishioners as possible;
- Enable us to pay our faculty fair, reasonable, and competitive compensation.

How much does the Parish subsidize the School? Last year, 17% (\$370,000) of Parish income was used to subsidize the cost of operating the School. The School is an outgrowth of our fundamental mission of providing Catholic education and formation for the children of the Parish. The subsidy is needed because tuition and full-funding proceeds do not cover all of the costs of operating the School.

Why Should I give to P.O.P.? Your financial support through the Planned Offering Program (P.O.P.) enables us to maintain our place of worship and offer the wide scope of community programs that are continually available to you and your family.

Every pledge counts! Start with what you can afford and try to increase your donation each year.

What if I don't feel I can pledge much of anything this year? Gesu is, and always has been, here for all parishioners, regardless of their ability to support the Church financially. If you are unable to give, kindly indicate this on your pledge form.

What if I can't fulfill my pledge? Unforeseen circumstances can arise in any household. If you cannot fulfill a pledge, there is no need for explanation, and if you'd prefer, you may call the Parish Office to change your pledge at any time during the year.