



St. Andrew Catholic Church

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

Thank you for your contributions to St. Andrew Catholic Church during the year 2014. Your generous sharing of your financial resources is greatly appreciated. The many good things that are happening in our parish simply would not be possible without the Good Stewardship of parishioners like you. A glance at our weekly Bulletin will show the abundant gathering of ministries, committees and celebrations made possible by your contributions.

To inform you of the record of Good Stewardship of our parishioners and visitors, I offer you the following chart of your gifts to our parish collections (Sundays, Holy Days, Youth Ministry, School Scholarships, the Miscellany and Social Outreach) and to our Capital Campaign (Parish Property Development collection). Not shown here are your gifts to our Diocesan, National and International collections.

I do show here your loose cash gifts, unidentifiable because given by you while not using our parish collection envelopes. All gifts of parishioners, visitors and the unidentified are shown here. I invite you to compare your St. Andrew gifts with the gifts of the 2940 donors who gave to St. Andrew during 2014, including our visitors, all who have moved away and all who have died, totaling \$1,302,303.19 charted here by the amounts given by them annually:

Per Year	Parish Families Donations				Visitors Donations			All Donors	
	Number	%	Gifts	%	Number	%	Gifts	Total Gifts	%
\$ Loose Cash	298 ^{est}	20%	\$293,373.72					\$293,373.72	
\$1 - \$100	320	21%	\$ 11,576.76		1265	88%	\$36,685.26	\$ 48,262.02	
\$101 - \$250	172	11%	\$ 29,214.56		110	8%	\$17,992.00	\$ 47,206.56	
\$251 - \$500	213	14%	\$ 78,317.65		40	3%	\$13,412.95	\$ 91,730.60	
\$501 - \$750	147	10%	\$ 90,189.76		10	1%	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 96,234.76	
\$751 - \$1000	98	7%	\$ 84,621.38		6	<1%	\$ 5,020.00	\$ 89,641.38	
\$1.00 - \$1000	1248	83%	\$587,293.83	48%	1431	100%	\$79,155.21	\$666,449.04	51%
\$1001 - \$2000	165	11%	\$225,111.83		4	<1%	\$ 5,009.00	\$230,120.83	
\$2001 - \$3000	39	3%	\$ 95,928.01					\$ 95,928.01	
\$3001 - \$4000	19	1%	\$ 66,091.67					\$ 66,091.67	
\$4001 - \$5000	11	1%	\$ 49,921.51					\$ 49,921.51	
\$5001 - \$10000	16	1%	\$ 98,312.12					\$ 98,312.12	
\$10001 - on up	7	<1%	\$ 95,480.01					\$ 95,480.01	
\$1001 - on up	257	17%	\$630,845.15	52%	4	<1%	\$ 5,009.00	\$635,854.15	49%
<u>\$1.00 - on up</u>	<u>1505</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$1,218,138.98</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>1435</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$84,164.21</u>	<u>\$1,302,303.19</u>	<u>100%</u>

From the Highest to the Lowest

This chart shows that our families habitually contribute vastly differing amounts, from the 492 identifiable families giving least in 2014, averaging about **\$1.59 per weekend**, to the 257 identifiable families giving most in 2014, averaging about **\$47.20 per weekend**. Those vast differences cannot all be explained by mere differences in our families' capacities to give. There must also be vast differences in the attitudes with which we give to our Church and to our Parish.

Christian Discipleship, Good Stewardship, and Tithing Back To God

From the moment we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we become His followers, **Disciples of Christ**. The whole Christian life may be described as learning the cost of that discipleship. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30), the Lord Jesus explains our solemn duty to use well all the good things God has given to us. This dimension of Christian Discipleship is called **Good Stewardship**. In Genesis (14:17-20), we read of Abraham who has conquered in battle and who meets the King of Salem, Melchizedek, a priest of God Most High, who in turn offers a thanksgiving sacrifice of bread and wine. Abraham gives Melchizedek a tenth of everything he has – the Scriptural practice of **Tithing - giving ten percent back to God**. We tithe in order to be reminded that nothing we have belongs to us absolutely. So dependent are we on God's grace.

Our Bishops on Tithing: 5%+1%+4%=10%

Our spiritual fathers, our Bishops, have asked all of us to tithe as follows: **5% of our income to our Parish**; and **1% to our Diocese** in the Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal, and **4% to all other Charities**. All of our households may easily determine the level of support which they should be giving to our Parish, to our Diocese and to all other Charities by consulting the following chart.

How Much Should I Donate? <u>My Total Annual Gross Income</u>	<u>My Weekly Gift of 5% To the PARISH</u>	<u>My Yearly Gift of 1% To the DIOCESE</u>	<u>My Yearly Gift of 4% To OTHER CHARITIES</u>
\$10,000 at 5% = \$ 500/year div. 50 weeks = \$10.00/week		at 1% = \$100.00/year	at 4% = \$ 400/year (\$8.00/week)
\$20,000 1,000	\$20.00/week	\$200.00/year	\$800/year (\$16.00)
\$25,000 1,250	\$25.00/week	\$250.00/year	\$1,000/year (\$20.00)
\$35,000 1,750	\$35.00/week	\$350.00/year	\$1,400/year (\$28.00)
\$45,000 2,250	\$45.00/week	\$450.00/year	\$1,800/year (\$36.00)
\$55,000 2,750	\$55.00/week	\$550.00/year	\$2,200/year (\$44.00)
\$65,000 3,250	\$65.00/week	\$650.00/year	\$2,600/year (\$52.00)
\$75,000 3,750	\$75.00/week	\$750.00/year	\$3,000/year (\$60.00)
\$95,000 4,750	\$95.00/week	\$950.00/year	\$3,800/year (\$76.00)
\$100,000 5,000	\$100.00/week	\$1,000.00/year	\$4,000/year (\$80.00)

Obviously, circumstances such as unemployment, chronic illness, dependents, may lessen the application of the basic principle of 10% tithing. **But even those who can give only “the widow’s mite” are still called upon by the Gospel to give - as far as they are able to do so - as Good Stewards.**

St. Andrew Is Not Yet a Tithing Parish

St. Andrew has about 1500 households (not the 2940 shown above which includes visitors, etc.). **If each family were contributing at the level indicated by Scripture and our Bishops**; then, with a median family income of, say, \$40,000, one might expect that our **weekly** parish offertory and property development collections, together, would average about **\$60,000** (\$40,000 at 5% = \$2,000/year divided by 50 weeks = \$40.00/week x 1500 families = \$60,000/week); and one might expect that our second collections would average **as if weekly** as much as **\$48,000** (\$40,000 at 4% = \$1,600/year divided by 50 weeks = \$32.00/week x 1500 families = \$48,000/week), for a weekly total in all our collections of **\$108,000!** We are not quite there just yet.

Our Future: DISCIPLESHIP through STEWARDSHIP through TITHING

I challenge everyone who calls St. Andrew Church their home: **Let us all make plans now for regular, predictable, weekly contributions to our Parish Church. If tithing 5%+1%+4%=10% seems too much at first, then just make a start and progress gradually towards that ideal over time. Please be generous. St. Andrew Church needs your contributions.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,

