

Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



How to be a Steward - Fr. Mike Schmitz - <https://youtu.be/vXcqR89dneo>



Why we Tithe - Ascension Press - https://youtu.be/r46-_VjonRg



The Catholic Guide to Tithing - EWTN - <https://youtu.be/rkwW2AwcoD8>

Growing the Vineyard

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard owner and the tenants to whom he leased the vineyard (Matthew 21:22-43). When the tenants refuse to pay the rent and kill the owner's son, they are cast out of the vineyard, put to a wretched end, and the vineyard leased to new tenants who give the owner his due. We, too, have been given a beautiful vineyard – our parish of St. Casimir at Canton and Patterson Park – and each and every one of us who worships here regularly is expected to be an active worker in this vineyard and contribute generously of our time, talent and financial resources to produce for Him the fruits of evangelization and service to our neighbors.

As our annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 showed, our parish

had a net operating loss of more than \$200,000. This trend is continuing in fiscal year 2024. In fact, our parish has had a net operating loss for virtually every year in recent memory. This means that our offertory and other gifts are insufficient to meet the day-to-day cost of operating the parish, even as our dedicated parish staff have worked to reduce those operating expenses. We are depleting our capital reserves, which largely have come from the sale of St. Brigid Church and the St. Elizabeth of Hungary rectory, to fund these deficits. But we also know that we will need the money from the sale of those properties to fund future repairs and improvements to the buildings we still own.

This is a critical time for our parish. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is beginning the second part of its 2-year listening and discernment process for the future of the 56 Catholic parishes in Baltimore City called *Seek the City to Come*. One of the questions that will undoubtedly be asked of St. Casimir is: Are we ready and willing to respond to the challenges of rebuilding and growing the Church in Baltimore City with our money, time, and talents? If we want St. Casimir at Canton and Patterson Park to be a part of the City to Come, we need every parishioner to step up and be generous with all of their gifts.

Sacrificial Giving

Jesus offered Himself as a sacrificial offering for our sins by giving His life for us on the Cross. He set an example for us of giving unconditionally and sacrificing for others.



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Website
<https://stcasimir.org/>



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stcasimircantonMD/>



St. Elizabeth of Hungary at Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/StLizBmore/>

When we give generously to the Church from the gifts of our money, time, and talent—foregoing their use for our own benefit – we walk in Christ’s footsteps. The starting point for sacrificial giving is the basic principle of Christian stewardship – that everything we have is a gift from God and, in thankfulness for God’s generosity we dedicate a portion of these gifts – not only our money, but our time and talents – in a manner that is: (1) Planned, (2) Proportionate, (3) Sacrificial, (4) Joyful, and (5) a Gift given without expectation of return.

The degree of planning that goes into our giving to St. Casimir reflects the importance of our commitment. Unless we consciously incorporate the amount of our giving into our regular budget, we risk it becoming an optional expense for which we have only the change in our pockets. Setting up a weekly gift in e-Giving is a great way to engage in planned giving to the Church.

How much should you give to the Church? In the Old Testament, the People of Israel were called upon to give the first tenth of their gross income to support the needs of the priests and the temple. The giving of ten percent – called “tithing” – is a useful guideline and goal to work toward. For some, because of their circumstances, it may not be possible. The Fifth Precept of the Church states: “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church,” and means that “the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church (2d ed., 2000) ¶¶ 2041, 2043). The question we must each ask of ourselves is: Does the proportion of my giving of my resources to the Church, as compared to my other discretionary spending, adequately reflect my gratitude for God’s generosity?

The most important aspect of sacrificial giving is its impact on the giver. It isn’t a sacrificial gift if you give your gift and do not even notice it. It is a sacrifice when something about your life has to change for you to be able to give the gift. Jesus told His disciples, and He tells us, “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 everything she had, her whole living.” (Mark 12:43-44).

Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



October 8 – Saint John Leonardi (1541-1609). Priest and founder of religious order.



October 9 – Saint Denis and Companions (d. 258?). Martyr, first bishop of Paris, patron of France.



October 10 – Saint Francis Borgia (1510–1572). Jesuit leader who organized missions in Americas.



October 11 – Saint John XXIII (1881–1963). “Good Pope John” set the tone for Vatican II.



October 12 – Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (1819–1867). Redemptorist missionary in U.S.



October 13 – Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (1811–1849). Founder of Canadian teaching order



October 14 – Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991– 2006). Created Eucharistic miracles website.