

The disciples ask a good question. Stronger faith does every disciple good beyond measure. However, as Hans Urs von Balthasar points out, “To believe is not simply to sit back and wait until the Lord comes and serves us with his grace. Faith receives its incomprehensible efficacy (like being able to toss a tree into the ocean) in the course of serving the Lord, who, after all, has become the servant of us all ... (Jesus) takes it as self-evident that his followers serve alongside him, which really means they serve him, ‘for where I am, there will my servant also be’ (Jn 12:26).”[1] That kind of faith—active, generous, and alive—is visible every day in our parish. You can see it in the ways we serve one another, worship together, and grow as a family of faith. Our Families with Young Children ministry recently gathered for a fun and faith-filled evening, with more to come soon, including a costume party at the end of October and a St. Nicholas celebration in December. Our Forever Young ministry recently enjoyed a luncheon following a Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. These are just a few of the ways in which faith is flourishing here at Holy Spirit, touching your life—and the lives of countless others.

All of this happens because of your faith and generosity. The support you provide allows our priests and faith formation staff to dream, plan, and launch ministries that help parishioners of every age encounter Christ. The vitality of our parish depends not only on the creativity and care of our

staff, but on the contributions of each parishioner, of every family, who makes all of this possible.

That same living faith shines forth each week through our outstanding music ministry. Many of you have shared how deeply you are moved by the beauty of our choirs. Their music lifts our hearts to God and draws us into prayer and praise. Liturgy is one of the most powerful ways our faith is expressed as a community—and one of the ways your generosity gives faith a living voice. But faith has a cost. Love costs something. Each note of sacred music, each rehearsal, each Sunday hymn is made possible by the faithful stewardship of those who give to sustain it. Every month, we invest about \$17,000 for salaries and stipends for our choir directors, professional singers, and related expenses. It is a real cost—but one that bears lasting fruit, helping us all to worship the Lord with joy and reverence.

Just as faith gives voice to our worship and life to our ministries, it also sustains the unseen foundations that make parish life possible. Beyond the beauty of our liturgies are the practical realities—utilities, security, and insurance—that make it all work. These are not simply operational costs; they are expressions of our shared commitment to provide a safe, comfortable, and welcoming home for our faith to flourish.

Just as costs are rising for your family, they are also rising for our parish. Our monthly gas and electric bills for the church, McDonough Hall, St. Mary's Chapel, and the parish offices average \$30,000, and our property insurance costs another \$13,000 each month. In light of increasing violence in schools and churches nationwide, I continue to prioritize your safety by providing police officers for our weekend Masses. A police officer patrols our campus daily and ensures that every facility is secured each evening. We've also installed additional security features across our campus to keep everyone safe. These are important investments in maintaining a sacred space where faith can be nourished and community can thrive. Altogether, our monthly expenditures for utilities, security, and insurance total about \$50,000.

Faith also calls us to be faithful stewards of the buildings and grounds entrusted to our care. These spaces are more than brick and mortar—they are where the life of faith unfolds: where children are baptized, families are formed, and hearts are drawn to God in prayer. In the past year, we resealed our parking lots, completed electrical upgrades, and replaced the roofs on St. Mary's Chapel and McDonough Hall, at a cost of over \$50,000. We've begun replacing our aging HVAC system and will soon invest another \$55,000 in a new chiller and boiler. These upgrades help reduce costly repairs and ensure that our campus

remains comfortable, efficient, and welcoming for years to come.

None of this is glamorous work, but it is holy work—the kind of faithful service that allows the Church’s mission to endure. When we care for our parish home, we honor those who built it before us, serve those who gather here today, and prepare a sacred space for those who will come after us.

We’ve also made improvements to our giving process to make it more secure and convenient. The QR codes have been removed from the pews to prevent tampering. Our website has been updated so that recurring monthly gifts no longer expire until you choose to make a change. In addition to ACH transfer and Google Pay, Apple Pay is coming soon—to make giving easier than ever.

I’m asking everyone to make your 2026 offertory pledge in the coming days—either online using the secure link you received in the recent parish email, by visiting our website directly, or by completing the pledge form on the back of today’s bulletin. Every pledge makes a real difference.

But more than that, every pledge is an act of faith. It’s our way of saying to the Lord, “I want to serve alongside you.” Your generosity allows faith to take tangible form—in music that lifts our hearts, in ministries that bring people together,

in facilities that welcome and protect, and in a parish community that continues to grow in love and discipleship.

When we give, we participate in Christ's own generosity. He calls us to serve with him, and in doing so, we discover the deepest joy of all—the joy of knowing that our faith is alive, fruitful, and bearing lasting good for others.

That is the life of faith the disciples asked for.

That is the faith we ask the Lord to increase in us today.

[1] ¹ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Light of the Word: Brief Reflections on the Sunday Readings*, trans. Dennis D. Martin (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1993), 353.