

October 26, 2021

Dear Parishioner,

*“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”* (Matthew 6:21). Every year at this time, as we begin to enter into the holiday season, our thoughts turn toward thanksgiving to God for our many blessings even in the midst of the day-to-day burdens and disappointments of life. We are called to reflect on how well we have stewarded our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in the way that we have shared those blessings with and for others, and not simply kept them for ourselves.

As we all know, the past 18 months have been difficult and challenging in many ways as the ongoing pandemic has stretched many of us beyond expectations and patience. As anticipated, COVID-19 safety concerns and restrictions have affected the number of people who attend Mass, and as a result, our weekly collections continue to lag behind as 90% of our revenue comes from the generous support of our faith community. This generosity supports and funds the many ministries, services, sacramental celebrations, liturgies, faith formation opportunities, and basic operations like payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. associated with running our parish and sharing in the ministry of Jesus to love and serve others.

Part of good stewardship is recognizing that God has filled all of our hearts with a need and desire to give back to God and others as a simple gesture of faith that shows the power of gratitude to change and transform our lives. It is in this spirit that I ask you to focus on your stewardship of treasure in this season of thanksgiving and to prayerfully consider and discern the financial amount our Lord is calling you to give to our parish that is planned, proportionate to your means, sacrificial, and brings you joy. It is my hope that those who are more fortunate or who have not experienced economic hardship will continue to give more generously, especially in times of crisis. May we all respond in the best way we are able to do so!

You have the option of returning the enclosed Stewardship of Treasure commitment card by mail, in the parish collection box, or by pledging online at <http://www.htcbremerton.org>. Your gifts matter and make a difference. I am filled with gratitude for the generosity and caring that our parishioners express in so many ways. May God bless and be with all of us and give us the grace to be all that we can be!

With heartfelt thanks,  
*Veronica Kelley*  
Veronica Kelley  
Pastoral Coordinator