

Every year at this time, our minds and hearts turn toward thanksgiving to God for all of our blessings. In the midst of the ongoing challenges, burdens, and disappointments of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are surely some gifts that we will only find when we dig deeply into our life, and all that has happened in this past year, and realize that through it all, God has been the ever present companion who continues to walk with us along the way.

Among the gifts that I am grateful for is the faithfulness and generosity of our parishioners in their continued financial support of our parish and its day-to-day operational needs in their Sunday collection giving throughout these many months, and in the commitments that have been made to the Annual Catholic Appeal and the Called to Serve as Christ Campaign to support our diocesan priests and women religious in their retirement years.

This season is also the time of year when we traditionally make a once-a-year request to all of our parishioners to commit, or recommit themselves to the financial support of our parish and its many ministries and services by returning a Stewardship of Treasure pledge card to the parish office. The most important reason that I make this request is that I recognize that all that I have and possess is God's gift to me and that I have a deep seated need to make a return to God for all the good he has done for me by the sharing of these gifts with others. I hope that this is true for you as well!

When we make a sacrificial pledge, we are answering the call of God to love our neighbor as we have been loved by sharing in the mission of Jesus not only to preach and teach the Good News of the Kingdom, but also to grow in our relationship with the Lord and then, in turn, to help bring others into a relationship with Christ through the witness of our lives and our selfless giving. There can be no greater joy than this!

Your continued financial support of our parish is essential to this endeavor and is a tangible gesture of faith and an act of love that shows the Power of Gratitude that can turn common or difficult days, routine jobs, and ordinary opportunities into thanksgivings, blessings, and joys. Please take the time to prayerfully discern what commitment the Lord is asking you to make that is planned, proportionate to your means, sacrificial, and an expression of your thanksgiving. I trust that God will lead and guide you in deciding the amount that you will give in this upcoming year and I express my thanks for each gift that will be given. May God bless us all as we pray for an end to this pandemic!

Please return the enclosed Stewardship of Treasure card by mail, in the collection boxes at Mass, at the parish office, or by pledging online at: <https://www.htcbremerton.org>.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Veronica Kelley*

Pastoral Coordinator