Week Three: Returning God's Gifts

Over the past two weeks, we have reflected on God's generosity, practiced gratitude, and considered what it means to trust God's provision. This week, we ask another question: How do we respond to all that God has given us?

The First Letter of Peter reminds us: *"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Our time, our abilities, our relationships, and our financial resources are all gifts entrusted to our care. Stewardship is about how we use those gifts, not only for ourselves, but also for the good of others and the work God is doing in the world. And that includes how we use our money.

This week, you will receive your pledge packet for the coming year. It is an invitation to consider how you will financially support the ministry and mission we share at Holy Family.

While stewardship is about much more than money, our financial giving matters. It helps make possible the worship, formation, pastoral care, outreach, and community life we share. Every commitment, whatever its size, helps sustain that ministry in the coming year.

As you receive your pledge materials, don't begin with a number. Begin with prayer. Give thanks for what God has entrusted to you. Think about the place Holy Family has in your life and the lives of others. Then consider what you can faithfully and intentionally commit to giving in the coming year.

A Simple Practice

Before completing your pledge card, set aside fifteen minutes for prayer and reflection.
- How has God blessed me this past year?
- How has Holy Family been a gift in my life?
- How is God inviting me to grow in generosity?

Allow these reflections to guide you as you make your pledge for the coming year.

Growing Together: The Tree of Gratitude

Beginning this week, you will find our Tree of Gratitude in the Narthex. Each week, children, youth, and adults are invited to add a leaf in response to a simple question. Over the coming weeks, the tree will fill with the experiences, memories, and hopes of our Holy Family community.

This week's question:
Where have you experienced God's goodness in your life?

Before or after worship, take a moment to add your leaf and spend a little time reading what others have shared. You may discover ways God has been at work among us that you never knew about.

Continue the Conversation

Around the dinner table, on the way home from church, or over coffee, ask one another:
How has Holy Family helped us grow in faith?

Let us pray.

Gracious God, from whom every good gift comes, teach us to trust in your faithful provision. Meet us in our anxiety, deepen our contentment, and help us to rest in the abundance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.