



TITHING IS A MATTER OF FAITH

The main principle behind Christian Tithing and Giving is the message that what we do with our money in some way shows where our heart is. In Matthew 6:21 we read that Jesus says, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. When we are able to give 10% or more of our income to God’s work, instead of keeping all our money to ourselves, it shows that our heart isn’t inordinately attached to money and that we love God more than money.

All Christians are called to extravagant freewill giving as an expression of their love for God and as a response to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, based on our faith that God is our Provider. Paul writes about this in his 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians 9:6-10. When we feel able to release a consistent committed amount dedicated to God every month, as the top priority in our budget, a deep realization grows in us which strengthens our faith that God is indeed in control.

This is also a way in which we are reminded that everything that we have has, in a way been given to us by God. After all, even although most of us probably work in order to earn the money that we receive each month, God is the one who has given us the various abilities which we need to do our jobs.

At the end of the day, it's not about the amount in rands and cents that we give, but that we give as generously and as freely as we are able to and with love for God and consistent faithfulness.

A Christian can never serve God AND money, but they must learn to serve God with money” (Brian Kluth)

“The world asks: What do you own? “God asks, “How do we use what we’ve been given?”(Unknown)

Its not how much we give but how much love we put into giving” (Mother Theresa of Calcutta)

Love and blessings,
Michelle

ABUNDANCE AND GENEROSITY @ ST FRANCIS JUNE 2022

Psalm 65: 9-13 (The Message)

*Oh, visit the earth,
ask her to join the dance!
Deck her out in spring showers,
fill the God-River with living water.
Paint the wheat fields golden.
Creation was made for this!
Drench the ploughed fields,
soak the dirt clods
With rainfall as harrow and rake
bring her to blossom and fruit.
Snow-crown the peaks with splendour,
scatter rose petals down your paths,
All through the wild meadows, rose petals.
Set the hills to dancing,
Dress the canyon walls with live sheep,
a drape of flax across the valleys.
Let them shout, and shout, and shout!
Oh, oh, let them sing!*



Jesus said, ***“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*** (John 10:10b)

We are called by God to live generous and abundant lives. God gives this to us, longs for us to realise this and is always offering more and more if we will only open ourselves up to receive. It is an interesting *more*. At this time when we are conscious of the gift of the Holy Spirit so, I hope, we know this *more* to hold infinite possibility. We are encouraged to know our gifts more completely, offer the fruit of these gifts more generously and see with eyes that rest in hope even when there seems so much despair and suffering. We are a resurrection people. From the worst came the best, from death came new life, from the Ascension came the living spirit of God to accompany us with as much intimacy as our very breath. It is from this place that we offer our talents, resources, skills and presence. Not because we must but because we cannot not. The abundance God calls us to is a generosity of being that embodies our community and what we offer each other, our neighbourhood and our world.
Diana – 14 June 2022

Image from <https://journeysofjournaledfaith.com/my-cup-runneeth-over/>

St Francis Parkview: Dedicated Giving 2022



“No one has ever become poor by giving.” (Anne Frank)

In the week of Anne Frank’s birthday and St Francis’s dedicated giving/pledging month, it seems apposite to start with this quote on giving from her. Who better than Anne, who understood and lived from the generosity of giving from others, but died at the hands of those whose hearts were not full of generosity?

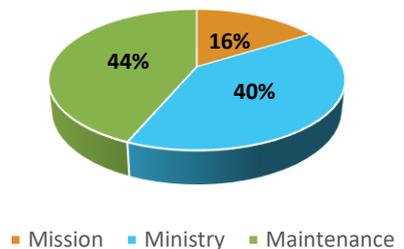
What does giving mean to us today, in 2022, in Johannesburg, at the end of two very tough years of the covid pandemic and lockdown, when many people have lost their jobs, family members, friends, and more? We at St Francis are fortunate to continue to have a beautiful, well-maintained church in which to worship, filled with friendly fellow congregants and served by wonderful, giving priests and laity. This is not an accident, it is a result of the generosity of congregants past and present who have and continue to give of their time, their talents and their money to serve the needs of the church and its parishioners and to keep the church in good care for us now and for future generations. It does not, however, happen by accident; it is the conscious effort of many people to pledge and to give generously to ensure that St Francis keeps its doors open and is available to us all.

Dedicated giving is the mainstay in maintaining a sustainable church to delivering on its purpose

St Francis Operating Income



The Church Expenditure 2021



Total Operating income, over the past 3 years has continuously declined, from some R2.44m in 2019, to R2.25m in 2020 and to a low of R2,1m in 2021. Around 70% of St Francis's income is from parishioners' pledged Dedicated Giving, from those people who pledge to give a certain amount of money to the church each month/year to assist in the running of the church and delivery of its programmes.

St Francis's expenditure can be broken into 3 main themes: ministry, mission and maintenance. **Ministry** is all we do for our parishioners, including services held, hospitality, pastoral care, and music. **Mission** includes all outreach portfolios and community care for people not members of the congregation. **Maintenance** includes expenditure related the physical property, administrative costs of running the church and finances, basically what is required to have a beautiful, well-maintained church in which to worship.

Dedicated giving helps us to run in-person and online services, to have an art group and a knitting group, to have a youth group and related activities and a Sunday School, to have an eco-group that watches out for the environment in our parish and beyond, to have a social concerns group that feeds the poor and provides showers for the homeless, and a ministry to minister to those in our parish and beyond who need our help, including the sick, the anxious and suffering, the poor and needy and the bereaved.

Without Dedicated Giving income, the church, St Francis, would not be sustainable, would cease to exist and the ministry that we carry out at St Francis and into the wider community in your name would be reduced or lost.

Please pray about your Dedicated Giving contribution to St Francis, and through it the wider community, and pledge to give generously.

Thank you and blessings

St Francis Churchwardens

Dedicated giving pledges may be sent to:

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