

# Stewardship Appeal



## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Rev. Dennis Riter, Pastor**

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# A Message from Fr. Dennis

Dear Parishioners,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish is the recipient of rich traditions. It was formed in 1975 from the fusion of the traditionally German Sacred Heart Parish (1858) and the largely Irish St. Mary's Parish (1851). Now a significant number of Spanish-Speaking parishioners have sunken root within the parish.

Our beautiful church, the Mother Church of Chautauqua County, was constructed more than 150 years ago. We are all proud of it. It still serves us well thanks to those who have maintained and renewed it for generations with their contributions.

I marvel when I read the history of the early priests who worked here. They covered huge distances serving mission-stations throughout Chautauqua County and even parts of Cattaraugus and Erie counties. I am conscious of the continuity of the faith when I read about their work and compare it with our present efforts to live out our faith, albeit in a tech savvy world.

Truly we have been gifted with faith and have benefited immensely by the sacrifices of past generation. Now it is our turn to support St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish into the near and distant future.

It is important that we increase our ordinary income. One of the greatest challenges that we face is dealing with rising costs. From experience we all know the challenge of trying to pay escalating charges for utilities, maintenance costs, salaries and benefits when income scarcely matches bills. Add in the cost of our ministries and educational efforts and you can understand the reason for this letter.

The members of the Finance Council and I realize how difficult the present economic situation is for many. We are also aware that a number of you are doing your best to give sacrificially to the parish. However, we must now seek everyone's participation in this program for increasing our weekly offertory collection. It is by far our largest source of income.

You can assist in a couple of ways. First, despite the difficult times even a modest increase in your weekly donation will help us meet our expenses, stabilize our finances and build a firm foundation for the future. Second, the regular use of parish envelopes or regular electronic giving will help us maintain a positive cash flow.

Please prayerfully consider what you are able to do so that we can be good stewards of the gifts passed on to us and continue to grow parish ministries and programs. If you find that you are not able to increase your weekly donation at this time, please continue to assist the parish as you can. Thank you for your support.

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# Guideline to Giving

| <b>Current Weekly Giving Level</b> | <b>Suggested New Giving Level</b> |    |          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|----------|
| \$1.00                             | \$2.00                            | to | \$3.00   |
| \$2.00                             | \$4.00                            | to | \$6.00   |
| \$3.00                             | \$6.00                            | to | \$8.00   |
| \$4.00                             | \$7.00                            | to | \$9.00   |
| \$5.00                             | \$8.00                            | to | \$10.00  |
| \$7.00                             | \$11.00                           | to | \$14.00  |
| \$10.00                            | \$14.00                           | to | \$17.00  |
| \$15.00                            | \$20.00                           | to | \$25.00  |
| \$20.00                            | \$27.00                           | to | \$32.00  |
| \$25.00                            | \$32.00                           | to | \$39.00  |
| \$30.00                            | \$37.00                           | to | \$44.00  |
| \$35.00                            | \$42.00                           | to | \$49.00  |
| \$40.00                            | \$47.00                           | to | \$54.00  |
| \$45.00                            | \$52.00                           | to | \$59.00  |
| \$50.00                            | \$57.00                           | to | \$64.00  |
| \$55.00                            | \$62.00                           | to | \$69.00  |
| \$60.00                            | \$67.00                           | to | \$74.00  |
| \$65.00                            | \$72.00                           | to | \$79.00  |
| \$70.00                            | \$77.00                           | to | \$84.00  |
| \$75.00                            | \$82.00                           | to | \$89.00  |
| \$80.00                            | \$87.00                           | to | \$94.00  |
| \$85.00                            | \$92.00                           | to | \$99.00  |
| \$90.00                            | \$97.00                           | to | \$104.00 |
| \$95.00                            | \$102.00                          | to | \$109.00 |
| \$100.00                           | \$110.00                          | to | \$115.00 |

**What Our Lord Asks Is  
Not Equal Gifts - But Equal Sacrifice**

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# Questions & Answers

**Q. Who will be asked to support this appeal?**

*We plan to ask each member of our parish family to consider making a sacrificial increase in their regular support for our parish. We hope each parishioner will play a conscientious role in shaping the future of our parish.*

**Q. By how much should I increase my offering?**

*Only you can decide what is appropriate for you and your family. A lasting and meaningful increase by all of the faithful of our parish will make a tremendous impact.*

**Q. What happens if I miss Mass and am unable to bring my offering?**

*The church depends upon the consistent, regular offerings of all its members. If you are unable to attend Mass, it would be very helpful if you could "make-up" your offering at the next Mass that you are able to attend.*

**Q. What if I cannot increase my offering at this time?**

*While it is our hope that this appeal will have a significant, positive impact on our offertory, I am particularly interested in hearing from 100% of our parish. Not everyone is in a position to increase their support. However, everyone can respond to the appeal. Perhaps there is something that we can do to assist you and your family. I ask everyone to pray for the success of this appeal.*

**Q. When should I start contributing at my new level?**

*Please start contributing at your new level immediately. Please try and maintain this new amount as your regular giving level each time you make an offering.*

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