

St. Maria Goretti Parish Annual Fund

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q. What is the St. Maria Goretti Annual Fund?

A. The Annual Fund pays the day-to-day operational expenses of the Parish. The operating fund is used to pay our bills. Through "A Fruitful Harvest," we are asking parish members to indicate how much they plan to give over the coming year so that we can budget effectively.

Q. How is this different than the amount we have pledged to build new and remodel existing facilities?

A. Our Annual Fund pays for the maintenance of these buildings and salaries and benefits to staff, as well as other operational expenses such as utilities and insurance. We are being asked additionally to pledge and/or pay off our pledges to the Capital Campaign Phase II, which are the funds that are used to pay off our construction loan.

Q. How badly does the Parish need our money?

A. While we understand current economic conditions, our parish continues to grow and serve more members, and expenses increase as well. That is why it is more important than ever to make a pledge so that the parish may plan effectively. The Annual Fund is the only means by which we can pay these expenses. Many of our parishioners give generously, but we need a pledge from everyone.

Q. How do I pay the money I pledge?

A. Many honor their pledges by continuing to give through their weekly envelopes. More members are beginning to pay electronically with Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or "Bill Pay", which are available through most financial institutions. The Parish office has more details and EFT forms can be found on our web page, stmariagoretti.org.

Q. How much should I be giving? Is there a suggested amount?

A. The Stewardship Commission, in consultation with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, suggests a pledge of at least 2% of household income to help meet the current needs of the Parish. Costs have increased 5% in 2009. If you have given at a consistent level for several years, please consider increasing your pledge this year. For example, a pledge of \$50/month, increased by 5% adds only \$2.50/month. A chart of suggested contribution levels based on household income is provided.

Q. Does everyone give?

A. While many parish members contribute to the Annual Fund, only about 40% of members fill out a pledge card. We need everyone who contributes to the fund throughout the year to indicate the amount they plan to give on the pledge card. We also ask those who currently do not contribute anything to prayerfully consider a contribution this year.

Q. How confidential is my pledge?

A. Everyone involved in the Annual Fund goes to great lengths to make sure your pledge is kept confidential. Only the necessary office personnel who record the pledges know the individual pledge amounts.

Q. What if I can't afford to give at this time?

A. We believe that everyone is capable of contributing something to the operating fund of the Parish. If, however, you are unable to give at this time, please indicate that on the confidential pledge card. That way, no one will contact you for follow up information. If you pledge at this time and your circumstances change, simply contact the parish office to modify your pledge.