

Michael Godbout
St. Pius X Parish

Good morning, my name is Michael Godbout and I have been a St. Pius parishioner my whole life. I completed all of my sacraments here, was an altar boy here for 8 years, played for the church basketball team, was a member of what was then called the Youth Group, I also worked at the friary front desk and even mowed the lawn a few summers when I was in high school.

I first learned of tithing in my early 20's when I read the whole bible cover to cover. There are over forty references to tithing in the bible which to me stresses the importance that God placed on this idea, or you could say that placed on this directive, for us to follow.

To "tithe" means to return 1/10th, or 10%, of your blessing back to the Lord. As I have learned the last several years, through many of the religious podcasts I listen to and from reading publications and viewing other media on the subject, is that we are simply stewards of the blessings that God provides to us in regards to money and wealth. That is, everything we have in life is a gift from Him and we are supposed to use these gifts wisely. Our money is not "our" money; it is the Lord's money, again, a gift, that has been entrusted to us. We are simply taking care of it for him on his behalf. And we can do a lot of good with that gift or we can keep it to ourselves or squander it we choose to.

It's been said that when you give to someone or do a good deed for someone else, especially if you don't know that person and especially if it's done in private, that it's impossible to not feel good about yourself after that you've done that good deed. In my experience that's absolutely true.

When I first learned that St. Pius was converting to a tithing parish, I was at first concerned that I might not be able to meet the monetary requirements. That our church decided to split the 10% tithing level to a 5% of monetary **treasure** donation along with a 5% in volunteer works or **time**, put my fears at ease.

That is because I believe I have been called to serve to volunteer, even if it was only revealed to me in my early 40's. I serve organizations such as the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen, the Closer to Free ride for the Smilow Cancer Center, as an Assistant Coach for the John Paul II School girls varsity basketball team and as the St. Pius representative on the John Paul II school board, volunteering for The MS/Walk, the Susan B. Komen Race for The Cure and others. My feeling is, although I may never be a very rich multi-millionaire and give huge donations, I can still make a difference to a cause by giving my time to help out and with my tithe to the parish.

I pray that you will consider making the commitment to join the parish tithing community. A life lived in service of others will be very rewarding for you. It has brought great fulfillment and peace into my life and I believe it has made me a more understanding and compassionate person. I hope you pray thoughtfully on this request from our church and that the Lord guides you and blesses you always. Thank you.