ST. MARY of the Immaculate Conception

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE JOY OF GIVING

WEEK 3: November 15-21, 2026
Commitment Weekend: WHAT WILL I DO?

Turning Our Faith Into Action

Over the past two weeks, we have reflected on what God has entrusted to us and why generosity matters. Now comes the decisive question: What will I do in response?

Faith moves us beyond reflection into action. Our time, talent, and treasure are not simply resources to manage — they are opportunities to participate in God's work and help build a community where more people encounter Jesus Christ.

This weekend is Commitment Weekend. Our Commitment Cards are an invitation to prayerfully express how we will participate in the mission of St. Mary and St. John Vianney in the coming year. A commitment is not about guilt or comparison — it is about responding faithfully to what God has entrusted to us, according to our own circumstances, with a willing and generous heart.

Gospel Insight

The Parable of the Talents *(Matthew 25)* Two servants put their gifts to work; one buried his out of fear. Jesus teaches us that what we have received is not meant to remain unused. We are called to be faithful stewards — responding with courage, wisdom, and purpose to what God has placed in our hands.

Building treasure in Heaven means investing in what lasts: love, faithfulness, mercy, service, and lives drawn closer to Christ. Our financial gifts sustain worship, faith formation, outreach, and ministry. Together with our time and talent, they turn our parish vision into living reality.

When we give with faith and love, we are not losing something — we are investing in eternity. **This is the Joy of Giving.**

This week, ask the Lord: What have You entrusted to me, and how will I use these gifts to build Your Kingdom?

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, generous and faithful God, everything we have — every talent, every resource, every moment — comes from Your hand. Thank You for trusting us with so much.

We come before You today not with empty hands, but with full hearts. You have blessed us abundantly, and we want to learn what it means to hold those blessings wisely — not clutching them for ourselves, but offering them back to You with joy and confidence.

Open our eyes to see our lives the way You see them — not as a collection of things to protect, but as a treasure of gifts to invest in Your Kingdom. Free us from the fear of letting go, and replace it with the deep joy that comes from radical trust in You.

May this time together move us from reflection to action — from knowing what is true to living what is true — so that our giving becomes a declaration that You, Lord, reign over every corner of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for Sunday, November 15

First Reading — *Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31* - A virtuous woman is praised for her faithful work, generosity toward the poor, and reverence for God. True worth is revealed by how we live and serve.
Psalm — *Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5* - Faithfulness to the Lord bears fruit in every ordinary act done with love.
Second Reading — *1 Thessalonians 5:1–6* - Paul calls believers to live as children of the light — alert, intentional, and awake to what God is doing.
Gospel — *Matthew 25:14–30* - Those who act with trust are rewarded. The one who buries his gift out of fear loses everything.

WATCH FATHER'S HOMILY FROM SUNDAY'S MASS. THE LINK WILL BE ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY HOME PAGE.

https://www.stmary-wc.org/spiritual-journey/the-joy-of-giving-2026

https://sjvianney.org/spiritual-journey/joy-of-giving-2026

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

Take some time to reflect on this week's message and discuss with your group:

1. What would it look like for you, in this specific season of life, to be a faithful and generous steward of what He has entrusted to you?
2. Looking back over this three-week journey, what is one fear or hesitation God has been quietly challenging you to release?
3. How do you want to be remembered — and does the way you currently use your time, treasure, and talent reflect that?
4. When you hear the phrase "building treasure in Heaven," what comes to mind? How does that eternal perspective change the way you think about generosity today?
5. If someone looked at our parish from the outside, what visible signs would they see that Christ truly reigns here — and what is one thing we could do together to make that witness even stronger?
6. As we close The Joy of Giving series, what is the one thing God has stirred in your heart — and what is one faithful, concrete step you are ready to take - whether through your Commitment Card, a ministry, or an act of service — before next Sunday?

PRAY

- Thank God for the specific gifts He has placed in your hands, and ask Him how He wants you to use them for His Kingdom.
- Spend quiet time with God this week, placing your finances, your time, and your talents before Him. Ask Him to show you where He is calling you to invest more fully.
- Pray for our parish community, that our collective generosity would make God's Kingdom visible to everyone we serve.

ACT

- Prayerfully complete your Commitment Card and return it this weekend as an act of worship and trust (if you have not already)
- Joyfully serve at St. Mary or St. John Vianney. This could be helping at Mass, supporting faith formation, welcoming newcomers, joining a ministry, or assisting with a parish event.
- Do one intentional work of mercy (feed the hungry, visit the sick)

INSPIRE

- Share with someone how your faith community has helped you grow closer to Christ.
- Celebrate what God is already doing. Look around at your parish and name one sign of His Kingdom at work — and share it with someone who needs to be reminded that their giving matters.

Intercessions for your Group

Invite members to share their prayer intentions. Pray especially for those facing fear or uncertainty, for wisdom in how we use the gifts God has given us, and for our parish as we grow together in trust, gratitude, and joyful generosity.

Closing Prayer

Lord of wisdom and grace, thank You for this time together — for the conversations, the growth, and the hunger in each heart to know You more deeply.

You are a God of abundance, and everything we have is a gift from Your hand. Renew our minds so that we may see our lives clearly — full of blessing, full of purpose, and full of possibility when we place our trust in You.

May the oil in our lamps never run dry. Keep us watchful, joyful, and ready — hearts wide open to Your voice and to the needs of those around us.

Send us out as a community alive with gratitude, generous in spirit, and confident that when we give from a prepared and willing heart, You multiply what we offer beyond what we could ever imagine. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.