THE JOY OF GIVING

WEEK 2: November 8-14, 2026
Vision for Where We are Going

Why Do We Give?
Giving becomes meaningful when rooted in purpose. At St. Mary and St. John Vianney, we are not simply funding buildings or programs — we are supporting a mission: to know and love Jesus and make Him better known as a community of disciples making disciples.
Fr. William's vision for 2027 asks what God may be calling our parish to become. That vision becomes reality when people prayerfully choose to participate in it. Our giving reflects what matters most to us and how we respond to God's blessings.

The Five P's of Giving:
Plan — Give intentionally, not impulsively.
Priority — Put God first, not last.
Percentage — Choose a consistent proportion to give.
Progressive — Grow in generosity as your faith deepens.
Pray — Let God guide your heart and decisions.
These are not a formula for earning God's favor — they are ways of responding to the love already received.

Gospel Insight
The Ten Bridesmaids *(Matthew 25)* Five prepared; five did not. Faithful living requires more than good intentions — it requires preparation and readiness. Generosity is the same. If giving is always "later," the moment may pass. Prayerful habits shape choices that reflect what we truly believe.

This week, ask the Lord: Why do I give, what priorities shape my decisions, and how are You inviting me to grow in trust and generosity?

Opening Prayer
Lord and Father of all good things, every gift we hold comes from Your hand. Thank You for Your faithfulness — for providing what we need and for loving us with a love that never fails.

Father, we admit how easily our hearts drift. The pressures of daily life — worry, comparison, busyness, the hunger for security — can quietly crowd out our trust in You. We come to You now, asking for renewal.

Send Your Holy Spirit to clear our vision and redirect our hearts toward what is eternal. Grant us ears to hear Your voice, patience to wait on Your timing, and the courage to live with open hands. Transform us from the inside out — from scarcity to gratitude, from anxiety to trust, from clinging to joyfully releasing what You have entrusted to us.

May this time together deepen our faith and shape us into a community whose generosity tells the world something true about You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for Sunday, November 8

First Reading — Wisdom 6:12–16- Wisdom is radiant and near. Those who seek her find that she was already seeking them.
Psalm — Psalm 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8- We thirst for God above all else — His love is more precious than life itself.
Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18- Because Jesus died and rose, those who belong to Him share in the promise of eternal life. Grief gives way to hope.
Gospel — Matthew 25:1–13- Ten bridesmaids await the bridegroom. Five are prepared; five are not. Jesus calls His disciples to stay watchful and ready.

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. Why do you think God invites us to share our blessings rather than keep them entirely for ourselves?
2. The wise virgins stayed prepared even through a long wait. What spiritual practices or habits help you stay connected to God — especially during ordinary or difficult seasons?
3. What attitudes most tempt you away from generosity — fear of not having enough, comparison to others, a sense of busyness, or something else?
4. Recall a time when someone's generosity surprised you or changed something in you. What did that experience reveal about the power of giving?
5. What part of Fr. William's vision for our parish inspires you most?
6. What vision is driving your own decision to give — and what might be holding you back from taking the next step?

PRAY

- Spend quiet time with God this week, asking Him to reveal any fear, habit, or distraction that is keeping you from living with a generous and prepared heart.
- Review the Five P's and begin prayerfully completing your Commitment Card.
- Pray for our Parish Seniors Grandparents gathering on November 15, 4pm at St. Mary: Giving thanks for the wisdom, faith, and stories they share with our community.

ACT

- Identify one habit or mindset that needs to shift so you can live and give with greater freedom and trust.
- Prayerfully complete your Commitment Card and bring it back with you next Sunday as an act of faith and gratitude.
- Explore one ministry at St. Mary or St. John Vianney that connects with your gifts — and take one step toward getting involved.

INSPIRE

- Share with your group or a trusted friend one mindset shift God has been working in you — however small it may seem.
- Encourage a family member or friend to prayerfully fill out their Commitment Card, not as an obligation but as a joyful response to what God has given them.
- Thank someone in your life whose quiet faithfulness and generosity has kept your lamp burning.

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.**