

THE JOY OF GIVING

Week 2 — Changing Our Mindset November 15-22

The “Joy of Giving” is not about losing what we have, but about discovering the freedom that comes from generosity. Letting go of fear and self-preservation opens us to grace. In giving, we become part of God’s ongoing work of renewal in the world. Let us loosen the grip we have on control, on money and on power seeking first what God is calling us to.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Source of every good and perfect gift, we come before You with grateful hearts. You have given us life, faith, and the promise of eternal love through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, teach us the true joy of giving—not from duty or fear, but from hearts overflowing with gratitude. May we see in every act of generosity a reflection of Your own boundless mercy.

Holy Spirit, open our eyes to the needs of others, and open our hands to share what we have received. Bless our parish family, O Lord, that through this journey we may grow in faith, hope, and love.

May the joy of giving draw us ever closer to You, and may our lives bear witness to Your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

[CLICK HERE TO READ THIS WEEKEND’S READINGS](#)

- **First Reading:** A call to humility.
- **Second Reading:** Encouragement to press on with faith.
- **Gospel Reading:** Jesus reminds us that the things of this world will pass away; we are invited to persevere through life’s trials with hope.

Gospel Insights

This week’s Gospel reminds us that all earthly things will eventually pass away. When the disciples admired the beauty of the temple, Jesus shifted their focus to what endures forever — God’s kingdom and the renewal of the heart.

When Christ renews our hearts, everything changes — even how we see money, time, and possessions. The “old self” clings tightly, fearing loss; the “new self” trusts in God’s abundance and gives with joy.

The “Joy of Giving” is not about losing what we have, but about **discovering the freedom that comes from generosity.** Letting go of fear and self-preservation opens us to grace. In giving, we become part of God’s ongoing work of renewal in the world. Let us loosen the grip we have on control, on money and on power seeking first what God is calling us to.

This week, ask the Lord:

“What needs to pass away in me so something new can grow?”

When we live and give as new creations, our generosity becomes a sign of resurrection — proof that Christ is alive in us.

Last week, we shared our hopes and dreams for the future of the Church in Walnut Creek. As we continue this journey, reflect on this question:

What is your new hope for our community here in Walnut Creek? How can you help support this hope coming to fruition?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE

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

- What are you most grateful for about your Church Community?
- Who has been generous towards you? How did that make a difference in your life?
- What old habits, fears, or attachments might be holding you back from giving generously?
- Is your giving motivated more by obligation or by joy? How might it reflect more of Christ's new life?
- How could your renewed sense of giving positively impact your parish, family, or community?
- Have you ever seen your generosity come back to you in abundance?

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not;
See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

— **Isaiah 43:18-19**

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away. The one who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

— **Revelation 21:5**

PRAY

- Spend time in prayer this week asking God to renew your heart.
- Pray for the grace to let go of fear and to trust in His abundance.
- Thank God for the gift of His Church, and pray specifically for the aspect of Church life you feel especially grateful for.

ACT

- Prayerfully complete your Commitment Card to bring back with you next Sunday.
- Reach out and learn about a new ministry offered at SMIC or SJV.

INSPIRE

- Share a story of generosity that has inspired you.
- Encourage a friend to fill out their commitment card too.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE GROUP

Take some time to pray together for the persons or people on the Hearts of your small group members.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God,

You make all things new. Renew our hearts, our parish, and our community through the gift of joyful generosity.

May our giving become love in motion, and our lives become reflections of Your grace. Help us to trust that when we give from the heart, You multiply every gift beyond what we can imagine.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**