

Forever in Faith



ST. ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Living
Christ**
...
Diocese of Toledo

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we embarking on a combined campaign with the Diocese of Toledo now?

Timing is everything. The Diocesan *Living Christ* Campaign is underway and all parishes and missions in the Diocese of Toledo have been asked to participate. For parishes with current extraordinary capital needs, like St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Bishop Thomas gave approval to combine the fundraising efforts of the *Living Christ* Campaign with our *Forever in Faith* Campaign.

What is the *Living Christ* Campaign?

Living Christ is the Diocese of Toledo capital and endowment campaign to strengthen local parish ministries, support clergy, expand Catholic charitable outreach, strengthen Catholic education, form lay leaders, and support Holy Rosary Cathedral.

What is St. Aloysius' goal for the *Living Christ* Campaign?

As a participant in the Diocese of Toledo's *Living Christ* Campaign, St. Aloysius guaranteed our diocesan goal of \$601,250. Once we have fulfilled our guaranteed diocesan goal, we receive all monies raised over that amount (\$601,250) will go to the *Forever in Faith* Campaign to meet the identified parish priorities.

Who will be asked to participate in the *Forever in Faith* Campaign?

Every registered parishioner at St. Aloysius will be asked to prayerfully consider a financial pledge to *Forever in Faith*.

Do I need to maintain my weekly contribution?

Yes! Weekly offerings are used for the normal operating expenses of the parish. We depend on these contributions to maintain the parish and its services/programs.

Will this campaign effect parish offertory?

Offertory is expected to remain constant during the campaign's five-year pledge period. On many occasions, parishes have experienced noticeable increases in offertory giving in the years following the conclusion of the campaign.

What does stewardship and sacrificial giving mean?

Christian stewardship is a form of worship in which we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly and share them lovingly. We return these gifts with loving increase to the Lord. Stewardship is the generous giving of one's time, talent, and treasure as lay ministers and financial donors. Sacrificial giving means to give out of one's substance rather than merely the surplus. This amount is different for everyone but includes giving that brings about a positive spiritual change in you and that of your family.

Why does my request letter suggest a specific gift amount? How was it determined?

In order to reach our goal, a gift amount is suggested for each household. Each household's financial situation and relationship to the Church is unique. Prayerful consideration of your pledge should be planned, proportionate and sacrificial. No judgment is made on the level of gift you or others will make. This request is based on your past commitment (both personally and financially) to St. Aloysius Catholic Church. We are asking parishioners to stretch their giving to this campaign because it will have a tremendous impact on you and all other members of our parish as well as future generations of parishioners. We will provide for them as those in the past provided for us.

How much am I expected to give?

All parishioners are being asked to prayerfully consider a specific gift amount. However, you alone can determine the amount of your gift. Consult the various gift plans accompanying the brochure. Please remember, we need the participation of all parishioners and, if your gift is one of sacrifice, it is truly a generous gift regardless of its size.

[Why ask parishioners for different amounts? Wouldn't dividing the parish goal by the number of households be easier and fairer?](#)

It certainly would be easier. However, it would not be fair, and would put a parish's ability to reach its goal at risk. A principle of this campaign is equal sacrifice, not equal giving. We all give to our parish at varying degrees. Parishioners will be offered the opportunity to participate in *Forever in Faith*, but not everyone will be able to participate at the same financial level in this campaign. By asking for different amounts based on past giving and commitment to the parish, we challenge all to give as they are able and according to their blessings. In this process, equal sacrifice helps ensure the campaign's success.

[Why emphasize pledged gifts?](#)

Pledges may be paid in installments over five years, allowing families to make larger commitments than they might otherwise consider. Pledged gifts are typically four to five times larger than a one-time gift.

[Why is my pledge form and subsequent payments sent to the Diocese?](#)

The Diocese of Toledo will be handling the processing of gifts/pledges and pledge payments. This will save St. Aloysius money and time. Pledge forms will have St. Aloysius included on the form. Checks should be made out to *Living Christ Toledo*. You can write St. Aloysius BG in the memo line. Additionally, if you receive a monthly reminder, St. Aloysius will be noted on the reminder.

[Why is each donor asked to complete a pledge card?](#)

Donors are asked to sign a pledge card as a good faith commitment, indicating that they have agreed to the terms of the gift indicated on the card. A pledge card is not a legally binding document. The completed pledge card will assure the pledge/gift is appropriately recorded and acknowledged by the campaign gift processing office. The most important information the campaign office requests is the total amount of the commitment, the amount of the initial payment (if any), the balance and the payment plan selected by the donor. If financial circumstances change, a donor may contact the campaign office to adjust, pause or cancel their pledge (419) 244-6711.

[How can I fulfill my pledge to *Living Christ/Forever in Faith*?](#)

When completing a pledge card, donors choose the start date, the frequency, and the method of payment. The start date can be immediately (the 15th of the next month) or the donors choosing. Donors may choose to fulfill their pledges monthly, quarterly, or annually. Payments can be made via check (please make checks out to *Living Christ Toledo*), online at www.livingchristcampaign.org/ways-to-give (choose St. Aloysius BG from the drop box), automatic withdrawals from a credit card or bank, stock gifts, as well as Required Minimum Distribution gifts. The Diocese of Toledo will process each gift and provide a gift acknowledgment letter confirming the preferred schedule for payment reminders. Further questions about fulfilling your pledge, can be handled by contacting the parish office and speaking with our campaign director at (419) 352-4195 ext. 109.

[How can I leave St. Aloysius in my will?](#)

By completing a few simple steps, you can include our parish in your will or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA. . Including language in your will or estate plan that leaves a percentage of your estate or specific dollar amount, or a gift contingent upon certain events will help St. Aloysius to thrive in the future. Make sure your attorney or financial advisor uses our legal name: St. Aloysius Catholic Church, a nonprofit organization in Bowling Green, Ohio and Federal Tax ID# 34-447034. Please contact Denise Foes in the parish office at (419) 352-4195 ext. 103 to discuss your intent to include a gift in your estate plans.

[I would like to make a pledge, but our budget is especially tight this year. How can I still participate?](#)

The campaign pledge period is structured over a five-year period, and you can determine when you want to start payment of your pledge.

[Why is an initial payment requested? Is it required?](#)

Our campaign asks for an initial payment to begin a pledge. It helps the campaign immediately by addressing the case elements outlined in the brochure. Many donors prefer to begin their pledges immediately; some may even give more than the requested 10%. However, an initial payment of 10% is not required, and a donor may elect to give less initially or delay the payment start date. Initial payment checks (and subsequent payments) should be made payable to *Living Christ Toledo*.

[Are gifts to the campaign tax deductible?](#)

Yes, gifts to the campaign are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The application of such laws varies with individual financial circumstances. For legal and tax advice, donors are asked to contact their attorney, accountant, or financial advisor.