

OFFERTORY OF THE MASS

The message of stewardship as a life of discipleship is central to the Eucharist and is engrained throughout the scriptures. According to early Church documents, the offertory collection is an important part of the Mass and therefore collections must not be disguised. The Offertory deserves its own time, must not be cut short, hurried, nor needlessly prolonged. Studies show the passing of the basket from one person to the next, with each person actually touching it, is the most effective invitation to respond with a gift. It is also recommended that the congregation not sing during the offertory, a solo or instrumental accompaniment will serve better and avoid distractions or mixing of prayer expressions.

The Collection basket holds the gifts of the congregation, the fruits of their work; completely connecting each individual's lives, prayers, faith, love, sacrifice and worship. The offerings should be treated as our collective sacrificial offerings in union with Jesus' perfect sacrifice. Our offering of the first fruits of bread and wine and treasure is presented. The priest should receive them with gratitude, bless them with reverence and present them to God with respect.

Offertory Suggestion:

Place a large basket wrapped in a bow at the front of the altar. Invite youth to leave their pews and place their offering in the basket. Pass the basket throughout the congregation and combine this with the offering on the altar.

Invite all individuals to the altar to place their offering.

Ask parishioners to place a sealed note of "What I've Done for God" this week in the offertory—a symbol of the importance of sharing all of our selves.