



The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

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Stewardship & Offering Recommendations **The Taskforce for Reopening Church Buildings** **June 5, 2020**

The Church's mission must be strengthened now more than ever. Giving is one way to propel Gospel ministry forward at this critical time. As an act of worship, giving is vital to our expressions of praise and thanksgiving, particularly the Holy Eucharist. Our duty and vocation to give have not changed – the call is even stronger. Actively seize this moment – don't shy away from asking. Remember this is also a pastoral moment – giving is one way for folks to assist in crisis. When inviting giving, focus on abundance over scarcity; emphasize ministry impact rather than expense.

- Offering should be included no matter what service. (e.g. Morning Prayer, Ante-Communion, The Holy Eucharist, Virtual Worship)
- Begin offertory with sentence and clear invitation to give. An extended pause should be made to allow for lengthened process, with explicit detailed directions, especially to engage on-line worshippers and app givers etc.
- There must be an individual (personal) prompt and invitation to give even if offering plates cannot be “passed.” Know that stationary basins alone will not gather much response. Consider having ushers direct each family or pew to make their offering when arriving for worship or at the time of offertory. Clergy and Vestry should visibly give first to lead by example and promote the process.
- Thank without ceasing. Consider a way to include and now present those faithful offerings made while the Church buildings were closed.
- Also consider a way to re-engage lapsed givers e.g. by providing “catch-up” or special SASE envelopes.
- Remember that the majority of church giving is still done via paper check. Focus energy on facilitating preferred methods of giving rather than something new and untested.



Please contact The Rev. Canon Suzanne M. Culhane, Canon for Stewardship, for more individual and detailed counsel at any time; sculhane@dioceseli.org or 917-453-8591.

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