Frequently Asked Questions:

Offertory Commitment Program ("OCP")

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' (Matthew 25:21)

What is the Offertory Commitment Program?

The Offertory Commitment Program, or "OCP" is the name of the stewardship program implemented by Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist to substantially supplement the weekly basket collections taken in church through a pledged giving program. Parishioners are asked to pledge a contribution amount to be paid on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. Envelopes are mailed to parishioners according to their chosen schedule for them to use in submitting their contribution.

Why did Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist implement this program?

We recognize that some of our parishioners have active, mobile lifestyles and are frequently away from our parish on a given weekend. Other parishioners share their time with parishes at a second residence. The financial needs of our parish do not share the same schedules, however, and must be met on a regular basis. The OCP allows for parishioners to support the needs of our parish while still maintaining their lifestyles. As a result, the OCP creates a more reliable, sustainable revenue stream. With a more dependable revenue stream, the Finance Committees of both parishes are better able to project the financial resources available to meet the budgetary needs of each parish.

What options are available for making contributions to the OCP?

In addition to the contribution schedule described above, parishioners can elect to have funds transferred directly from their banking account through *Electronic Funds Transfer*. For this option, please contact the parish business office at 978-526-1263.

What programs does the OCP support?

The OCP is the major source of operating revenue for our parish, and as such, is the primary source of funding for all operating expenses, including staff compensation and benefits, utilities, clergy stipend, office expenses, maintenance, insurance, and pastoral/liturgical support. These expenses make up the many programs of our parish, including Religious Education.

Why doesn't Sacred Heart or St. John the Baptist have second collections any more?

Most second collections are now included as part of the OCP contributions; a second weekly basket collection is no longer taken. Previously, second collections were taken for religious education and fuel, and special non-parish collections that are not for the benefit of either parish, such as for the Missions, Catholic University, Latin America, the Campaign for Human Development, and so on. Second collections are still taken for emergency collections, such as in the past for Hurricane Katrina relief. Additionally, special collections are taken at Easter and Christmas to support the retired priests of the Archdiocese.

Why doesn't Sacred Heart have a Grand Annual Appeal any more?

When the OCP was implemented at Sacred Heart in January 2006, the goal of the program was to replace the efforts of the Grand Annual Appeal through this one offertory contribution program. However, discussions about reinstating the Grand Annual Appeal are on-going if contributions to the OCP are not sufficient to support expenses for programs such as Religious Education, or other expenses of the parish. St. John the Baptist continues to have a Grand Annual Appeal.

Do our parishes receive any subsidies from the Boston Archdiocese?

No, Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist do not receive any financial support from the Archdiocese. Financially, both parishes are totally self-sufficient as are most parishes throughout the country.

How can I find out more about the OCP and the finances of the parish?

Please contact the parish business office at 978-526-1263, or any member of the Sacred Heart or St. John the Baptist Finance Committees.