



# ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG

15 Columbia Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3Y 0R5

Phone: 204-488-3977 Fax: 204-488-3998

Email: [stgianna@mymts.net](mailto:stgianna@mymts.net) Website: [www.stgianna.ca](http://www.stgianna.ca)

*“To transform the world by choosing unconditional love and sacrifice”*

- Parish Mission Statement

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

### PARISH TEAM

**Reverend Darrin J. G. Gurr**

Pastor

**John Eisma**

Pastoral Associate responsible for Liturgical Music Ministry

**Rachel Suarez-Banmann**

Pastoral Associate responsible for Children's Faith Formation

**Ernest Lacuna**

Administrative Coordinator

**Romeo Suban**

Operational Business Manager

**Monique Gauthier**

Living Waters Columbarium - Director of Sales, Marketing & Promotions

**Reg & Jane Todd**

Custodial

### Masses Intentions of the Week

**TUESDAY, December 5, 2017**

6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. - Sacrament of Reconciliation

**7:00 p.m. Liturgy – Novena Mass in Honour of St. Gianna**

Intention: + Donna Senicki / Chesia Senicki

**WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. Liturgy - Ferial**

Intention: + Peter Moss Sr.

**THURSDAY, December 7, 2017**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, December 8, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. Liturgy - Solemnity - The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary**

Intention: + Rose Lampertz / Knights of Columbus

**SATURDAY, December 9, 2017**

**4:30 p.m. Liturgy - Second Sunday of Advent**

Intention: + Purisima Ocampo / Ocampo Family

**SUNDAY, December 10, 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 a.m. Liturgy - Intention: For All Parishioners**

**11:00 a.m. Liturgy - Intention: For All Parishioners**



**Remembering Those Entombed or Memorialized  
in Living Waters Columbarium:**

December 2 - William McCallan



**"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."** On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives us a wakeup call. This is no time for slumber. Now is the time to be on our toes, alert, attentive, ready. But for what? For the coming of *"the Lord of the house."*

During Advent, the Church does her best to help us get ready for the second coming of Christ. We don't know precisely **when** he will return, but we know that he will. And the fact is, even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, each and every one of us will still have to face the Lord at an unknown hour—namely, the hour of our death.

So let us be prepared! Let us be on the watch for anything that would threaten this most important of all encounters. We want to recognize the Lord as a friend and master, so that on seeing him we don't cower in fear at his awesome power and strength. Instead, we hope to rejoice in finally being able to behold him face-to-face. This of course is the result of a healthy and holy relationship with Christ.

To nurture such a relationship this Advent season the Church urges us to recommit to a life of prayer, worthy reception of the sacraments, and a commitment to following God's loving laws through a life of virtue. With these priorities in order, we can wait for the second coming with joyful anticipation, just as we joyfully await the celebration of Christmas.

During these weeks as we prepare our homes for the festive holiday season, may we also set aside some time and effort to prepare our hearts. Then, not only will we appreciate the yuletide wonders around us, but we can also look forward to the eternal wonders that lie in store.

**Readings for the Week of December 3 - 10, 2017**

- Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / Mk 13:33-37
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 / Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6 ] /Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

**KIDS' CORNER**

This week's Gospel focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time and our need to be prepared. It was the constant warning of the early church—Christ will come again, but we do not know the time. Like the early Christians, we are called to love in such a way that we are always ready to greet the Lord at his coming. We too are urged to "stay awake, be ready!"



**What does it mean to be ready for Jesus?  
How do you think we can get ready for Jesus?**

- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies

**Sunday's Offertory - November 26, 2017**

Pre-Authorized Giving: (318 households on PAR)	\$ 13,600.00
Noah's Buddies / Youth:	\$ 11.85
Loose:	\$ 1,073.20
Votives:	\$ 263.20
<u>Novena Mass</u>	<u>\$ 354.05</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 15,302.30</b>

Our minimum weekly offertory income requirement is \$ 20,000.00

### Children's Faith Formation - Advent Prayer Evening



Children's Faith Formation reminds all children and their families to mark their calendars for the upcoming Advent Prayer Evening on Wednesday, **December 6, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.**

### Prayer Ministry Orientation Session - December 11



Our next Information / Orientation Session is on Monday, **December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** The Perpetual Prayer Ministry invites participants to become part of a growing twenty-four hour a day prayer chain that keeps a prayer vigil in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome!

### *A Place at the Table Ministries...*

#### Ministry of New Beginnings

This ministry group is providing an opportunity for those who have lived through or are living through a separation or divorce. This group is a place where solace, hope, encouragement and the gifts of our faith are better discovered and appreciated. The next gathering for the Ministry of New Beginnings will be on: **Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

### Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule for the South Deanery of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg:

Holy Rosary	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am - 11:30 am 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
O.L.P.H.	December 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am - 11:00 am
St. Ignatius	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:45 am - 10:45 am
	December 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am - 10:45 am
	December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:45 am - 10:45 am
	December 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:45 am - 10:45 am
St. John Brebeuf	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
St. Gianna's	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm - 6:45 pm.
	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm - 6:45 pm 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
St. Vital	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Sunday, **December 24 - 4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.**  
Monday, **December 25 - 10:00 a.m.**

Please plan on arriving early for Christmas Eve, doors will open at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

### The Joy of Gospel Living - Our annual renewal of Treasure

Each year, in keeping with the call to discipleship, we are invited to take another step toward true Christian Tithing (10% of our total annual household income). During the next two Sunday Masses - December 9/10 and December 16/17, we will once again, be invited to participate in our annual stewardship of treasure renewal for the upcoming year.

The process for renewal has been dramatically simplified this year. Upon arrival at Church registered parishioners will be asked to pick up their renewal package. Inside will be a renewal card inviting all of us to consider our financial commitment for 2018. During this time of renewal, all will be asked to increase their annual financial gift by approximately 1% of their total household income. Time will be allotted following the homily to complete our commitment and we will include it with our Sunday offering.

Please know that every step that we take to deepen our commitment to God in gratitude, generosity and trust, God always blesses us with even more - for God can never be out done!

May God who is the provider and sustainer of everything we have and hold, lead each of us to a free and joyful response.

New commitments will begin January 1, 2018.

Thank you for being a part of something great!

- Fr. Darrin



**JOY** JUST  
OPEN  
YOURSELF

**TO GOSPEL GIVING**

**CALL TO INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**



*Our Sunday Gift 2018*

# Tithing in the Bible - Is Tithing for the New Testament Believer?

by Cortni Marrazzo

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article called "**Why it's Important to Keep Tithing in Tough Economic Times**" and, quite frankly, I was surprised by the many follow up comments from Christians who don't believe that tithing is for today. Many expressed the belief that tithing was only done in the Old Testament and thus it shouldn't be a part of a believer's life. Their comments made me wonder: Whether tithing is restricted to the Old Testament or not, is the practice of tithing such a bad thing for today's believer? Let's dive in and look at what the **Bible** has to say about tithing and more importantly, our heart.

## Tithing is a Matter of the Heart

First, let's look at the definition and purpose of the tithe. The main principle behind tithing and giving is the fact that what we do with our money shows where our heart is. **Matthew 6:21** says "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When we are able to give 10% or more of our income instead of keeping that money for ourselves, it shows that our heart isn't tied to our money and that we love God more than our money.

The Bible mentions money over 800 times and of all of Jesus' parables, more than half of them talked about money. Why? Because that is where so many people get tripped up! When we are able to release at least 10% of our income back to God, our money doesn't have as tight of a hold on us, because we realize that God is in control of our finances. We remember that everything we have has been given to us by Him. Even though most of us probably work for the money we make each month, even God has his hand there - He has given us the ability to do our jobs. Many who grasp what God has truly given them seem to agree that 10% doesn't even feel like enough!

## Is Tithing Mandatory?

Many readers who responded took issue with idea of tithing being "mandatory" or "required" - as if it is something that keeps believers in bondage. But do God's standards really keep us in bondage? Just like God tells us to keep sex within marriage, to love one another and to seek first His kingdom, tithing is a blessing to our lives and something that will help better our lives (as well as help the lives of others). We are not saved by works, thus failing to tithe will not necessarily send you to hell, but doing so will help improve your life and strengthen your relationship with God. I personally don't believe that God will curse us if we don't tithe, but I do believe He will help us escape the curse that is already in the world if we do. I also understand that there may be some church leaders who try to guilt and coerce people into giving, but studies show there are plenty of church leaders honouring God in this area -- the majority of them want to share God's best with the people they love and have been tasked to lead.

## Old Testament vs. New Testament Tithing Practices

Whether the tithe is only for the Old Testament or if it is also included in the New Testament is probably the most debated issue. The scripture most frequently referenced regarding the tithe is indeed in the Old Testament (**Malachi 3:10-12**), but the tithe is also referenced in the New Testament. In **Matthew 23:23**, Jesus talks to the Pharisees, condemning them for tithing to the penny but neglecting the more important issues of justice, mercy and faith. He then goes on to tell them that *they should in fact tithe*, but

There are many practices in the Old Testament that don't make sense to us today, yet many of these ancient ways carry over to the New Testament law of grace as part of Christ's promise to not abolish the law, but to fulfill it (**Matthew 5:17**). For instance we no longer sacrifice animals, but as believers we are called to offer *ourselves* up as a living sacrifice (**Rom 12:1**). Men no longer are required to be circumcised, but we all have a circumcision of the heart through the Holy Spirit (**Rom 2:29**). Most of us don't have grain and produce to bring to the storehouse, but we do have incomes that we can bring the first tenth of into the church. In other words, just because something is written in the Old Testament doesn't mean it lacks application to us today in some way or another. One Crosswalk.com member, Zoe4Ever, left a comment on my previous article regarding this principle that I found insightful:

*When I think of Christians asking themselves whether "tithing" is commanded in the Bible, is an Old Testament or New Testament teaching, I wonder how many of these Christians "send back" the many scriptural blessings God has given His people in the Old Testament. How many people when they are blessed and given hope through the mention of God's works, words etc. through the Old Testament Scriptures say 'I don't receive this or that blessing or confirmation because it's in the Old Testament'?"*

While it is true that we are no longer under the old law, that we are under grace, we must not forget the purpose of grace: to help us live for God and do the things He wants us to do. **Romans 8:4** tells us that Jesus came that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully *met* in us, not so that we could altogether dismiss it. And **Romans 3:21-31** talks about how we have righteousness through faith and not through following the law, but verse 31 adds "Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law." God's grace gives us the power and ability to tithe!

## **Tithe and The Number 10**

Most of us are aware that we as Christians are to give, but many people get hung up on the 10% part of the tithe. The fact is that God knows we can not all give an equal amount because we all have different resources, so He gave a percentage ensuring it would equal out.

*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

**- Mark 12:41-44**

Jesus understood that even though this widow gave a small amount compared to the others, her heart was more giving because she gave a larger percentage of what she had than all the others. This verse is also interesting because this widow gave *all she had to live on*. There are many people today who say they can't afford to tithe, but this woman realized she couldn't afford not to.

God knows we are naturally inclined to be selfish and will want to keep our money. So while, yes, we should give cheerfully, sometimes we need to take the step and actually give regardless of our internal feelings. The act of giving allows God to change our hearts so that ultimately we end up doing so cheerfully. Many of us, if we let our natural minds decide how much to give, would likely opt for a lot less than 10%. Having a standard keeps us accountable.

## Trusting the Church With Your Tithe

So what if you don't take issue with the concept of giving or even the concept of giving 10%? What if you, like many of the commenters, take issue with those you hand your money over to: the Church. Those who express this concern reveal two potential problems that need to be addressed:

1. This individual's trust isn't in God (and the church He's placed them in). OR
2. This individual is attending an untrustworthy church and should consider finding a new one.

The truth is, church leaders are responsible for using church money in a responsible way - they have more accountability for that than we do. And as mentioned previously, most of them do a pretty good job of this. Still, it's worth bearing in mind that *our* accountability as believers is simply to give and trust that God will take care of the rest. Hopefully you are in a church where you can trust your leaders to do what is right. If you are unable to find such a church, then it would be beneficial to work on your trust in God, asking Him to help you trust the leaders He has placed you under (or pray to help you find a solution if there is a genuine problem of corruption present). But just remember, you're responsible for what you give and for your heart, and the church leaders are responsible for how to use it.

In closing, I'd like to point out that the percentage you ultimately give is between you and God, however there are many who do give 10% and want to offer encouragement to others to do the same. Think about it: If some individuals are willing to give 10% of their income (or more) to their church -- the place that feeds and teaches them -- and if some individuals are experiencing the blessings of giving away income to care for the needy and want to encourage others to experience the same blessings they've been experiencing - is that such a bad thing?

*Cortni Marrazzo currently resides in Spokane, Washington with her husband Jason. She and her husband successfully paid off over \$11,000 worth of debt in their first year of marriage and she desires to help others reach their financial potential. Cortni has an Associate's Degree in Biblical Discipleship from Dominion College and is currently pursuing her passion for writing while running her own home-based business, Essential Excellence.*

<b>Tithing Scale</b>			
<b>Annual Household Income</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>
\$25,000.00	\$625.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$35,000.00	\$875.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,500.00
\$40,000.00	\$1000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$45,000.00	\$1,125.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,500.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$55,000.00	\$1,375.00	\$2,750.00	\$5,500.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$65,000.00	\$1,625.00	\$3,250.00	\$6,500.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00
\$200,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
\$250,000.00	\$6,250.00	\$12,500.00	\$25,000.00





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Division Director

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

[Kyle.hanson@investorsgroup.com](mailto:Kyle.hanson@investorsgroup.com)

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1002 Pembina Hwy. Winnipeg, MB R3T 1Z5



**Lileena Mendis**  
Director

1341 Kenaston Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2P2  
Phone: 204-832-0866

1061 Autumnwood Dr.  
Winnipeg, MB R2J 1C6  
Phone: 204-487-2151

[lileena@paradisemontessori.ca](mailto:lileena@paradisemontessori.ca)

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