

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
November 7, 2021**

WIDOW'S MITE



When a parish is raising funds for a special purpose, it will often establish tiers or levels of giving. Donors will be encouraged to give a particular amount in order to be included in a defined category of generosity.

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus watched as wealthy people deposited large donations into the temple treasury. They certainly would be considered top tier givers.

Jesus then noticed a poor widow as she put in a very small donation "worth a few cents." A donation that most likely would not even make her eligible to be listed among the bottom tier of donors.

Yet Jesus observed that "this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury." The big givers were donating from "their surplus wealth," giving what they would never miss. But the widow "contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." Her percentage of giving amounted to 100%.

Such a level of giving would be unrealistic and would leave us destitute. Nevertheless, that widow's generosity challenges us to consider the percentage of our giving to God and to his Church.

Are we like the wealthy in the Gospel, giving from our surplus, giving what we will never miss? Or like the widow, is our giving a true sacrifice, a true act of worship that demonstrates our love for God?

Prayerfully in your service,

Father John Carlos