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We first heard about tithing in our home town parish. It was a thriving parish and being a young married couple with 3 small children we didn't give it much thought. The financial burden of the parish was someone else's responsibility, certainly not ours. As many young families, we struggled to make ends meet. We gave what we thought we could spare at that time with some weeks giving nothing at all. We worried about how we were going to endure the demands of everyday life. Seeking Gods guidance was often an afterthought. It was during the pregnancy of our 4th child, with medical difficulties, that we began bargaining with God. "I promise...If you would only..." It wasn't until the actual birth of Emma that we fully surrendered. My near death experience drawing me toward a peaceful white light, the feeling of endless love and beauty was heavenly and short lived. I felt the presence of God letting me know it wasn't my time and I had more to do for my family which included him. My descent into reality was that of gratitude. Afterwards, we began regular weekly tithing, with prayer, as we wrote each check. As our income changed so did our tithing but never our gratefulness for our blessings. Every decision was made with the guidance of God. Garry was able to go back to college full time, quitting his job of 12 years. Graduating in three years, he successfully found his way in the professional job market. Our 4 children attended and graduated college. They all are gainfully employed in their field of expertise. Our tithing continues faithfully and so do our blessings. Luke 6:38 -For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give- large or small -will be used to measure what is given back to you. We've learned to trust God placing our needs second to our spiritual obligation to tithe. I'm not saying it will be easy; in fact, you may be surrounded with many, justifiable excuses, why you can't commit to tithing. At those times, I encourage you to be prayerfully, silent and let the grace of God guide you in your decision. When you fully surrender and trust God, as we have learned to do, your life will be rewarding in so many ways.