

Faithful Belonging

October 2021

Dear St Mary's Family,

Your participation in our Stewardship campaign this year is more important than ever. We are embarking on a bold, new plan to hire and fund a full-time rector. The vestry has committed to use our reserves over the next three years to contribute toward this end. The budget currently in consideration for 2022 has a projected shortfall of almost \$75,000 that will need to be withdrawn from these reserves. We can't keep this commitment without your help.

We are looking at Stewardship as something we do year-round and not just in the fall. Through your time, talent and treasure leading committees, participating in talent shows, youth activities and Sunday night bedtime stories, singing in the choir and playing an instrument (to name a few), we are stewards of our community.

We are asking each of you to commit with us toward a new future with a rector bringing new energy and ideas by looking at your pledge as a three-year cycle that is raised every year beginning with 2022 and completing in 2024.

You may be wondering why we are changing our scope to be a three-year cycle of increasing your pledge. The answer is two-fold.

1. We want to show the congregation's commitment to the funding of a full-time rector to perspective candidates. By documenting three years of increasing pledges, this will clearly demonstrate our level of commitment to potential candidates. It also shows an openness to disclose our financial situation.
2. Occasionally, organizations use the capital campaign model of giving to reach an important goal (e.g., a new roof). We are using this model to ask for your help in more fully funding our next rector.

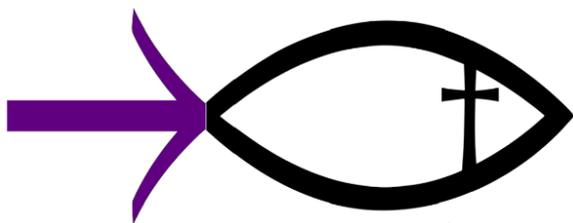
This year's theme: *Faithful Belonging: Now and in the Future* reflects that ongoing commitment.

In the continued midst of COVID-19, St. Mary's is a vibrant and thriving parish. We have all the tools we need to build on what we have toward a new future where we can come together both in person and virtually.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

1895 Laurel Ave.

St. Paul Minnesota, 55104



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Our goal this year is \$190,000 in pledge income.

Yes, it's a big goal, but we can do it because we value our life together at St. Mary's.

We have made making your pledge or paying it easy and accessible for all members of the congregation whether you pledge by paper form or technology.

Opportunities for pledging:

- Paper pledge form (enclosed) mailed to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 Attn: Pledge Clerk
- Access the St. Mary's website, click the **Contribute** menu and select *Faithful Belonging - Stewardship for 2022*.

Ways to pay your pledge:

- By check to St. Mary's Episcopal Church.
- Electronic Funds Transfer: contact Rex Holzemer (rexaholzemer@gmail.com)
- Put your pledge on a credit card or withdrawn from your bank account. Click the **Contribute** menu on our website and select *Give Now Online* to set up a Vanco account. **Note:** If you choose this option, please check the processing fee box to pay that fee (2.75% for credit card, 1% for bank account withdrawal). It will be included in your pledge statement at the end of the year. You will get the tax credit and St. Mary's won't have to pay that fee.

We are asking you to join us in making a pledge to St. Mary's. **WE** make the difference in the life of the parish and the services we provide both to ourselves and to the community at large.

Faithfully,

Cindy James and Jim Wheeler

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