



Dear *Fellow St. John's Parishioner*,

I'm honored to serve as the chair of this year's Stewardship team at St. John's. On Sunday, October 18th, we will kick off our annual giving campaign: "God the Giver"

Over the next four weeks, we will explore together how acknowledging God's generosity to us can unleash greater generosity in ourselves. Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his book, "In God's Hands" says, "This is a God who intervenes on our behalf, not because we deserve it, but because God's love is freely given. It is grace. It is not earned; it cannot be earned. It does not need to be earned." God is the Giver, the ultimate lover of all God has created.

Your generosity, in response to all God has given you, generates mission and changes lives here at St. John's and in our community. Your current generous gifts of time, treasure and talents are very important and we appreciate all you do. Thank you.

Here is our road map for the next four weeks of our God the Giver Campaign:

- Beginning on Sunday, October 18th and through November 8th, we will begin our reflections about stewardship. Leaders across the country, covering stewardship and faithful giving in connection with the Gospel will be praying with us.
- Each Sunday, from October 18<sup>th</sup> through November 8th, we will hear stories of personal transformation through the practice of intentional giving from our fellow parishioners.
- Enclosed in this letter is your pledge card. Pray over what your new 2016 pledge will be during the next 4 weeks. Bring your pledge card to worship on November 8th, Loyalty Sunday. This helps us formulate a budget for the coming year.
- On November 8th, we will celebrate Loyalty Sunday, the culmination of our exploration, when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of worship and in response to all that God has provided. If you are unable to make that service please send your card in advance so we may include it in the blessing. I thank you in advance.



Father Duncan, the Vestry and the Stewardship team have set a goal of receiving 100% of pledge commitments from our worshipping community. We will be in prayer that each of us will remain open to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in a faithful response to God's generosity.

We will pray that your giving will come from a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of this community and the gift we have in Jesus, the one who does not leave our side. My life is enriched when I give not from a perspective of "what is my fair share," or even, "what can I afford"; rather, my faith comes alive when I give from a grace-filled and grateful heart. Giving generously gives me strength and hope for the journey ahead.

Ask God to guide you as you consider your pledge. Help keep St. John's strong,

Yours in Christ,

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