

Stewardship Campaign – 2024 -2025

Dear Parish Family,

This year's theme for our Stewardship Campaign is titled "Walk in Love." A stewardship campaign sometimes goes by other names such as "Every-member Canvass" or "Pledge Drive." However, I like "Stewardship" which, for me, seems most inclusive of the three "T's" – time, talent, and treasure. I see daily, weekly, and monthly, members of our parish family sharing the first two "T's": that is Time and Talent for such activities as for Laundry Love and Gay Pride events and for fellowship with the Saucy Sisters, Wise Women, and Wild-men's Night Out. (These are by no means a complete list of activities.)

Each of these gives us the opportunity to "Walk in Love." By this, I mean that we support both our parish family(in-reach) and those in the community (outreach). We listen sympathetically to problems members of our parish family may be experiencing while rejoicing in any good fortune that may come their way and we help those in the community who need our support without judgment.

Now to discuss the third "T", Treasure. Imagine how much harder it would be to carry out offering our gifts of time and talent without the physical structure of St. Michael's Church and space for our clergy and staff. This is why yearly, with occasional reminders and special requests, we ask for your financial support. We cover salaries for paid staff members and clergy, building and grounds maintenance, musicians, and miscellaneous expenses for office supplies, communications, and liturgical needs such as wafers and wine that are intrinsic to our worship service.

One additional thought about our church's physical presence. It provides us a common place for nourishing our spiritual growth. I appreciate hearing our clergy explaining / interpreting scripture in such a way that I can relate to it. Also, having sung in church choirs all my adult life, I appreciate our music that allows me to transcend the physical limitations of my earthly body as I seek to understand my purpose and being. Having a corporate service creates that wonderful environment.

You will soon receive a Pledge form in the mail or you may pick one up at church. Please consider prayerfully, and as you are able, make a financial commitment to St. Michael's so that we can continue to "Walk in Love" and grow spiritually.

In God's Peace, David Zittel, Senior Warden

From the Financial Secretary

As your financial secretary, I see you, the breath of this church, give what you can to support the church, our ministries, pay our bills, help the homeless, support our priest, have celebrations, come together in grief and joy. Because of your generosity this past year, we've been able to pay for AC repair this summer, to fix a water pump, and to install new carpet in the office. All from your donations, your pledges, your giving. Laundry Love receives donations monthly and quarterly so we can continue the good works of this ministry. Did you know it takes \$900 each time we sponsor a Laundry Love day?

I love St. Michael's. I feel that like the little train that could, that we are the little church that does so much with so little. My husband Don commented that he had never seen a church do as much as we do. I beamed with pride. We do do a lot. It seems no matter what we need it comes through. Faith? Absolutely. Trust? Yes. Caring and compassion? Our cup runneth over. Be it a couple dollars in the plate, your weekly, monthly pledges and offerings, your help in our ministries, it is you who are the strength of this church.

You , you , you...are the heart and soul of St, Michael's. We cannot do what we do without your love and support.

I hope you prayerfully consider what you can do in 2025 for the love and ministry of St. Michael's. What you pledge now will determine our budget for 2025. Any money given, not deemed a pledge is considered plate or extra offerings and is not a part of the budget. Your commitment is important. Please consider changing your offerings to a pledge. The pledge police will not come after you if you are unable to fulfill your pledge.

Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary