



We Are St. Mary's 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Dear St. Mary's Community:

On behalf of the vestry and staff of our beloved Cathedral, I bring you greetings. We hope you are finding some joy in your lives in this most difficult year. COVID-19, with its social distancing, quarantining, and resultant social unrest, has caused a disruption of our lives not seen in 100 years. We hope you are staying safe. We have missed you, and we know you have missed us. We can't wait to be with you again in our beautiful worship space that has stood the test of time for over 160 years.

Many of you have stepped up to the plate financially and supported the Cathedral through this time when our doors have been closed. Your generosity has gone beyond our expectations – contributions have exceeded amounts pledged and projected for 2020 – and we cannot thank you enough. Thanks to Patrick Williams, Eyleen Farmer, Drew Woodruff, Constance Abbey, and many of you, we have continued to offer food to our community on Wednesdays even though we had to curtail the hot community breakfast and Wednesday worship services. As you know, we have fixed costs that we must continue to meet, even though we have not had in-person worship. Staff salaries must be paid, the utilities must be kept on, and we increased our musical offerings during the COVID lockdown.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the Cathedral for 2021. Think about what St. Mary's means to you. To me, it is the place that I come to meet my Lord, to pray for forgiveness for not fully living into my Christian faith, and to be with all of you as we seek to hear God's call and do God's work in our community. Each time I enter the Cathedral, I am struck with its beauty and reminded of the awesome power of God. Then I hear our glorious music and see you, my fellow parishioners and friends. I am reminded that we are all in this together, and together we can accomplish incredible things.

In this time of COVID-19 there is a huge amount of need out there, and many of us do not have the resources we once did. We understand that. But we ask all who can to generously honor the Cathedral, your loved ones, and our faith community by meeting and exceeding your past pledge. If you have not pledged before, we ask that you do so. By having an idea of the amount of contributions we can expect during a year, we can budget more precisely and adjust our expenses accordingly.

I receive my spiritual nourishment at, and because of, St. Mary's. I know that I must give thanks to God for the blessings of this life, which are given from God's grace and not earned. I ask that you join me and give as generously as you can to St. Mary's for 2021. Please email your pledge card to epratt@stmarysmemphis.org, or mail it back to us.

Thank you.

Scott Morrell, Sr. Warden