St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Dear People of St. Mary's,

As we enter this year's Stewardship Campaign season, we invite you to reflect on *The Bonds of Fellowship: Strengthening a Firm Foundation*. Over the past year, Saint Mary's has navigated change, welcomed new leadership with the arrival of our priest-in-charge, Julie Hoplamazian, and continued to grow in faith and service. Through it all, our congregation has remained strong and has shown grit, determination and deep drive to live out our Christian values. We are reminded that the strength of our church lies in the bonds of fellowship we share and the faith that brings us together.

During times like these, we remember the book of Hebrews, which encourages us and reminds us not to turn our backs on the world, but to inspire one another to act justly, give generously, and love widely: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." (10:24-25). Fellowship means showing up for one another, caring for our neighbors, and giving generously to sustain the community we share.

Our annual pledge campaign launches on Sunday, October 18, and we invite everyone to participate. Our 2027 goal is $400,000 in pledges to support Saint Mary's mission and ministries. Our annual operating budget is nearly $650,000, separate from Ardmore Food Pantry's operating budget. Your generosity supports our dedicated staff, church facilities, Faith in Action ministries, expanding youth programs, and the continued growth of our congregation. Your gifts sustain the people and spaces that make it possible for us to worship, learn, grow in faith, and serve one another.

Over the next few Sundays, you will hear reflections from Stewardship Committee members and invited speakers about the importance of giving to Saint Mary's mission and ministry. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2027. Together, we can strengthen *The Bonds of Fellowship* that sustain our community and build a firm foundation for the future.

Thank you for being part of Saint Mary's and helping us live out our faith in our church, our neighborhood, and the wider world.

Faithfully,

The St. Mary's Stewardship Committee
Isabel Steven, Chair
Bill FitzGerald
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St. Mary's Annual Pledge Campaign
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pledge campaign?

St. Mary's annual fall pledge campaign invites our community to support the church and its ministries financially in the coming year. Pledges help the Vestry and Rector develop a realistic budget and plan for the year ahead.

Why should I pledge? How is pledging different from the weekly offering?

A pledge is an intentional commitment to support St. Mary's based on your individual circumstances. While weekly offerings are vital to our financial health, pledges provide the consistency needed to set priorities, allocate resources, and create an annual budget.

How much should I pledge?

Giving is a deeply personal decision, and there is no right or wrong amount. We all have different circumstances and financial commitments, so we encourage you to choose an amount that feels meaningful and manageable for you and your family. While the biblical tithe is 10% of one's income, many people begin with a more modest amount. If you're new to pledging, consider starting with 2–3% of your income, adjusting to what you can give joyfully. Every pledge, regardless of size, is a meaningful expression of your commitment to St. Mary's and its ministries. As your circumstances allow, consider increasing your pledge over time. Generosity is a journey, and every gift given with gratitude helps strengthen our parish community.

How do I make my pledge, and when are payments due?

You can make your pledge by:

- Completing the online form at stmarysardmore.org/giving.
- Mailing the pledge card included with this mailing.
- Placing the pledge card from the Sunday bulletin in the offering plate.

You can fulfill your pledge weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, or through a stock transfer- *EIN: 23-1352469*. For stock-giving questions, contact St. Mary's investment manager, John Satterfield, at 610-222-5593.

Payment options include:

- Check, placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office.
- Your bank's Bill Pay service.
- Online through SimpleGive - my.simplegive.com/STMARYSConv

Pledge payments can be made throughout the year according to your preferred schedule.

Can I change my pledge amount?

Yes. Pledges are not legally binding, and we understand that circumstances can change. If you need to adjust your pledge, contact the Church Office at office@stmarysardmore.org.