



## **St. Paul's 2022 Annual Appeal**

### **Essential Gifts**

**“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think on these things.” Philippians 4:8**

### **Who are we?**

Despite the ongoing isolation of the pandemic, St. Paul's continues to be a vital part of all of our lives. The essential gifts that we not only receive from St. Paul's but also that we share with each other and the wider community are what has sustained us throughout the last year. We are little children, teenagers, young adults, middle agers, and elders. We come from Brookline and many different neighborhoods and towns in the greater Boston area and beyond, from all over the country and the world. Together we seek to invite those looking to experience the fullness of Christ's love, to welcome all people into our faith community, and to deepen our connectedness to Christ through learning to follow the two Great Commandments: to love God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

### **What makes Sunday at St. Paul's happen?**

Like last year, this year has been like no other in “making Sunday happen”! St. Paul's continued to provide moving Sunday worship services with beautiful, heartfelt sermons from our clergy, music by our choir, and readings by our lectors via Zoom and Facebook Live during the first part of the year. We have continued to have church school and adult formation on Sundays as well as virtual coffee hour. Behind all these worship services are many conversations and meetings, hours of sermon preparation, curriculum and lesson planning, assembly of worship bulletins, developing announcements, writing updates, with prayerful attention to countless details by parish staff and many volunteers. We now have a team of technical vergers to enable our services to go more smoothly and our Greeter and Stewardship ministries have produced videos. Gradually we have begun to open up and now are able to worship in person with appropriate covid-19 protocols, although we continue to stream services via Facebook Live and YouTube for those unable to join in person.

### **What happens at St. Paul's outside of Sunday?**

Not only has St. Paul's continued virtually with social action and outreach, pastoral care and counseling, education, premarital counseling, baptismal preparation, funeral planning, financial and building management, communications, intern training, leadership development, fellowship, worship and prayer, our clergy and staff have sustained us during these challenging times with daily morning check-ins and prayer on Facebook Live and evening compline services on Zoom during the first half of the year. Despite our building having been closed much of this year, our church is still open! We continued to offer our space free of charge to the Brookline Food Pantry and 12 Step Programs as our buildings began the process of re-opening.

### **Who are the staff at St. Paul's?**

The Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Rector (full-time) • The Rev. Elise A. Feyerherm, Associate Rector (half-time) • The Ven. Pat Zifcak, Deacon (non-stipendiary) • The Rev. Isaac P. Martinez, Curate/Director of Children and Youth (part-time/diocesan funded) • The Rev. Megan C. Holding, Priest Associate (non-stipendiary) • Andrew E. Clarkson, Director of Music (15 hrs/week) • John Churchwell, Parish Administrator (32 hrs/week) • Christine Quinby, Finance Administrator (6 hrs/week) • James Santagati, Sexton (full-time)

### **Who are volunteer leaders at St. Paul's?**

- Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk and Vestry (governing committee of the parish)
- Lay Worship Leaders: Choir, Lectors, Prayer Leaders, Chalice Bearers, Healing Ministers, Acolytes (crucifers, torch bearers, servers), Verger, Flower Guild, Ushers, and Altar Guild.
- Members of Committees and Teams: Sunday School Teachers, Retreat Planning, Finance, Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds, Communications, Ministry Outside the Parish, Prison Ministry, Scripture Group, Knitting, Faith in Action, Garden, Hospitality, Greeters, Ushers, Personnel, Pastoral Care and Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Worship and Archives.

## Why do we need annual pledges? Don't we have rental income?

One of our goals is to become more self-sufficient through pledging (currently pledges account for about 65% of the budget). We do receive income from the apartment in the rectory and from the preschool downstairs, but our space rentals for concerts has been curtailed due to the pandemic and we have not been able to have our normal fundraisers such as the Yard Sale and Taste of St. Paul's, although we were fortunate to raise some funds from the highly successful St. Paul's University. If our pledges grow, we can imagine a time when our fundraisers could be fully dedicated to mission.

## Why should I consider pledging? Can't I just donate via on-line giving or the weekly collection? Does St. Paul's need my pledge?

Weekly non-pledge offerings amount to approximately 9% of all contributions to St Paul's, but we can't count on them—they change from year to year and are particularly uncertain this year. Pledges on the other hand are an annual financial commitment from individuals and households that allow us to plan our budget for staff and programs.

Every pledge is valued, whatever the amount. Pledging to support our shared life together is about more than the dollars raised. It is about being thankful for the blessing that St Paul's is; creating a community-wide covenant that we are responsible to and for one another; that we share in keeping the doors open, the lights and heat on, the ministries thriving and supported to do the work we depend on them to do. Pledges are the basic sustenance of parish life and represent both our vitality and our capacity for growth. It is living out our connection to Christ and to each other.

## How many pledges a year do we receive? What amount should I pledge?

For 2021, 109 households made an annual pledge to St. Paul's. The range of pledges was from less than \$100 to over \$16,000 and everything in between! When deciding what to pledge, consider committing a percentage of your household income. What percentage of your household income have you given in the past? How much are you able to increase your pledge this year? If you're just starting out, what percentage feels possible? 2%? 3%? 5%? A tithe of 10%? It takes some discernment to figure out the right level for your household. (See chart below)

## Can't we just repeat our pledge from last year?

Part of the purpose of an annual appeal is to deepen our connection to God and each other, to create an opportunity to reflect on our resources, gifts, and blessings and what we can commit to the church. There are many reasons why someone might raise (or lower) a pledge. This year, some may have to reduce their pledge significantly due to pandemic-related issues while others may be able to stretch and increase, sharing in our collective burden and responsibility to each other. Given inflation, if a pledge stays the same for multiple years, it is essentially lowered. Just as your own personal household expenses go up yearly, so do the church's.

## Why does giving to the church matter spiritually?

Because we are St. Paul's: our spiritual life, our experience of worship, reverence, and music, our passion for justice and ministry outside the parish, our learning and care for one another, our humor and celebration are communal realities.

Because we are grateful for the blessings we receive and the challenges that help us grow as a people of faith and as community members. Because it is helpful and good to discern our priorities: What really matters in our lives? What is *essential*? Where do we spend our time? For what are we grateful? To what values do we dedicate our lives? Because giving to the church is an act of generosity, but also an act of trust. Both trust and generosity are spiritual practices.

## Annual Appeal Proportional Giving Chart

| Annual Income | Pledge |          |        |          |        |          |        |          | Tithe  |          | Beyond Tithe |          |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------------|----------|
|               | 1%     |          | 3%     |          | 5%     |          | 7%     |          | 10%    |          | 15%          |          |
|               | Weekly | Annually | Weekly | Annually | Weekly | Annually | Weekly | Annually | Weekly | Annually | Weekly       | Annually |
| \$12,000      | \$3    | \$120    | \$7    | \$360    | \$12   | \$600    | \$17   | \$840    | \$24   | \$1,200  | \$35         | \$1,800  |
| \$25,000      | \$5    | \$250    | \$15   | \$750    | \$25   | \$1,250  | \$34   | \$1,750  | \$49   | \$2,500  | \$73         | \$3,750  |
| \$50,000      | \$10   | \$500    | \$29   | \$1,500  | \$49   | \$2,500  | \$68   | \$3,500  | \$97   | \$5,000  | \$145        | \$7,500  |
| \$75,000      | \$15   | \$750    | \$44   | \$2,250  | \$73   | \$3,750  | \$101  | \$5,250  | \$145  | \$7,500  | \$217        | \$11,250 |
| \$100,000     | \$20   | \$1,000  | \$58   | \$3,000  | \$97   | \$5,000  | \$135  | \$7,000  | \$193  | \$10,000 | \$289        | \$15,000 |
| \$150,000     | \$29   | \$1,500  | \$87   | \$4,500  | \$145  | \$7,500  | \$202  | \$10,500 | \$289  | \$15,000 | \$433        | \$22,500 |
| \$200,000     | \$39   | \$2,000  | \$116  | \$6,000  | \$193  | \$10,000 | \$270  | \$14,000 | \$385  | \$20,000 | \$577        | \$30,000 |
| \$250,000     | \$49   | \$2,500  | \$145  | \$7,500  | \$241  | \$12,500 | \$337  | \$17,500 | \$481  | \$25,000 | \$722        | \$37,500 |