



## Wonderful ways to donate to St. Paul's in Brookline

Whether you are just dipping your toes into giving to St. Paul's or you are looking for tax-advantaged ways to maximize your gifts, here are several methods to consider.

*This is intended as general information and not specific tax advice. As rules and laws change over time, please consult a tax professional or qualified financial advisor.*

### 1. Donate cash

Donors often consider donating cash to be the quickest, most convenient way to give. You can send a check to the office or put a check in the Sunday offering plate. With our on-line giving platform, [Realm](#), you have the option to create an annual pledge (a commitment) as well as make a one-time cash gift or set up a recurring donation.

You can use a linked bank account or your credit card, and it only takes a few seconds. Although it may be convenient for you, keep in mind that St. Paul's has to pay a credit card processing fee of ~3% per transaction. Unless you check the box to pay the processing fee, ~3% is deducted directly from your donation.

If you want to maximize your donation, there are even better ways to give — like donating stock.

### 2. Participate in your employee gift-matching program

Some employers offer gift-matching programs for qualified charities, meaning they'll match the amount of your donation up to a certain amount. This can effectively double your contribution and make more of an impact on the causes that matter to you.

Gift-matching programs are more common at large employers, and the maximum donation amount they're willing to match will vary. You can search [Charity Navigator's database](#) to see if your employer offers gift matching, or check with your HR department.

Depending on your company's matching gift process, it can take time before St. Paul's receives the matching gift. Some companies process them immediately, while others may take a few weeks or months. This is why it's a good idea to let the [treasurer](#) know that a matching donation will be arriving. Your employer may also ask us to verify your donation before sending their matching gift, so we can be on the lookout for any verification requests via mail or email.

### 3. Donate stocks

If you're looking for a tax-savvy way to donate, consider donating shares of appreciated stock (which are shares that have increased in value over the time that you've owned them). There are [many benefits to donating stock](#). In particular, donating stock gives you the opportunity to save on both capital gains taxes and income taxes. And due to these tax savings, your donation can be larger, making your dollar go further than if you were to sell the stock and donate cash.

[To donate stock](#), you'll fill out a stock transfer form from your brokerage, or the financial institution that manages your stock assets (like Charles Schwab or Fidelity). In the form, you'll provide information about the stock you want to donate. Please contact the St. Paul's Treasurer to coordinate the transfer, including the necessary exchange of institutional information. [treasurer@stpaulsbrookline.org](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsbrookline.org)

### 4. Create a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

A Donor-Advised Fund, or DAF, is an investment account where all the assets you invest go to charity. Anything you contribute to the fund – including cash and stock – is managed and invested by a sponsoring organization. Your contributions will grow tax-free, and over time you can recommend grants from your fund to qualifying charities, such as St. Paul's Brookline.

When you contribute to a DAF, you can qualify for an income tax deduction for the amount you contribute in that tax year. You can then choose which organizations you'd like to support and when those donations should be made.

Keep in mind that donations to a DAF are irrevocable. This means that once you contribute assets, you aren't able to withdraw them and use them for a different purpose. They must be donated in support of a qualifying charity.

St. Paul's EIN is: 04-2108388

### 5. Make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your retirement account

People 70.5 and older can donate funds from their IRA accounts directly to qualifying nonprofits. This type of gift is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD.

When you reach 73 years of age, you're required to start making withdrawals from your pre-tax retirement accounts, including your 401(k)s and IRAs. The minimum dollar amount you must withdraw each year is called your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The amount of your RMD depends on several factors, including your age, life expectancy, and whether you're married. The withdrawal percentage can be anywhere from [4% to 53% of your account balance](#).

Any time you withdraw money from your pre-tax retirement account, it's considered taxable income and will be taxed according to your income bracket. This includes money you have to withdraw as part of your RMD. That's where QCDs come in.

Making a donation as a QCD counts towards "withdrawing" your RMD for the year. And the amount of your donation isn't counted toward your taxable income, which may help you save on income tax.

To make a QCD, you'll have to fill out an IRA Charitable Distribution Form and submit it to your IRA custodian (the institution that manages your account). You'll need your account information and the St. Paul's EIN number: 04-2108388.

## 6. Leave a bequest to St. Paul's Brookline in your will

There are ways you can donate to St. Paul's that extend beyond your lifetime. One of these is to name St. Paul's as a beneficiary in your last will and testament. These bequests are often called planned gifts or legacy gifts.

You can donate in your will in two ways:

1. Name St. Paul's Brookline as the primary beneficiary for a specific gift, like a certain amount of money or stock.
2. Allocate a percentage of your total estate to St. Paul's.

A big benefit of leaving a gift to St. Paul's in your will is that it costs you nothing now. Your gift will make a difference for a cause you care about without having any financial impact on you during your lifetime.

You can [name St. Paul's Brookline in your will in three simple steps](#).

## 7. Name St. Paul's as the beneficiary of your non-probate assets

There are certain assets, like your [401\(k\) account](#) and [life insurance policy](#), that pass on to your beneficiaries outside of your last will and testament. You have to fill out separate beneficiary designation forms to name beneficiaries for these non-probate assets.

In these forms, you have the option to name St. Paul's Brookline as your beneficiary. This is another fantastic way to give in a way that doesn't cost you anything during your lifetime.

[Learn more about how to make beneficiary designations.](#)