



2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

WE ARE... ST. BRENDAN'S!

Giving 101: A Crash Course

- **Each year we are asked to examine if we are giving sufficiently** -- through time, talent and treasure -- to accomplish God's work. At St. Brendan's we give in many ways. Preparing dinner for homeless women. Teaching English to immigrants. Distributing clothes to the poor. Marching for equality. And so on.

By giving we become trusted stewards of the bounty we receive in our lives from God. Without using some of our financial bounty to sustain St. Brendan's, its tremendous works would not exist. While most of us can readily say how many hours we're able to give to St. Brendan's mission, it's more difficult to determine our financial giving.

- **Some parishioners ask, "How much should I give?"** A personal question requires a personal answer. We should respond by prayerfully reflecting on the rich benefits we receive at St. Brendan's. Christian formation. Spiritual growth. Acceptance, friendship and purpose. Support, inspiration and hope.

Practical considerations, of course, shape our answer. Those with stiff financial obligations have strict limits on what they can contribute. Others are able to give more freely. Some are moved to give by the tangible benefits they receive -- Christian education for their children, sermons that feed the soul, Bible study, service projects that make a difference. Others have a desire to pay it forward, so to speak, and just provide for a rich church life at St. Brendan's.

- **All contributions are gratefully received** and used to support the church, but only pledges tell St. Brendan's how much support it can count on for next year. By reflecting on the bounty we've been given and pledging an affordable amount, we are able to put God first and give from the heart. Last year 73 households in the parish made pledges for 2019. Those pledges totaled \$194,852, compared to our budget of \$222,171. That means the average pledge for 2019 was \$2,669, or \$51 a week. Our goal for 2020 is 80 pledges.

- **Some parishioners commit to "percentage giving."** It's a way to keep your support of St. Brendan's consistent with your income. The Bible recommends a tithe of 10%, but for many that's a difficult threshold. A practical approach is to find a comfortable level of giving, then calculate the percentage of your income that it represents. It could be 1%, 2%, 5%, whatever. As a person's income rises, a percentage giver seeks to maintain the same percentage of giving and adjusts his or her contribution accordingly. Some even try to increase that percentage over time. Whether you pledge or not, percentage giving could work for you (see the chart below).

- **Your contributions make St. Brendan's mission possible.** Some ask if the diocese provides regular support to our parish, but actually it's the other way around. While

the diocese holds our mortgage and has given us favorable payment terms to help St. Brendan's, we pay a yearly financial assessment to the diocese to support ministry and outreach in struggling areas of the Episcopal Church, our nation and the world.

+ + +

St. Brendan's is a vibrant, active congregation that seeks to do the work of God through whatever means we have -- time, energy, sweat, dollars. Like all good stewards, we are on a mission. Our mission is the realization of fullness through the worship of God, service to the world, active concern for each other and education to expand the mind and spirit. We are this mission. We are ... St. Brendan's.

A Chart for Weekly Percentage Giving						
Annual Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$29
\$20,000	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$58
\$30,000	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$87
\$40,000	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$115
\$50,000	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$144
\$60,000	\$23	\$46	\$69	\$92	\$115	\$173
\$70,000	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135	\$202
\$80,000	\$31	\$62	\$92	\$123	\$154	\$231
\$90,000	\$35	\$69	\$104	\$138	\$173	\$260
\$100,000	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192	\$288
\$125,000	\$48	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$361
\$150,000	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$288	\$433