



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the spiritual practice of acknowledging all that we have and all that we are is from our Creator and the call to care for those gifts, including the ministry of the Church.

Why do we give to the church?

We give to God through the Church because we recognize the source of love and grace in Christ, and we respond with gratitude as the hands and feet of Christ so that all might come to know and experience that love and grace in Baton Rouge and beyond.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a prayerful and thoughtful financial commitment to support the mission and ministry of St. Margaret's along with one's investment of time, talent, and relationships.

Why are we asked to return a pledge?

While all giving is greatly appreciated, a monetary pledge acknowledges our individual priority to God and the church in which our faith is lived out. A pledge is a commitment of first fruits. Also, pledging helps the Vestry to be good stewards of St. Margaret's budget and resources.

How do we define success in our annual giving campaign?

Success in annual giving is found in our discernment of where God is leading us and our faithful response by all members. Success is not defined by dollars raised. Christian stewardship is a spiritual event with practical implications. Therefore, we should ask ourselves:

- How do we express our gratitude for all that God has given us?
- Are we faithful in giving of time, talent, relationships, and treasure?
- Are we open to where the Holy Spirit might lead us?

What principles of stewardship should inform giving decisions?

- All that we have and all that we are is of God

- Everyone has been equipped and called to give. Your participation matters!
No gift given FAITHFULLY is greater than another. It is not equal giving but rather equal sacrifice.
- Stewardship is not just about simply paying the bills, but it is a spiritual event of committing to live out our faith through the mission and ministry of St. Margaret's

How much should I pledge?

The actual amount of your pledge is a personal decision that should be grounded in faith, prayer, and commitment to God's work through St. Margaret's. While everyone may not be able to tithe (10% of income), we urge everyone to aspire to reach that goal and to make St. Margaret's their primary philanthropic priority. You can use the chart below to help you calculate.

Proportional giving

| Annual Income | Weekly Income | Beyond a Tithe | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| | | 15% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 8% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 1% |
| \$22,000 | \$423 | \$63 | \$51 | \$42 | \$38 | \$34 | \$30 | \$25 | \$21 | \$17 | \$13 | \$8 | \$4 |
| \$25,000 | \$481 | \$72 | \$58 | \$48 | \$43 | \$38 | \$34 | \$29 | \$24 | \$19 | \$14 | \$10 | \$5 |
| \$30,000 | \$577 | \$87 | \$69 | \$58 | \$52 | \$46 | \$40 | \$35 | \$29 | \$23 | \$17 | \$12 | \$6 |
| \$40,000 | \$769 | \$115 | \$92 | \$77 | \$69 | \$62 | \$54 | \$46 | \$38 | \$31 | \$23 | \$15 | \$8 |
| \$50,000 | \$962 | \$144 | \$115 | \$96 | \$87 | \$77 | \$67 | \$58 | \$48 | \$38 | \$29 | \$19 | \$10 |
| \$60,000 | \$1,154 | \$173 | \$138 | \$115 | \$104 | \$92 | \$81 | \$69 | \$58 | \$46 | \$35 | \$23 | \$12 |
| \$70,000 | \$1,346 | \$202 | \$162 | \$135 | \$121 | \$108 | \$94 | \$81 | \$67 | \$54 | \$40 | \$27 | \$13 |
| \$80,000 | \$1,538 | \$231 | \$185 | \$154 | \$138 | \$123 | \$108 | \$92 | \$77 | \$62 | \$46 | \$31 | \$15 |
| \$90,000 | \$1,731 | \$260 | \$208 | \$173 | \$156 | \$139 | \$121 | \$104 | \$87 | \$69 | \$52 | \$35 | \$17 |
| \$100,000 | \$1,923 | \$288 | \$231 | \$192 | \$173 | \$154 | \$135 | \$115 | \$96 | \$77 | \$58 | \$38 | \$19 |
| \$110,000 | \$2,115 | \$317 | \$254 | \$212 | \$190 | \$169 | \$148 | \$127 | \$106 | \$85 | \$63 | \$42 | \$21 |
| \$120,000 | \$2,308 | \$346 | \$277 | \$231 | \$208 | \$185 | \$162 | \$138 | \$115 | \$92 | \$69 | \$46 | \$23 |
| \$140,000 | \$2,692 | \$404 | \$323 | \$269 | \$242 | \$215 | \$188 | \$162 | \$135 | \$108 | \$81 | \$54 | \$27 |

What if I have already setup online giving?

Please still return a 2021 pledge form so that we can confirm your information and ensure everything processes according to your wishes.

When should I make my pledge?

You can make a pledge between now and November 15 by turning in the enclosed pledge card or you can make your pledge online by going to www.saintmargarets.com and clicking the GIVE button. Our pledge ingathering and blessing will take place on Sunday, November 15 as we celebrate the Feast of St Margaret.

What if I need to change my pledge during the year?

If life circumstances change, then simply contact the church office. A pledge is not a binding contract, but rather a promise of intention. In any given year, there are a handful of households that both increase and decrease their pledge/giving as circumstances change.