

St. Martin-in-the-Fields

ANGLICAN CHURCH ♦ TORONTO

NURTURING A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION AND HOPE

Stewardship 2021



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

In this time of pandemic we have all been aware of both the fragility of human life and also the resiliency of so many in the face of great challenges. The same is true for our parish community. It is the reason that the theme for this year's stewardship campaign seems so appropriate. During these long months we have been more aware than ever of the importance of our parish community to provide each of us with the comfort and strength we need to meet the days ahead. Grounded in the compassion and mercy of God, resting on the sure and certain hope given to us in our Risen Lord, we continue to be nurtured as disciples of God's love. Our parish community stands as a witness to that compassion and hope as we reach out to the neighbourhood around us and share the blessings that we have received.



Stewardship is an ongoing and critical part of our Christian discipleship. It is as important now in the midst of our struggles with a new world of masks and restrictions as it is at any other time. It is our response to the generosity of God. By the wise and generous use of all the gifts that God has given us – time, talent, and treasure – we are able to assist the growth of our parish as a place in which people can not only be supported in their everyday trials but also be encouraged and empowered to venture out in faith to use their many gifts in the service of God and neighbour. Our experience as a parish during this COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated in an amazing fashion what is possible as we use those gifts, guided by God's grace, to find new and creative ways to express our faith and praise of God. Our stewardship month this fall gives us the time and focus to reflect on what we have already achieved, and on what more is possible in the future as we offer our time, talent and treasure for the extension of God's kingdom. Let's think, and pray, and work together to discover what God has in store for us, nurturing our community in love, so that we might shine as a beacon of compassion and hope in this west end of Toronto.

Thank you

Father Philip's

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a complete lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all. Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, action and offering by eagerly sharing these gifts out of love of God and one another.

Stewardship is about far more than money. It is also about offering our Time and our varied Talents to build our community. St. Martin's simply could not operate, and certainly could not get involved with all the activities that we currently do, or hope to do, without the significant volunteer efforts of so many parishioners.

Each of us has different talents, available time and financial resources to share. You may already be contributing a great deal in one or more of these

areas. As we live through the pandemic of COVID-19 your continued support of St. Martin's both in financial and time and talents is needed now more than ever. And if you haven't shared your time or talent in the past, please consider getting involved in some way. Fill in your Pledge and Time & Talent sheet today.



Tear off the Offering Intention sheet on the back page, complete and return in envelope provided on or before the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th Commitment Sunday. You can also complete this form on-line at www.stmartininthefields.ca

All pledge submissions are completely confidential

NURTURING A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION AND HOPE

During this experience of living through a pandemic our lives have been disrupted in ways we could have never imagined. As members of the Church, we were unable to gather in person for worship and receive the Blessed Sacrament for months; most of our usual parish activities and events and traditional opportunities for fellowship ceased, as did those of the groups who use or rent our facilities. The church re-opened for the celebration of the Eucharist on September 13th and we give thanks for that, despite the restrictions.



In these times of uncertainty, unpredictable challenges and isolation we have, more than ever, our high calling in Christ Jesus to be a people who strive to support and sustain one another, to foster a sense of community, and to reach out to those around us. The parish has found some new ways to connect, which may, through God's grace, have opened doors for the future as well:

- investing resources which now make possible quality live-streaming of our church services through Youtube
- Zoom coffee hours and simple worship (had you even heard of “Zoom” before this?)
- Wednesday evening gatherings with presentations and discussion on a wide range of topics ending peacefully with Compline (all from the comfort of home!)
- online activities for children
- telephone call-outs to check in with as many as possible on the parish list, and to stay in touch especially with those who don't have access to Fr Philip's emails or the website
- offering the church garden as a place of respite and safe gathering for the parish and our wider community
- a physically-distant walkathon and outdoor lunch in support of FaithWorks
- helping with food distribution for a city endeavour in the west end.

The parish looks forward not only to continuing and growing these efforts, but also to when we can start in-person activities again and other new ministries (such as an exercise program for older adults). All our support is needed during these critical times and greatly appreciated.

SOON BEGINS A NEW YEAR IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR. MAY THE WORDS WE WILL HEAR IN THE ADVENT BLESSING INSPIRE OUR ACTIONS AND COMMITMENT: “BE STEADFAST IN FAITH, JOYFUL IN HOPE, AND UNTIRING IN LOVE ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE.”

LEGACY GIVING

YOU CAN HELP CONTINUE THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE PARISH YOU CHERISH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME BY PROVIDING A BEQUEST TO ST. MARTIN'S IN YOUR WILL. TICK OFF THE BOX IN THE PLEDGE FORM TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEGACY GIVING.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are several ways you can donate money to St. Martin's:

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) is one option for giving to the church. Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account (direct debit) or credit card to support the ministry of St. Martin's. For any questions on signing up for PAR, or changing your existing PAR instructions, please reach out to the Envelope Secretary, Nicholas Bell, at nicholaswdbell@outlook.com.

Online giving is now available through **Canada Helps** or by making an **eTransfer** from your bank account. Go to our website www.stmartininthefields.ca and click on the "Donate" button at the top for more information

If you prefer, you may use the collection box when you attend church or mail a cheque to 151 Glenlake Avenue Toronto, ON, M6P 1E8.

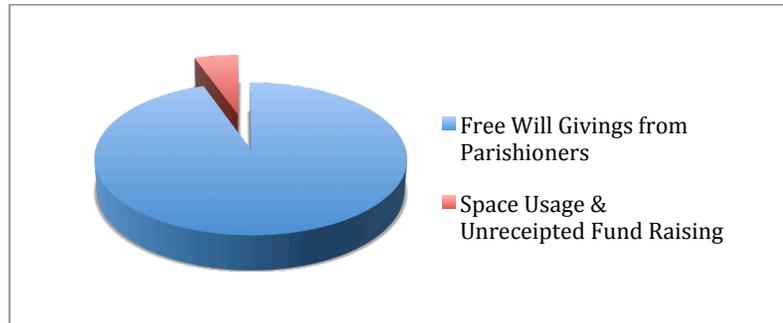


OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

St. Martin's depends on free will givings from our Parishioners. The health of our programs, services and the state of our Church and Rectory all rely on your financial contributions.

During the time of COVID and with the closure of churches in March, St. Martin's has been challenged to maintain connection with Parishioners, provide outreach, faith and spirituality. We have experienced a decline in financial givings. Regular receipted givings are down 17% from last year. Also due to COVID other sources of revenue from fund raising and hall rentals are down significantly.

As seen in the chart below, a very small portion of our revenues is now coming from Space usage and fund raising. We are now more than ever dependent on your donations.



We are extremely grateful for the contributions made by Parishioners so far this year especially since many may be experiencing financial difficulties. We also understand that some may not be able to maintain givings at previous levels, but others may be able to increase their givings.

We ask you to remember St. Martins in your charitable givings both for the remainder of 2020 and as you plan for 2021. Making a pledge is crucial for our planning for next year.

As always receipted givings enjoy the benefit of income tax credits. Tax receipts for the 2021 tax year will be issued in February, 2022.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT ST. MARTIN'S. NATURALLY SOME GROUPS ARE NOT AS ACTIVE AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Altar Guild | <i>Prepare Vestments, silver and flowers</i> |
| Choir & Music | <i>11 a.m. Sunday service & Advent Service</i> |
| Christian Education | <i>Study programs, Discussion groups</i> |
| Children's Ministry | <i>Children's ministry</i> |
| Coffee Cohorts | <i>Prepare & serve coffee on Sundays</i> |
| COVID Response Team | <i>Greeters, Registrars, Livestream Team, Cleaners</i> |
| Garden Group | <i>Maintain our gardens</i> |
| Green Initiatives | <i>Help us be a more eco-friendly Church</i> |
| Health & Safety | <i>Ensure a safe Church environment</i> |
| Heritage & Archives | <i>Maintain archives and special displays</i> |
| Hospitality | <i>Organizing Social Events</i> |
| Library | <i>Manage our book collection</i> |
| Lychgate Limos | <i>Provide transport to fellow church-goers</i> |
| Management Board | <i>Manage the property & finances</i> |
| Martin's Basement | <i>Activities for youth 12-17</i> |
| Martin's Table | <i>Fellowship events for newcomers</i> |
| Mission | <i>Connecting with our neighbourhood</i> |
| Newcomers | <i>Programs to welcome newcomers</i> |
| Newsletter | <i>"Lychgate" published quarterly</i> |
| Virtual Christmas Market | <i>Our vibrant virtual COVID fair</i> |
| Outreach | <i>Serve the broader community</i> |
| Parish Council | <i>Coordinate programs & events</i> |
| Prayer Ministry | <i>Supporting Parish life through prayer</i> |
| Property Management | <i>Participate in property up-keep</i> |
| Quiet Garden | <i>Retreats for spiritual growth</i> |
| Readers | <i>Proclaim the scripture at services</i> |
| Seniors Ministry | <i>Programming for Seniors</i> |
| Servers Guild | <i>Serve at the altar; Acolytes to MC</i> |
| Sidespeople | <i>Welcome & assist parishioners at worship</i> |
| Social Media | <i>Website & Facebook Coordination</i> |
| Stewardship | <i>Growing Healthy Stewards</i> |

My/Our Offering Intention for 2021

Please note: You can also complete this form on-line at www.stmartininthefields.ca/time-talent-form-2020-21

God willing, it is my/our intention to respond to the needs of the parish and its ministries in 2021 as follows. I understand that my commitment may change should my circumstances also change.

Name: _____

Total amount of gift: \$ _____

- Post-dated cheques
- Monthly envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Remittance
- e-Transfer
- Online through Canada Helps
- I will contribute as I am able

- I would like more information about planned giving / legacies

Tear Off Here

Time and Talents - 2021

I would like to volunteer my time, energy, and talents to the following (*ideas for new groups & activities are always welcome*):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A list of current groups and activities which require help are listed on the previous page.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

This year during the Stewardship Campaign, our Lay Speaker will be Kathy Mansfield, a St. Martin's Parishioner and a Nurse who recently talked about COVID in an article in the Summer edition of the Lychgate. Kathy writes:



“St Martin’s is a welcoming and nurturing community in which we support one another in each of our faith journeys. Through COVID, St Martin’s has been innovative in adapting to worship and learning in new ways. I have been so grateful to be a part of the virtual coffee hour and education series as they kept faith alive both in my work and community. These innovative extensions brought us together in faith to be reminded of God’s abounding love and to keep us steadfast in hope for the present and future.”



The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
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