

*Tear off the Offering Intention sheet on the back page, complete and return in envelope provided on or before the Feast of the Reign of Christ, 24 November 2024 - Commitment Sunday. You can also complete this form on-line at [www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)*

***All pledge submissions are completely confidential***



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

◆ TORONTO ◆

## A FUTURE WITH HOPE Stewardship 2025



## MESSAGE FROM FR. HATT

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "A Future with Hope," taken from the Book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah is speaking to the People of Israel who have been exiled from their homeland and find themselves dispersed across a number of foreign cities. The Lord God tells them to settle into these foreign places, for a while: "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters...multiply there, and do not decrease." (Jer. 29:5-6).



This is hard to understand. Surely, the Lord God should simply tell his People to live in hope that they would soon be going home. Why tell them to settle in? Soon, we learn that through their exile, the People of Israel will become a blessing to the world and in doing so will be blessed themselves: "...seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jer. 29:7). In their exile, the People of God will find their vocation in the wilderness.

My friends in Christ, at St Martin's we are a people who live in exile from our true homeland which is in heaven. It is our vocation, as the People of God in this place at this time to be a blessing to the world around us, just as it was for the People of Israel in their own time. It is our mission to pray and seek the welfare of this city by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. To do so is to be a good steward of all that God has given us, even as we find ourselves in our own exile.

Like every parish and community, St Martin's has some challenges which the stewardship committee has outlined below. Allow me to be bold and suggest that these challenges are put before us by God as opportunities to grow in grace and in our love for God and one another and to rediscover our vocation. Let us enter into those challenges together, by first making our pledge to support this parish for the year ahead, that we might proclaim a "future with hope" to the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Nicholas Hatt

## My/Our Offering Intention for 2025

Please note: You can also complete this form on-line at <https://smartininthefields.ca/time-talent-form-2024-25/>

God willing, it is my/our intention to respond to the needs of the parish and its ministries in 2025 as follows. I understand that my commitment may change should my circumstances also change.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred method of giving** (*please select one*):

- 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

### Time and Talents – 2025

I would like to volunteer my time, energy, and talents to the following (*If you already belong to a group, no need to list it*):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Prepare Vestments, silver and flowers</i>
<b>Choir &amp; Music</b>	<i>11 a.m. Sundays &amp; Special Services throughout the year</i>
<b>Christian Education</b>	<i>Speakers, study and discussion groups</i>
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	<i>Sunday activities and education, Nativity pageant</i>
<b>Christmas Market</b>	<i>Help with our annual market fund raiser</i>
<b>Coffee Cohorts</b>	<i>Prepare &amp; serve coffee on Sundays</i>
<b>Greeters</b>	<i>Welcoming people to services</i>
<b>Garden Group</b>	<i>Design and maintain our gardens</i>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<i>Ensure a safe church environment</i>
<b>Heritage &amp; Archives</b>	<i>Maintain archives and special displays</i>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<i>Organize/schedule social events</i>
<b>Library</b>	<i>Manage our book collection</i>
<b>Management Board</b>	<i>Manage the property &amp; finances</i>
<b>Martin's Basement</b>	<i>Activities for youth 12-17</i>
<b>Missional</b>	<i>Connecting with our neighbourhood, including Pickleball</i>
<b>Newcomers</b>	<i>Introduce newcomers to the parish</i>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<i>Write for The Lychgate published quarterly</i>
<b>Outreach/Faithworks</b>	<i>Service &amp; justice to broader community</i>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<i>Coordinate committees, programs &amp; events</i>
<b>Property Management</b>	<i>Participate in property up-keep</i>
<b>Quiet Garden</b>	<i>Retreats for spiritual growth</i>
<b>Readers</b>	<i>Proclaim the scripture at services</i>
<b>Servers Guild</b>	<i>Serve at the altar – from Acolytes to MC</i>
<b>Sidespeople</b>	<i>Assist parishioners at worship</i>
<b>Social Media</b>	<i>Website &amp; Facebook Coordination</i>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<i>Develop steady supporting stewards</i>
<b>Technology</b>	<i>Livestream Team, IT support</i>

## **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 continue to emerge from the pandemic, your ongoing support of St. Martin's both financially and through your 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.

*"Rekindle the gift of God that is within you."*

*II Timothy 1:6*

## A FUTURE WITH HOPE

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare ... to give you a future with hope.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

The theme for Stewardship this year acknowledges that this is a pivotal time for St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

We have been in a period of historic transition since 2020, starting with the Covid pandemic and then with Fr. Philip’s retirement in April of last year, following on 26 years of dedicated service as our Incumbent. Since then, we have been blessed to have the steady guidance and support of Fr. Carefoote as our Interim Priest-in-Charge over the last year and half.

We will now be witnessing a new chapter in the life of St. Martin’s with the arrival of Fr. Nicholas Hatt who, as you read this, will have been on the job for about 2 months. The Parish is truly blessed to have Fr. Hatt as our new Incumbent and we are thankful for the tremendous job done by the Parish Selection Committee in bringing him to us.

Thanks to all of you, St. Martin’s came through the Covid Pandemic in good shape. Attendance and overall donations are not yet back to pre-Covid levels. However it has been “business as usual” in terms of church services and activities, - along with some additional elements including the “Live-streaming” of services. This year we hosted a very successful “Doors Open” weekend, and the Missional, Outreach and Christian Ed teams have remained very active throughout. Indeed we have much for which to be grateful.

We are now moving forward to the future with hope.



Thursday Pickleball Crew

*“Therefore, if any are in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

*II Corinthians 5:17*



Fr Carefoote



## WAYS TO GIVE

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

**Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** is our preferred method for giving to the church - automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account (direct debit) or your credit card. To sign up for PAR, or to change your existing PAR instructions, please reach out to the Envelope Secretary, Piers Hemmingsen, at [piers.hemmingsen@gmail.com](mailto:piers.hemmingsen@gmail.com)

**Online giving** is now available by making an **eTransfer** from your bank account or through **Canada Helps**. Go to our website [www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://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.



Fr Brinton with G. Conliffe and P.Snider on Rogation Sunday

### LEGACY GIVING

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ST. MARTIN'S IN YOUR WILL?**

**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.**

Realistically, there will be many challenges ahead. Right now, the Altar Guild, Servers Guild, Christian Education, the Health & Safety and the Stewardship Committees in particular could all use more volunteers. Additional help is needed for just about every group and committee at St. Martin's – from Coffee Cohorts to Management Board.

We encourage you to review the list of groups found at the end of this brochure – maybe there is a group you might be interested in joining or helping out? As a first step, you could talk with the group leader to see what the group is all about. Filling in a Time & Talent sheet is a good way to connect.

Our financial support for the church is also extremely important. Please review the Our Financial Health section for insights on our financial needs.

Looking ahead, with God's help, and with the support of all, both through volunteer efforts and financially, there will be much to celebrate in the coming year as we embark on this new era at St. Martin's.

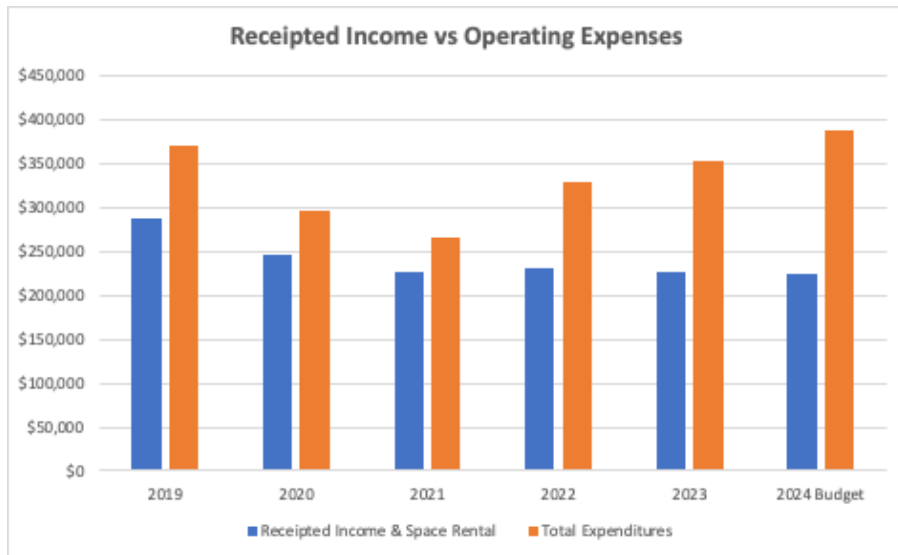


H. Bentley and P. McKnight manning Doors Open

## OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

St. Martin's depends primarily on free will givings from parishioners for the day-to-day running of the church and for long term programs and expenditures. The health of our programs, services and the state of our church and Rectory all rely on your financial contributions.

While the level of financial givings from parishioners has stabilized in the last two years, we have not seen the return of donations back to pre-Covid levels.



As can be seen on the above chart, our expenses exceed pre-Covid levels as we return to normal activities, but with the further impact of inflation. And some important initiatives, including Children and Youth Ministry Leadership and Office Administrator, have now been added to our ongoing operating costs. Overall, the gap between expenses and donations has increased.

Not shown here is the additional cost of the heating system renovation we have planned for 2024. Initially, this major project is being financed out of our Memorial Fund. Through separate fund raising initiatives, we hope to replenish the Memorial Fund as soon as possible.

We are extremely grateful for all contributions made by parishioners so far this year. While we realize that times are challenging, we ask that you remember St. Martin's in your charitable givings both for the remainder of 2024 and as you plan for 2025. If you are in a position to do so, please consider increasing your commitment to St. Martin's. We also ask that you complete and submit your Offering Intention for 2025 as this is crucial in our planning for the coming year.

*"Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we could ask or imagine."  
Ephesians 3:20*



St. Martin's Choir, November 2023

**As always received givings enjoy the benefit of income tax credits. Tax receipts for the 2025 tax year will be issued in February, 2026.**