FAQ

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is the responsible, joyful use of God's gifts for God's purpose. It refers to the time we spend and the gifts we give to ensure the future vitality of God's mission at St. Chrysostom's. Stewardship is a spiritual practice for each individual and critically important to our church's well-being.

What is a pledge and why is pledging important?

A pledge is your financial commitment to St. Chrysostom's for the coming year. Your pledge allows us to budget responsibly. Our operating budget is almost entirely fixed costs, so your pledge is essential when planning for 2026.

Who is asked to pledge?

Everyone who regularly attends or considers themselves a member of St. Chrysostom's is asked to pledge.

Do members of St. Chrysostom's have to pledge?

Our church depends on your support. Though a pledge is not required to participate in parish life or attend services, members of St. Chrysostom's are expected to make contributions of their time, talent, and treasure through volunteering and an annual financial commitment.

Do new members give?

Yes, all members of our community make pledges. Gifts should reflect both a household financial capability and could also reflect where you are in your journey with St. Chrysostom's. Perhaps new members want to start with a smaller pledge/gift and then as your relationship with the church grows, so can your financial support. Every pledge, regardless of size, is important to each Stewardship campaign.

Don't we have a large endowment?

We do have several endowment funds which are like savings accounts. As good stewards of the endowments, we strive to preserve the principal for future needs or emergencies and use only a small draw (4.5% of average principal) each year to offset a portion of our annual expenses.

How much should I pledge?

If you are new to pledging, consider a percentage of 2% or 3% of your family income. If you've been pledging the same amount for several years, please consider increasing your pledge by 15% over last year to help us meet rising operating costs.

WAYS TO GIVE

Pledges can be paid as a single gift or by your desired installments, such as weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Your gifts are tax-deductible. St. Chrysostom's is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a Federal Tax ID# of 36-2169173.

Online Bill Pay or Credit Card—
Can be done by using the QR code to the right or logging into Realm, either as single or recurring payments. Bank account transfers are preferred as they do not incur merchant service fees.

Check or Cash—
Can be mailed or brought to the office, as well as placed in the offertory plate.

Appreciated Stock Transfer—
Stocks and mutual fund shares are tax-deductible. Contact tim@saintc.org for more info.

Direct Charitable Distribution from Individual Retirement Account (IRA)—
Tax deductible over age 70½ from a traditional IRA.

Donor Advised Fund—
Charitable giving accounts that are managed with a sponsored organization.

Matching Program—
Reach out to your employer for matching opportunities.

Workplace Giving—
Some companies offer payroll deduction programs to encourage employees to donate to local charities.

Planned Giving—
Please contact Mark Fisher, chair of the Good Shepherd Society, or call the office.

Please feel free to contact the church office with any questions regarding pledging or payment.

Pledge for 2026 now!

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312.944.1083

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Annual Giving at St. Chrysostom's

Faith at Work

Stewardship 2026

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

St. Chrysostom's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

A Letter from the Stewardship Chair

Dear St Chrysostom's Parish,

As we approach the new year, we reflect on the myriad ways our faith has been active and visible within our church community. Our 2026 stewardship theme, "Faith at Work," encapsulates the spirit and dedication that each of you brings to our shared mission.

Through heartfelt worship, compassionate pastoral care, vibrant guild activities, impactful outreach programs, enriching fellowship, transformative education, and inspiring music, we've witnessed our faith in action. These ministries not only strengthen our congregation but also extend our reach and service to the broader community.

These endeavors are made possible through the dedication of time, treasure and talents of this community. Over the next weeks, you will be hearing from fellow parishioners and how they have given of their time and talent fostering the mission of St Chrysostom's. The common thread behind all of them is that they are funded through the generous financial pledges of our parishioners. Your commitment enables us to plan effectively, ensuring that our programs continue to flourish and adapt to the needs of our community.

The stewardship efforts will culminate in Stewardship Sunday on Sunday, December 14th, when we will ask all pledges for 2026 to be submitted. Note that you do not need to wait until December 14th to make your pledge. Indeed, you can make your pledge now, either online using the QR code on the back of this form or by logging into your Realm account, or simply submitting the attached pledge card through the mail.

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for 2026. Every pledge, regardless of size, is a testament to our collective faith and dedication.
Let us continue to put our "Faith at Work"—building a stronger, more compassionate, and spiritually enriched community together.
Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment.

With gratitude,

Frances DeBlasio
Stewardship Chair

Worship

The center of our St. Chrysostom's experience, where we gather to hear God's word and reflect on its application to our own lives.

The Flower, Altar and Hospitality Guilds spend time and energy behind the scenes to provide a beautiful and contemplative worship experience and welcoming atmosphere.

Fellowship

Outside of worship, there are a multitude of offerings for fellowship of parishioners, including book clubs, Bible studies, WOSC, and Grief Circle, to name a few.

Stewardship Committee 2026

Frances DeBlasio

Meg Flippin

Jack Denison

Lauren Privitera

Rev. Ian Burch, *Ex-Officio*

Robert Valente, *Ex-Officio*

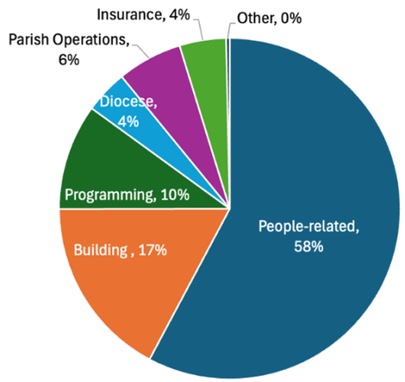
Outreach

Providing thousands of meals, clothing and other critical supplies to those who need it, as well as making long lasting ministry partnerships.

Education

The Day School, now in its 51st year, provides an enriching and supportive learning environment for young children. The Nursery and Sunday School for our youngest parishioners, as well as Confirmation for young adults, provides a meaningful foundation for a lifetime of Christian education.

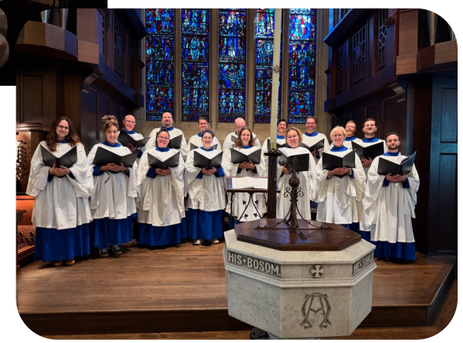
2025 Expense Budget
$1.47 Million



Pastoral Care

Often outside of the purview of those attending church weekly, our clergy and deacons meet with parishioners and their families to provide a friendly face, words of comfort, and support to those in need.

Music

Our worship is enriched by the playing of our newly renovated bells in the carillon as well as the soulful music of our talented choir and organists.

Our Revenue

About 80% of our budget is derived from annual pledges made by parishioners, while the other ~20% encompasses plate offerings, endowment income, and other gifts and bequests. In 2025, the average pledge among 149 families was $5,255, and the median pledge amount was $2,600.

Our Goal

Annual Stewardship is the foundation of our church. This year, our goal is to engage 185 participants in the campaign, aiming to raise a total of $925,000 in pledge dollars.