



The Ivy Leaf

November 15, 2020

Welcome...

to St. Matthew's. We're delighted to worship with you this morning, whether this is your first time here or your thousandth. The Episcopal tradition values all parts of the human person—heart, mind, and soul. We believe that all three are gifts from God, and God both sustains them and invites us to use them in God's service. Our passionate emotions, our questions and searching, our yearning for something deeper—God values them all, because God values all of us. Wherever you are on your journey in life, we hope you find something in this community that feeds your soul and strengthens you to share in God's work in the world.

Stewardship Update

We are in the midst of our yearly stewardship pledge drive where we invite every household of our parish to make a financial pledge to support the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's for the upcoming year. If for some reason your stewardship materials did not arrive simply contact the parish office (650-342-1481) and pledge information will be promptly provided.

So far the initial pledge results are encouraging. Fifty-seven households have already completed their pledge for the upcoming year. Almost half of our parishioners have been in a position to increase their financial support. In addition, three lapsed pledgers have returned to the fold to make a pledge. Twenty households have maintained their level of pledging while only six have had to reduce their pledge for the upcoming year. Our journey towards financial health has been made possible by our entire congregation working towards a common financial goal.

Last year, 136 households completed a financial pledge to the parish. A few more, while not making a formal pledge, provided financial support during the year. It will be very helpful if households could send in their completed pledge cards as soon as possible. This allows us to make informed budget decisions for the upcoming year and makes the task of follow-up much easier. We will continue to provide progress updates as we begin to make follow-up stewardship

calls in the upcoming weeks. Thanks to all who have already pledged their financial support!

Beware of Email Scams

Unfortunately, email phishing scams targeting clergy and parishioners persist. Typically these emails purport to solicit gift cards to assist people in need. Please know that St. Matthew's clergy will never do this. If you receive an email you find suspicious, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or any of our clergy directly to confirm.

To report a suspicious emails or scams to Google (using Gmail):

1. On a computer, go to Gmail.
2. Open the message.
3. Next to Reply, click More.

Note: If you're using classic Gmail, click the Down arrow.

4. Click Report phishing.

Thanksgiving Day Service Online

Our Thanksgiving Day service this year will premiere on Facebook at 10:00 am on **Thursday, November 25**. Format will be Morning Prayer Rite 1, with sung canticles and hymns and organ prelude and postlude. Fr. Eric will officiate and Fr. Jay will preach. Watch for the link in a future *Ivy Leaf* closer to the date.

Blessings and Prayer List Additions

Names for blessings and prayers can be submitted by emailing or calling the church office: office@episcopalstmatthew.org or 650-274-0795.

Contributions and Pledges

Your generous financial support helps St. Matthew's fulfill its mission: to live God's love, to share the Gospel, and to grow spiritually. Thank you for continuing your giving during these times. Contributions and pledges can be mailed to the church or made online at: episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donate-now/.

Food Bank Need Continues

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Second Harvest Food Bank continues to see dramatic increases in need. If you are able to provide financial support, donations can be made online here: <https://give.shfb.org/donatenow>.