



Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, NRS

My Dear Friends Christ,

It is no coincidence that our theme for this year's annual pledge campaign is *Walk in Love*. We know you have heard this passage quoted at every service at St. Mary's as it is a tradition that brings God closer to us. It calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we come together in fellowship, purpose, and mission. When we walk in the same direction, we can do so many things.

During this season we talk a lot about money, about our budget. Yes, those things are important, they are the way we fund the Church, but our real focus is on what our gifts can do. Jesus calls us to heal, visit, feed, accompany, protect, advocate, and love our neighbor. Sharing our time, talent, and treasure is the way that we make this happen.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training have been gifts freely given to us so that we may share them. How will you feel God's call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God's people?

With this letter you are receiving the invitation to make your promise to our Church for the year to come. Before you fill it out, we ask that you pray about it, discuss it with your family, and discern how God is calling you to share your gifts. Pay special attention to both sides of the form. Let us know what time and talent offerings you would like to learn more about this year.

Our campaign will end on November 17, 2024. Please return your answer to us by then if possible so that we may count your pledge in our ingathering where your gift will be added to many others to be blessed, broken, and shared. If there is anything we can do to support you or questions we can answer, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Walking with you in Love,

Rita A. Verespy
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Stewardship Commission Co-Chairs