



The Episcopal Church of Saint Michael the Archangel

Dear Members of St. Michael's,

God pronounces to all of creation, "Behold, I will make all things new!" These words are challenging and comforting as we continue to live in unprecedented times in our world, in our lives, and in our church.

As your Vestry, we decided to begin this new year in Advent with thoughts of financial stewardship for 2023. God making all things new is not a passive moment for us – WE are part of the newness, of the creation, and of what St. Michael's has been and is becoming. As we reflect on where we have been as a community, as we dream about what our community can become, as rejoice in the love and fellowship that is the parish of St. Michael the Archangel, and as we behold the coming of Christ into the world, we also ask you to prayerfully consider a sustaining member pledge for 2023.

Completing a Sustaining Member Pledge form (enclosed) helps us budget for the coming year. As you know, most of our operational costs are fixed – salaries, benefits, utilities, and routine maintenance. These costs continue to increase for the church, as they do for all of us. Being able to budget our income for the year is a huge help in planning what can be done to serve our community beyond our fixed expenses. Yet even these fixed expenses are a ministry as our space provides not only a parish home for us as a community, but a safe and holy space for several groups seeking recovery, a space for groups to share their artistic gifts, and our beautiful grounds provide an oasis for those in the neighborhood. In fact, over 65% of financial gifts given go to outreach ministries.

If you are able to make a financial contribution to the mission and ministry of St. Michael's, please reflect in the coming weeks of Advent about what that financial support might look like. If circumstances dictate that you must decrease your pledge, it will be okay. If you keep your pledge the same this year, it will be okay. If you are able to increase your pledge, it will be okay. Because no matter what you and God decide you should give, we at St. Michael's are partners with God to continue our work of love in the world.

You can use the enclosed Sustaining Member Form, or complete the online version of the form, which can be found on our website, saint-michaels.org.

Many thanks for your consideration, and for your ongoing generosity.

Advent blessings,