



Growing -AND- Serving

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

12551 Antioch Road
Overland Park, Kansas 66213

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2017



COMMITMENT WEEKEND NOVEMBER 5 - 6

From Your Rector



At St. Thomas, the gospel is not only preached during the services, but it is emphasized that we who are the church are to take it out the door with us and put it into action. We are frequently challenged to give thought or action to some lesson from the gospel in the week ahead.

Nance D.

“I will always be grateful for the impact the church has had on our children's lives. Our kids know that



there is an entire community of people of all generations who

are rooting for them, celebrating them, keeping them accountable, and loving them for who they are. You can't ask for more than that as a parent.”

Anonymous Parent



Hi Friends,

It's hard to believe I've been your rector for 10 years. Time flies, as they say, and I'm certainly having fun here. All the elements that attracted me in the first place continue to resonate in this wonderful parish.

As we approach our Annual Appeal, stewardship is of course one of those elements. St. Thomas continues to thrive for many reasons, and very high on the list is the generosity of our members. Our staff, facility, ministries... just about everything we do here depends on your enthusiastic participation in the life of our parish.

I came up with a long list of activities, events, services over the past 12 months, all the way from the number of cookies served at coffee hour (15,000, give or take!!!) to the number of volunteer hours donated, children served, baptisms and confirmations celebrated, and so on. You'll see some of them scattered about this brochure. To mention a few...

Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our involvement in this wonderful ministry is so vital amid the divisive rhetoric of our times. Your Stewardship support makes this happen.

Youth and Children Ministry. Your Stewardship support educates, forms and encourages our youth.

Weekend worship services. I hope each person who worships with us encounters the presence of God and the community of faith. Your Stewardship support provides the space, the music, the ministers.

I could go on and on, but you get the point. These services and ministries thrive because of each and every one of you.

On November 5-6, I hope you will bring your pledge card with you to church. Before that, please take some time to reflect on what your pledge will accomplish at St. Thomas the Apostle. I hope you will consider increasing your pledge by 3%, 5% or even 10%.

I am so grateful for your consideration, your generosity, your commitment, your friendship. Thank you for encouraging and supporting our congregation in so many ways. I am honored to serve you.

The Rev. Gar Demo

Your Decision to Give

First of all, prayerful discernment is a very important element in a person's decision to give.

Most faithful donors give because they want to return a portion of their benefits to God and because they want to support the good their church does. So... what do you feel God is asking of you now? What is St. Thomas asking of you now? Take some time to prayerfully discern these questions.

Second, keep in mind that your gift is really a response to the gifts you have received from God and your church.

Reflecting on these gifts is part of the discernment process. Think back to your experiences, the times when you felt filled by grace, a moment you felt touched by God.

Third, have a family discussion about your church. You might be surprised to learn all that St. Thomas means to them. Then, look at the proposed improvements in the church that will be accomplished by increased giving. They might impact you directly, or perhaps they'll impact people that you know.

How much should I pledge for 2017?

We anticipate we will need \$812,000 in total giving this year to support all the mission and ministry of our church. We are trusting God to meet our needs so that we can effectively minister the love of God. As you pray about your gift to St. Thomas the Apostle this year, please consider a pledge of three to five percent of your income. The chart below can help you determine that amount.

When should I turn in my pledge card?

Commitment Weekend for the stewardship campaign is **November 5-6, 2016**. Please bring your pledge card to church on those days. If you will not be at church, you can mail your pledge card to the church. If you prefer, you may hand deliver your pledge card to the church office or place your pledge card in the offering plate the week before Commitment Weekend.

ANNUAL INCOME	WEEKLY PLEDGE			MONTHLY PLEDGE			ANNUAL PLEDGE		
	3%	5%	10%	3%	5%	10%	3%	5%	10%
\$200,000	\$116	\$192	\$384	\$500	\$834	\$1,666	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
\$150,000	\$87	\$145	\$290	\$375	\$625	\$1,250	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$100,000	\$58	\$96	\$192	\$250	\$417	\$833	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$75,000	\$44	\$73	\$146	\$188	\$313	\$626	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$7,500
\$50,000	\$29	\$48	\$96	\$125	\$209	\$418	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000

November 5-6

Commitment Weekend

The Impact of Your Giving

Because of your support for St. Thomas...

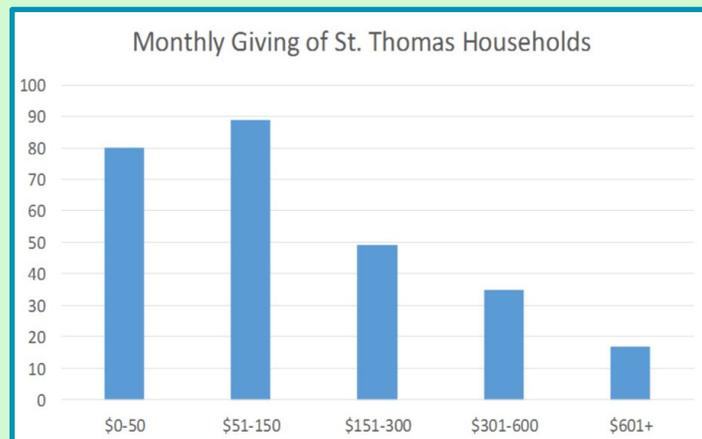
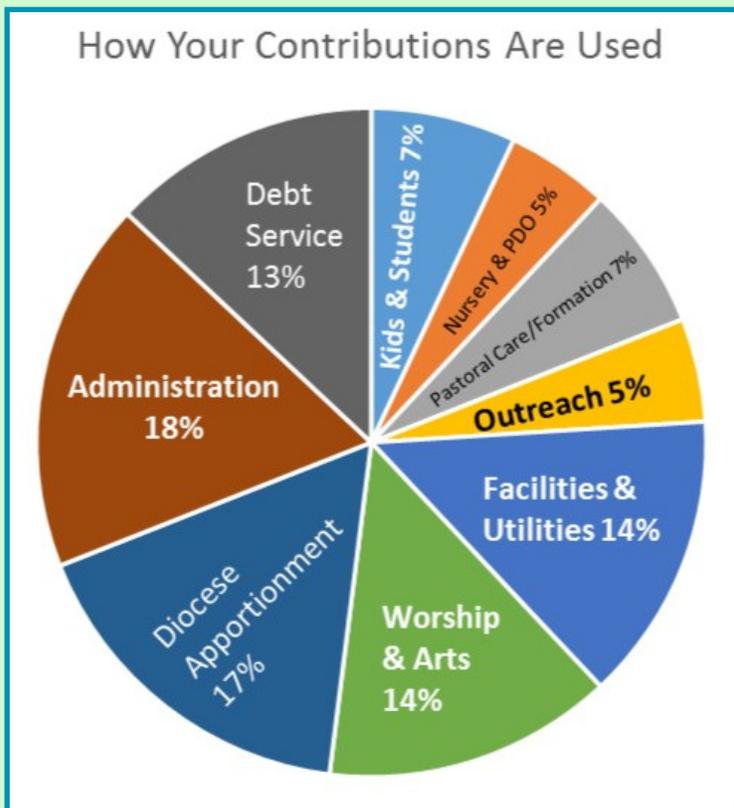
- 16,412 attended worship last year
- 931 volunteer hours given to IHN
- 3,150 Thom's Helpers hours
- 125 meals delivered by St. Martha's
- 52 Greeters, 37 Lectors
- 21 Eucharistic Ministers
- 823 members at St. Thomas
- 150 attended ROTC, VBS, Arts Camp

This year your increased giving can provide funds for...

- Moving the entirety of the mortgage into the operating budget.* This allows for a quicker pay down of the debt from capital campaign.
- Additional office assistance* through internships to assist with the administration of the parish.
- Continued support* for our staff and ministry areas through modest increases in program and other costs.

Household Giving and Parish Expenses

These graphs display a breakdown of monthly giving per household and how your contributions are used.



Campaign Prayer

Loving and Gracious God,

I am grateful for the countless blessings you have given me, for life, for family, friends and St. Thomas my church home.

Strengthen my faith so I may give generously of the time, talent and treasure you have given to me.

Help me move forward in faith so I may grow in my love of Christ and my neighbor.

*Let my gifts reflect my thanks to You and may they be used to the fulfilling of your purpose.
Amen.*

“What inspires and impresses me about St. Thomas is the sense of vibrancy that I feel whenever I am there. There are plenty of congregations with a lot going on,

but not all of them feel as vivacious or interesting. The Spirit is present there.” The Rev. Canon Torey Lightcap, Diocese of Kansas