

# All Saints' Episcopal Church

## Pledge FAQ

### **What is a pledge?**

Each year we ask all parishioners to make a thoughtful, prayerful, and intentional commitment to financially support the ministry and mission of All Saints'. Pledging is simply promising to give a certain amount of money to All Saints' in the following year. This is accomplished by [completing a pledge form](#) that indicates the amount of your pledge and when you intend to give the money, i.e., weekly, monthly, etc.



### **What does my pledge support?**

- Outreach- to our neighbors near and far; here in Chicago and in South Sudan, New Orleans and Southeast Mexico
- Formation - personal growth through Church School, Adult Faith Explorations, Baptism, Solemn Communion, Inquirers' Classes, Confirmation, and Marriage/Blessing preparation
- Clergy and staff who provide uplifting worship and music, pastoral care, and parish administration and who maintain and preserve our worship space, property, and grounds
- A sacred space where we gather to experience God's love
- Routine operating expenses such as utilities, insurance, building maintenance, office supplies, etc.
- Contributions to the greater Episcopal community through our diocesan pledge

## **Does my individual pledge really make a difference?**

Absolutely. All Saints' relies on the revenue from the offerings of its parishioners and visitors. At present, approximately 70% of our annual income comes from pledges and we need to increase that proportion.



If you are new to All Saints' or new to pledging, it is our hope that you will make a pledge to support the parish in the upcoming year. Even if you pledge a minimum amount, please take the step of pledging as part of your spiritual practice for giving. Every dollar we receive promotes the ministry and mission of All Saints' and is greatly appreciated.

## **Can I just put my offering in the plate without pledging?**

Yes, but because we depend on offerings to maintain operations, making a pledge tells us how much money All Saints' will have to carry out ministry for the coming year, and thereby helps us set our 2016 budget. The total amount pledged for 2016 is critical information that the vestry uses in making careful and purposeful decisions about church activities, ministry, worship, and building operations during the budget process and throughout the year.

On a personal level, pledging also helps transform giving into a spiritual practice. You make a commitment, and fulfilling it becomes a regular practice just like worship and prayer.

Please note that pledging is not a prerequisite for participating in the life of All Saints'. We welcome all to share in the celebration of our faith regardless of pledge. However, we hope that all who consider themselves members of the All Saints' community will pledge to the best of their ability. Pledging allows you to make intentional decisions about your financial giving. When you plan ahead for your giving, you make conscious choices about spending money in ways that reflect your faith and values.

## How do I determine the amount I should pledge?

The traditional measure of giving to the church is the **tithe**. Tithing is the biblical principle whereby a person or family gives 10% of what they earn back to God through the church. We encourage you to consider tithing or to work toward a tithe. If a tithe sounds daunting to begin with, consider **Proportional Giving**. Start with your expected income for next year and determine a percentage that feels right for you both spiritually and practically. From ancient times, people have given the first fruits of their labor, the first and best portion to God. So a good start for Proportional Giving may be 2½% of your income, which is equivalent to pledging the first hour's pay of a 40-hour work week.



If you have been pledging, we are most grateful for your support. You may want to consider adopting the practice of Proportional Giving for your 2016 pledge and beyond. Determine the percentage of income you are already giving, and based on your expected income for next year, prayerfully consider an increase in the percentage for 2016.

Finally, there is **Radical Giving**. Consider a pledge that stretches your resources, demands sacrifices, or pushes beyond what is comfortable and into reassessment of your priorities and your commitments. You may find that as you re-order your finances around giving, you also find your life reordered around God.

## How do I make a pledge?

Click [here](#). Or, click on the link in the stewardship email you received. The pledge form is also available on our website, [www.allsaintschicago.org](http://www.allsaintschicago.org), by clicking on the “Give” menu and then “Make a pledge.” Paper pledge forms will be available on the purple table in the back of the church for those who wish to submit a hard copy.



## Can I change my pledge if my financial circumstances change?

Yes. We understand that circumstances can change over the course of the year. Sometimes people wish to give more than they originally pledged. Other times, they need to reduce or cancel their pledge. Simply contact the Rector or Co-wardens through the church office (773-561-0111 or [info@allsaintschicago.org](mailto:info@allsaintschicago.org)).

## When is my pledge for 2016 due?

Although a pledge can be made at any time during the year, it is our hope is that you communicate your 2016 pledge by January 18, 2016. This information will enable the vestry to complete the budget process in December and present a realistic budget at the annual meeting on January .

## Questions?

The Rector and Staff, Co-wardens and Vestry are always available to answer any questions you may have regarding pledging. Please contact them through the church office (773-561-0111 or [info@allsaintschicago.org](mailto:info@allsaintschicago.org)).