



September 20, 2017

Dear Parish Family,

Each year I write a letter to you trying to find some new and innovative way to speak from my heart about the worthiness of the Lord's Gospel work, especially here at our beloved All Saints. My heart and mind strive together to inspire that there are no more powerful ways to invest our money than the eternal and immediate fates of God's people – poor and rich alike. And each year our people respond with generosity and joy. We are so very blessed by the love of this parish family and I am so grateful.

You might ask why I continue to seek further help if generosity is abounding. Great question. The simple, honest answer is that we were so very far behind to begin and we still have a great gap to close. Bishop Salmon and I once sat to determine the pledge level All Saints needs if we are to operate without running into debt, deferring responsible maintenance, and burdening the backs of an undersized staff. The answer was something approximating \$2.1 million dollars. Such an amount would still leave us below the levels of some of our sister churches of the same size or smaller, but we could at least breathe much easier. Our pledges total approximately \$1.45 million for 2017 – better than any year before. Yet, because we are more than a half million dollars below the pledges needed, we are still mounting debts, paying bills late, cutting budgets, withholding pay raises, and apologizing to many who want checks from us. Gospel ministry brings utter joy to us, but the truth is that this is a hard way to operate.

My request is that you might share the spirit of our quest to become a fully funded and well nourished church. What is at stake is partially listed on the back of this letter. Many, if not most, of the items listed have been carried over for two or three years because they are still not possible, though sorely needed. God bless you if you will pray and open your heart evermore. The love, fellowship, and witness of All Saints are unique, precious, and desperately needed in this day and age. By the grace of the Father, the love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, our parish family is lovingly called to move us forward in our mission and worship. Thank you for your generous and sacrificial gift.

God bless you,

Ed Kelaher, Rector

If we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and give in extravagant generosity, we will be able to:

1. Change lives through new relationships with culturally different churches in Washington.
2. Change lives through a new priest sorely needed to care for our oldest parishioners. Guidelines are for one priest for each 300-400 members. All Saints has one priest for each 900.
3. Change lives by expanding our Mission Trip Ministry for parishioners and those we serve.
4. Change lives by saving marriages through greater counseling and ministry resources.
5. Change lives by recruiting a full-time dedicated Youth Minister for our students.
6. Change lives by providing resources for broken, unemployed, and struggling parishioners.
7. Change lives by providing more mental health care to those now struggling and suffering.
8. Change lives by providing more resources for parishioners and others oppressed by addictions.
9. Change lives by intentionally bringing a Bible-centered life model to unchurched folks nearby.
10. Change the Rector's life by providing an administrative assistant to him.
11. Improve lives through more financial relief to church members in crisis and peril.
12. Improve lives through better meals for the many homeless people who come to our church daily.
13. Improve fellowship by reviving the wonderful kitchen meal ministry started by Chef Glenn.
14. Improve lives of our church workers by merit raises for the first time in at least seven years.
15. Enlarge and expand our Music Ministry.
16. Witness that there is no greater cause than the Kingdom of God and the Church.
17. Acknowledge that our church leadership is trustworthy and faithful.
18. Demonstrate that the most fulfilled people in the world give to God to change lives.

Jesus said:

If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.

How hard it is for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God!

Give to everyone who asks you, and don't ask him who takes away your goods to give them back again.

Give to the needy those things which are within, and behold, all things will be clean to you.

If you would only give what you have to the poor, everything you do would please God.

When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them, for all these put in gifts for God from their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, put in all that she had to live on.

The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.