



November 2023

Dear Brendanites,

In a healthy, vibrant church, members share a set of core beliefs. Here at St. Brendan's we share not only beliefs, but also this mission:

*Jesus said, "I have come to give life — life in all its fullness." Our mission is the realization of fullness through: the worship of God, service to the world, active concern for each other, and education to expand the mind and spirit.*

St. Brendan's mission statement sets the bar pretty high, but it embodies the life I try to lead. It's not hard to do if you believe in all the special things that are part of this parish. I believe, for instance, in how we welcome strangers. I believe in how we take care of our parishioners. I believe in how we not just accept differences but celebrate them.

There's more. I believe in how we not just appreciate immigrants but teach them English. I believe in how we not just desire justice, but preach about it, march for it and motivate people to act on it. I believe in how we not just bring our children to God at Sunday School, but give them key roles in the monthly Children's Service. I believe in how we not just recognize the needs of others, but how we make food for them, bring clothing to them, grow vegetables for them and tithe 10 percent of our parish income for them.

Because I believe, I give. I give to support St. Brendan's and all that it means to its members and to those we don't see and are still part of our mission. To paraphrase St. Matthew, the Lord says, "If you do it for one of these, you do it for me." But St. Brendan's can't do it without our help.

This is the season of stewardship, when we are asked to consider how we can support St. Brendan's. It takes our time, sweat and, yes, our resources — and how much you give is always a personal decision. If you're able to pledge a contribution for next year, it will give the vestry and Mother Robin more confidence on how to plan for 2024. Simply complete the enclosed card, seal it in an envelope and drop it in the collection plate, pledge box in the narthex or the church office. You can also pledge through the Give Online tab on St. Brendan's website.

Pledging is not the only way to give, of course. All contributions, regardless of size or regularity, support the mission of St. Brendan's and are gratefully accepted. What's important is that we give — and serve — in a spirit of joy, gratitude and faith. For it is faith that sustains us, faith that compels us to exclaim, "I believe!" Believe in a life in Christ. Believe and support the mission of St. Brendan's.

Yours in faith,

Tom Waseleski, Senior Warden