

We Gather Together

An Invitation to Gather in Faith, Love and Gratitude



2021 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN PARISH OPERATIONS & MORTGAGE REDUCTION

Jesus said: "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:19-20





We gather in
faith, love
and
gratitude

For most of 2020, gathering with others has been risky business. Every day, we summon our strength, faith, hopes, dreams, and resources to do what we are called to do. We are doing it individually, and we are doing it collectively as Christ Church.

In 2021, we will joyfully and safely gather to spread God's abundant love. Our parish ministries are the heartbeat of Christ Church. As we adapt to meet the challenges ahead, with your help we will gather the resources we need to deepen our faith, support others in our community, ensure the vitality of our ministries, and maintain our facilities so they are safe and available for all.

The resources we gather in gratitude come from God's abundance in our lives. Our giving represents our response to what God is doing in our midst. When we give time and money, we are gathering and sharing resources that transform our community and our parish.



Every Sunday we are gathering in new and creative ways, on-line and in-person. We have resumed in-person worship with a 9:30 Sunday service, carefully following safety protocols. Our on-line Sunday service brings the love of Christ to people in their homes near and far. Our dedicated choir is singing God's praises virtually, in faith, love and gratitude.

Education for Ministry and our **Bible Study: Pause, Ponder and Pray**, are gathering on-line and thriving.

Our new **Book Study Groups** and the **Sacred Ground** dialogue on race and faith provide on-line opportunities for small groups to reflect and explore ideas and beliefs that reinforce ideals that hold us together.

Father Mark leads **Daily Evening Prayer** in person and on-line, reaching folks within and beyond our parish. He safely brings **communion** to the home of anyone who asks and is assisted by members of our parish who reach out to those in need of **prayer and pastoral support**.

Children and Families gather virtually with Lisa Oesterling, Interim Coordinator of Christian Formation, exploring God's love, and discovering how we can be the light of Christ for our family and friends.



We gather in
 worship,
 study and
 prayer





The effects of the pandemic are far-reaching, and Christ Church is responding with additional support, finding new ways to reach out and help parishioners, neighbors and friends who are struggling to make ends meet.

Backpack Weekend Meals for Kids continues, and our parish involvement has grown dramatically while school buildings have been closed. Since March we have filled and distributed almost 7,000 bags of weekend food to children and families.

We gather to
help others
in our
community

Volunteers provide food twice weekly to those who rely on the **Grasonville Food Pantry** for part of their sustenance. Many of these folks are elderly and many live alone. We are seeking, receiving and delivering more food supplies than ever to help ease their burdens.

Recovery Groups are safely meeting in Shand Hall to continue their life-saving work.



Parishioners provide meals for the **Haven Ministries' shelter** and volunteer at its food pantry. Our parish supports Haven Ministries' operations and its benevolent fund that assists clients with rent, utility, and medical payments.

Regular **Free Community Dinners** will begin soon with curbside pick-up and delivery, safely preparing food for neighbors and friends.

The **Soup Group** Ministry is back at work in our restored kitchen, safely preparing and selling those famous soups and salads for curbside pick-up and delivery.

Our **Staff, Facilities and Technology** support and sustain our growing ministries and enable us to maintain in-person, virtual, print, and telephone communication with one another.



Here's how you can help!

Our individual pledges demonstrate our gratitude for the gifts God has given us.

The most important thing you can do right now is to prayerfully consider and send in your pledge to support parish operations in 2021. The pledge card is included with this booklet.



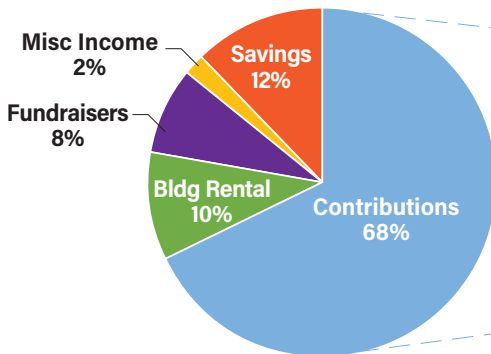
2021 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Invite every household to make a pledge in faith, love and gratitude.
- Gather \$175,000 in pledges and additional gifts of \$70,000 to fund 2021 parish operations.
- Gather additional 2021 pledges to help reduce the mortgage balance.

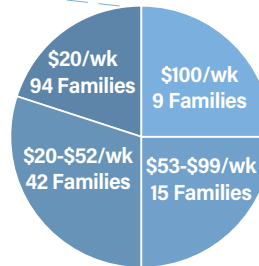
As you pray about your 2021 pledge, please keep in mind that pledges and gifts provided over 2/3 of the funds for parish operations in 2020.

- Half of our pledges and gifts came from 136 households giving \$52 or less per week.
- The other half came from 24 households giving more than \$52 per week.

Source of Operating Funds



Impact of Contribution



Mortgage Reduction

Since 2015, we have actively pursued eliminating our mortgage by including an extra \$1,000 each month and an extra \$50,000 each year to reduce the principal. This strategy is significantly shortening the term of the mortgage and dramatically decreasing the amount of interest we will pay over the life of the mortgage. Maintaining this positive momentum will make it possible to pay off our mortgage in about four years.

Many parishioners have already pledged to the mortgage through 2021.

Thank you!

If you have not yet pledged to reduce the mortgage and are able to do so, please consider making a one-year commitment now to help us continue our success story and keep the momentum going.



**We gather together to celebrate
God's presence in our homes
and in our parish.**

No pledge or gift is too small.

No pledge or gift is too large.

Every gift matters.

We Gather Together

We gather to
give in
gratitude for
all God
has given

The traditions of our faith draw out our gratitude and give us joy, strength, stability and courage.

We have shown the ability to make powerful changes that connect us in new ways and further extend our caring outreach to our neighbors in need.

Now is the time to prayerfully consider your level of giving and commit as you are able to supporting our parish in 2021.

Your 2021 pledge, joined with the pledges of all our households and individuals, will help us to stay strong, joyful and safe together.



We are Christ Church
Grounded | Growing | Giving



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