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"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven." – Jesus (Matthew 5:16)

October 5, 2026

Dear St. James parishioner,

Autumn has officially arrived! Along with the promise of cooler days ahead, as usual fall also brings us to the season when we reflect on just how much St. James parish means to us, and how we are called to support our faith community going into the year ahead. It is a time to recall how the light of Christ has shined in our lives, and it is a time to plan with expectation the promise that Christ's light will continue to shine among us all in the future.



That's one reason for this year's stewardship campaign theme, "Shining Our Light." Our light is, of course, the light of Christ, and one way of shining that light is financially supporting the mission and ministry of St. James parish. Because stewardship is not simply about meeting a budget; it is deciding what we value and making it possible for those things we value most to continue and grow. Worship. Music. Christian formation. Pastoral care. Community outreach. Along with so many other aspects of our life together too numerous to include here. All of it not just a list of the ordinary expenses that come with "doing church." No, all of it a testament to the extraordinary work of God that shines in the life of our parish and allows us to shine as examples of Christ's light in the world.

As you consider your pledge for the coming year, we ask that you prayerfully reflect on what this church means to you, and how God is calling you to support its ministry. For some, that may mean increasing a pledge. For others, it may mean pledging for the first time. Everyone has different circumstances to consider. But please know that every commitment — whatever the amount — is received with gratitude.

So, thank you in advance for your participation in this year's pledge campaign. You can make your pledge any time, in a variety of ways (see back for details). On Sunday, November 15, we will celebrate your and everyone's commitment for 2027 in a special way during worship.

Until then, thank you for being part of this church family, and for all the ways your light shines in it.

Yours in Christ,

John Rothwell, Senior Warden, and the Rev. Dr. Jerald Hyche, Rector
On behalf of the Vestry