

Hello, Saint Mark's Community,

From your fellow parishioners, Emily and Jacob:

We have been members of the St. Mark's community for the past 5 years. We were married in the church in 2018 and have now begun to raise our two children, Josie and Wesley, in this warm and loving space. With the fall season upon us, as well as a new liturgical year, this is the time when the community sets our annual budget and reaches out for pledge commitments. We are reaching out to ask you to consider pledging for the first time or to consider increasing your current pledge amount.

The Cathedral has two financial hurdles to overcome this year: we need to increase annual pledges to resolve an operational gap and raise significant funds for multiple capital improvement projects.

Fortunately, some parishioners of long-standing and means have pledged to support the Cathedral with significant financial support to cover our capital improvement projects. Those infrastructure needs include new climate control equipment, a replacement of the existing elevator, and exterior facade repairs. We are very grateful for their commitment to ensure that the 112-year-old Cathedral can weather many more years to come.

Like all other organizations, we have faced inflationary pressures over the last number of years. Our goal is to increase pledges by an additional \$100,000 compared to last year to close our operational gap. We hope to do this by adding 50 new pledge commitments from members who haven't pledged in the past. Second, we are asking existing pledgers to consider increasing their pledges by 12 to 15%.

Everyone who holds St. Mark's in their heart, long-time members as well as newer congregants and families, has a part to play in this effort. We all want St. Mark's to continue to thrive and be there for us and future parishioners.

We hope you will prayerfully consider this request.

May we all strive to be a bit more like the widow in the Gospel of Mark: "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Sincerely,

The Buchen Family