

# OUR ASPIRATIONS

## *for 2017*

At St. Mary's, we are committed to proportionate giving, asking each member to set aside a certain percentage of their income for the work of God in this Parish. Pledging is a commitment: offering the first fruits of our labor and income, rather than offering from what is left over. It is a reflection of our gratitude to God for the abundance He has provided to us.

We prayerfully ask each parishioner to increase the percentage of support to the church each year, moving toward the biblical standard of tithing (offering 10%). The first step is to calculate your actual giving percentage from last year and determine whether it is where you can be. Regularly review how you are able to increase the percentage over time, guided by your deepening commitment to Christ and this church.

We also hope that all new members of the parish will pledge this year. New pledges provide needed additional resources and replenish the generosity of those who are called away from the parish each year. Our hope is that even in the most challenging times, we will become more aware of the blessings of our lives and the blessings brought to us by this church family.

**Based on our experience in recent years, we estimate that our 2017 expenses will increase by about \$100,000 or approximately 10%.**

Factors we anticipate will contribute to the increase include:

- Added staff to provide the services our large parish needs so that we can minister to the entire Parish, especially with respect to the findings in the spring discernment report.
- Growth in key expenses driven by an increase in cost of living.
- The daily maintenance of our existing facilities.

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**With an additional \$50,000 in pledges, the Vestry also hopes to include these ministries in the final 2017 Financial Budget:**

- Increase our outreach budget in all respects: new ministries, additional granting, new opportunities.
- Sponsor a mission trip either domestically or internationally.
- Ensure that future maintenance and upkeep costs of all facilities are planned for.
- Host more events to bring the congregation together, such as the Spring Feast of Mary Allen and the Shrine Mont Parish Retreat.

