



November 7, 2011

Dear Members of the St. James the Less Community,

As Co-Chairs of the St. James the Less 2012 Stewardship Campaign, we are writing to ask you to pledge your support for St. James the Less. Throughout the year, hundreds of our members devote their time, efforts and energy to the many ministries that are the signature of our faith community. At this time of year, our community must also consider the financial needs of St. James, and commit to supporting the church through a pledge for 2012.

“O be joyful in the Lord . . . serve the Lord with gladness . . .” Psalm 100

Joy rings out from St. James the Less every day. Liturgy, music, Christian education, and fellowship are only the beginnings of the joyful St. James experience. Indeed, our church has made a name for itself in the Scarsdale community and beyond for its education and outreach efforts and its civic engagement. The fall alone brings Banner Sunday, our Book Fair, the annual Outreach Concert, and much more. Families and individuals find in St. James a place where people from all walks and all stages of life can come together to learn, grow, experience fellowship and community, and share the love of Jesus Christ.

Of course, St. James gains its direction from the leadership of Father Tom Newcomb, and the commitment and talents of the St. James staff. And it is brought to life, every single day, by the boundless efforts of the parishioners who participate in our programs as Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, choir participants, and Midnight Run drivers, to name just a few.

In addition to the loving support provided to our church through these efforts, your continued financial support for St. James is essential to keeping our community such a vibrant place. The largest portion of the operating budget of St. James comes from the pledges of its parishioners. Over the last several years, as households, institutions and governments throughout the United States and the world have faced difficult economic choices, our parishioners have risen to the challenge to make generous pledges to support St. James—a wonderful outpouring of support inspired by faith. This year the Church faced continued rising costs for every day operations, as well as a significantly reduced endowment draw and several unexpected maintenance items for buildings and grounds. As we look to 2012, we will need a pledge offering comparable to the last few years to continue the good work being done at St. James.

“Give and it will be given to you.” Proverbs 3:9

Out of more than one hundred pledges made for 2011, the average pledge to St. James was approximately \$3,800, and the median was \$2,000. And while large pledge commitments are most certainly welcome, no amount is too small, and we are eager for more

parishioners to make the affirmative choice to pledge. Making a pledge to St. James reflects both an understanding of the important place that St. James has in our lives, and a growing embrace of the biblical concept of Proportionate Giving, which is based on the teaching of Jesus in the gospels. I have included with this letter information regarding Proportionate Giving for your consideration.

Pledge Sunday is November 20. We ask each of you, after prayer and reflection, to consider how best you can give glory to God through St. James, and with joy to the Lord pledge to support the church. Pledge cards may be returned to the church on Pledge Sunday. Alternatively, you may designate your pledge on our website at www.stjamesthelesscarsdale.org.

As always, please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions regarding the 2012 St. James the Less Stewardship Campaign. Jim Hallowell can be reached by phone at (914) 723-8480 (home) or (917) 328-0605 (cell) or at jhallowell@gibsondunn.com. Jim Dugan's phones are (914) 723-1554 (home) and (646) 322-1212 (cell) and his e-mail is jdugan@willkie.com.

With sincere gratitude,

James L. Hallowell

James C. Dugan