

REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP



Q. What is Stewardship?

A. Stewardship means wisely caring for something that belongs to someone else. The Bible calls us stewards of God's creation. Everything belongs to God, not us.

Q. What is Annual Stewardship?

A. Each fall, we have a financial stewardship campaign to invite members to make a financial pledge for the next year's operating budget.

Q. When do I start giving?

A. The church is asking you to make a pledge or commitment for 2026. In other words, let the church know what you plan to give during the fiscal year beginning Jan 1, 2026.

Q. What is a pledge?

A. An annual pledge is a commitment made in faith on what you will give to the church's annual operating budget in the coming year.

Q. What are the church's financial goals for the year?

A. Our budget is designed to fund our ongoing ministries while allowing us to keep up with the rapid growth we are experiencing. We need expanded funding to address cost increases from inflation, serve our growing church family, and furthering our ministry to those in need.

Q. When I make a pledge, what will the money be used for?

A. These gifts go toward the church's operating budget. This includes all the expenses of day-to-day ministry at St. Martin's including worship expenses, livestreaming costs, children and youth programming, formation opportunities, utilities, and maintenance of our building and property.

Q. What about local mission partners?

A. Currently we support local mission partners through designated gifts and other opportunities like our Christmas offering and Lenten outreach. Ideally, our annual stewardship campaign will grow to an amount that will allow us to include mission giving in the annual budget. Similarly, this past year we were able to include children and youth funding in the budget, rather than relying on designated giving.

Q. How much should I give?

A. St. Martin's encourages our members to use the biblical standard of the tithe (10% of annual income), which is found in Numbers 18:21. Of course, this is a decision for each household to prayerfully consider. Our goal is to see everyone giving in faith and love.

Q. Why does St. Martin's talk about the importance of financial giving?

A. It may feel that way, especially as we prepare for a capital campaign related to our ongoing master plan. We address financial stewardship every fall. For Christians, money is not secret or "off limits." It belongs to God. Jesus talked a lot about money. We don't use high-pressure tactics, but we want to always be willing to talk about it.

THE DETAILS OF GIVING

Q. How can I make my pledge?

A. Online at stmartin.breezechms.com/form/pledge-2026 or a physical pledge card. Pledge cards may be returned in the offering plate, mail, or by dropping off at the church office. All pledge cards will be blessed during during the services on Nov. 16.

Please note: On the pledge card, you'll indicate how much you intend to give for the entire year, and then also let us know how you plan to fulfill the pledge (weekly, monthly, etc.)

SCAN TO MAKE
YOUR PLEDGE



Q. How do I make my gift?

A. There are several ways:

Give securely online: stmartin.breezechms.com/give/online

Set up a recurring gift through the church Breeze database

Mail or drop a check to the church office with "pledge" on the memo line

Place a check or cash in the offering plate, with pledge written on the memo or envelope

Prepay for the entire year by contacting Sue Mitchell in the church office

CONTACT US

Q. I have other questions. Whom can I contact?

A. You can always reach out to clergy or vestry members to discuss.

In the office, Sue Mitchell (sue.mitchell@stmartininthefields.org) or Anika Rinker (stmartin@stmartininthefields.org), can direct you to the appropriate person.

ST. MARTIN'S AT A GLANCE

7 percent: We rank in the top 7 percent of Episcopal churches nationally in attendance

25: We routinely have 25 kids involved in our Godly Play and Children's Chapel

70: Average number of people worshipping with us online each week (almost doubled 2024)

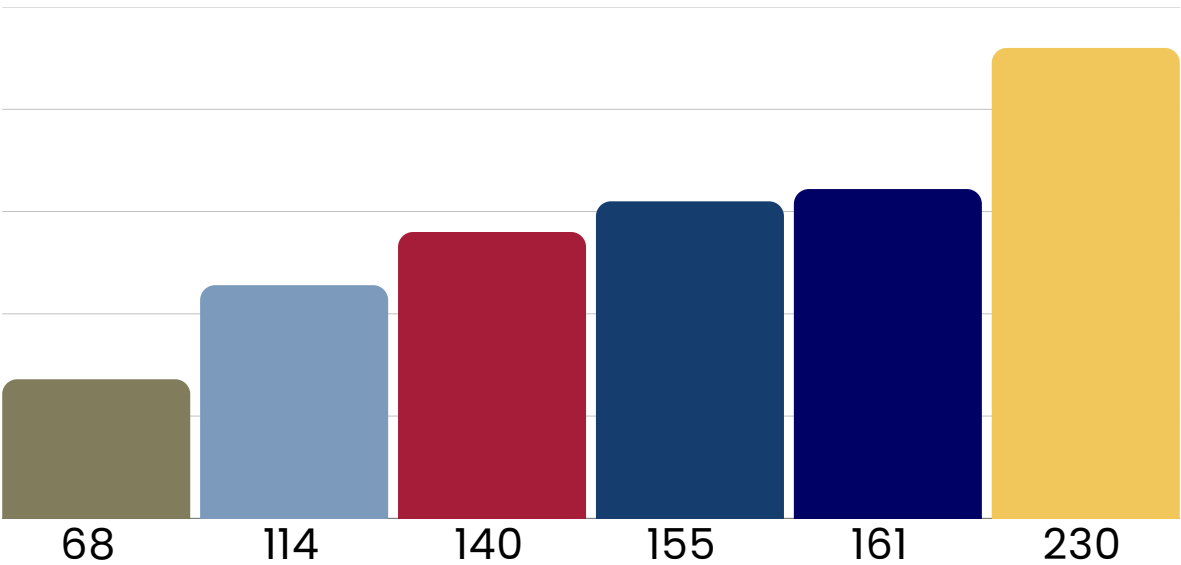
287: Total number of Sunday visitors so far in 2025 (up from 200 at this point in 2024)

4,682: Total cans of corn donated to 4Saints in 2025 (up more than 10 percent from 2024)

10,000: Average number of people engaged in our social media content each month

Average Sunday Attendance

2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 (so far) 2025 (counting online)



Walking in Love in 2026

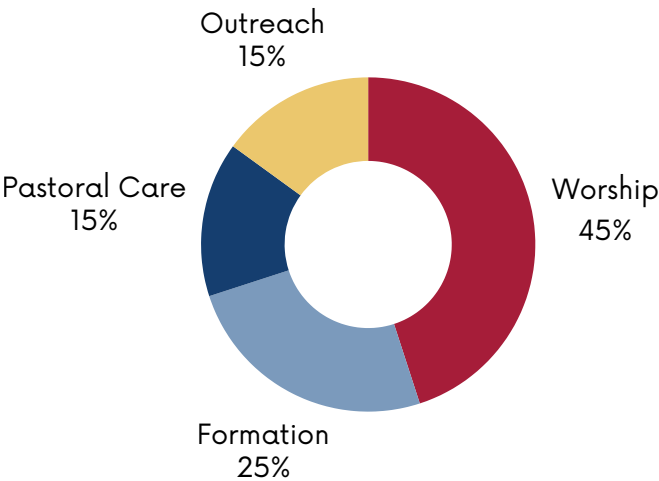
2025 Budget: \$550,000

2026 Goal: \$570,000

In 2026 we hope to invest even more into our children and youth programs, and partner with the diocese on another Curate.

The vestry broadly categorizes our expenses across four areas: Worship, Formation, Mission/Outreach, and Pastoral Care.

Within these categories, some things that may be considered "overhead" can be better seen as part of our parish mission. For example, the heating and cooling bill allows us to host outside groups like Al Anon and neighborhood associations. Clergy and staff salaries and benefits are split between categories, based on how they divide up their time.

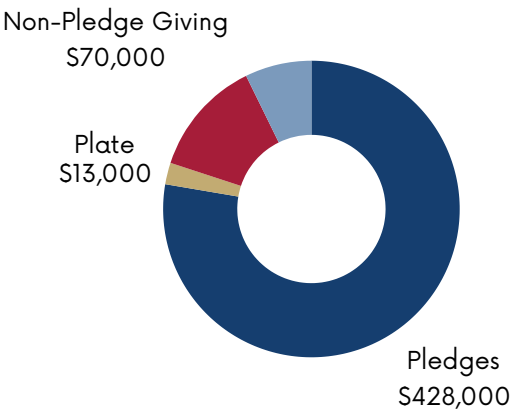


Sources of Income

2025 Pledges: \$428,000

2026 Goal: \$450,000

The vast majority of our income each year comes from your pledges. The rest comes from non-pledge giving, special offerings (Easter, Thanksgiving, etc.) the plate offering each week, and income from building use and other sources.



2025...so far - in short, income is up and expenses are down

	Jan-Aug 2025	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$328,651	\$298,251	\$30,400
Non-Pledge Giving	\$53,022	\$46,778	\$6,244
Plate	\$9,973	\$8,000	\$973
Other	\$17,993	\$17,426	\$567
Total Income	\$409,641	\$370,455	\$39,186
Expenses	\$320,089	\$359,138	(\$39,048)

