

Tips for 1st Time Pledgers

Here are some helpful tips if you are considering pledging for the first time this year.

1. Remember, it's NOT about how much

Pledging for the first time is not about money - it's about accepting an invitation; an invitation to deeper relationship with St. Paul's, our Cathedral family, and most importantly, a deeper relationship with God. So don't worry about how much, or how often, or any of that. Instead, ask yourself "am I ready to give it a try?" "Am I ready to take the next step?" Jesus said where your money goes, so does your heart. So give it a try and see how a simple thing like a pledge can move you closer to God.

2. What if I can't afford to pledge what I'd like to?

Some people hold off because they can't afford to pledge as much as they'd like to or feel embarrassed that it "wouldn't be enough." Again, it's really not about how much you pledge when you first start out (see #1 above). We all go through financial circumstances and besides, none of us could ever pledge "enough" when you really think about all the blessings God has given us. So don't get hung up on the amount. The important thing is to start somewhere.

3. A simple formula for calculating your first pledge

OK, you're ready to pledge but not sure where to start. Here's one method: Think about what you place in the offering plate on a typical Sunday, and then multiply by 52 (i.e. the number of weeks in the year). Use that figure as your 2008 annual pledge which you will pay over the course of next year. You'll receive personalized envelopes and a quarterly statement so you can track your progress even if you don't always make it to services on Sunday.

4. What if I can't fulfill my pledge?

People sometimes hold off because they're worried they might not fulfill their pledge (their self-employed, going back to school, etc.). Again, that's no problem. You can reduce your pledge anytime. Simply email Chris Harris or give him a call at the Cathedral Office 619-298-7261 and we'll be happy to adjust your pledge if needed. No questions asked (of course you can always increase just as easily too! ☺).

I hope you found this helpful. For more help, go to www.stpaulcathedral.org/stewardship2008 and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call!

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