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Fr. Michael Delk, Rector

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..." James 1:17, NRSV

Dear Friend in Christ,

Every message about our pledge campaign begins with Gratitude, and I am pleased to continue the messages you have received from our clergy and wardens recently as we focus on our annual pledge campaign. Our theme this year, *Every Perfect Gift*, highlights all the ways in which we have been blessed by God and how that inspires us to give back to our neighbors, our church, the world. In my message to you, I want to focus on our gifts of Treasure, the financial gifts that we make to our community to support our mission.

This year has been so different from other years in terms of what has been asked of us as individuals and as a community. I want you to know, because I have heard your stories and walked with you this year, that I know some of us are struggling with finances, with isolation, with uncertainty. Over and over again, I learn that it is the God we encounter at our church and Jesus who we follow by recognizing him in each other, that keep us together, that provide the consistency in a shifting world.

Every dollar that we raise has a face behind it, a story, a purpose, a mission! We use our financial gifts to serve God, to care for each other, and to show our love for our neighbors. What greater gift can there be? I am grateful for how each of you supports our ministry in our community.

Our 2022 budget is bare-bones. All support staff will receive a 5% increase as there were no increases in 2021. Funding to most programs is static or reduced. There are only two increases in expenditures. First, in health insurance and second, additional funds to our Sexton position as the expansion has more space to be cleaned.

Each year, we lose sources of funding. Pledges are lost for a number of reasons. This year it is over \$10,000. Given the limits of the past year, we haven't had many new members who, in the past, have consistently proven to be very generous. From this source alone, we anticipate \$10,000 less in 2022 than in previous years. The total of the lost funding is just shy of \$21,000.

To overcome this loss, and stay strong in 2022, without cuts to ministry, we are asking for an increase in giving from everyone. We humbly ask that all who can afford to do so, prayerfully consider increasing your giving by 5%, or as much as you are able.

Let us remember the challenges we've faced and overcome as a parish, the many times people went above and beyond and made things happen in ways no one thought possible. So we come to you confident that we will meet the mark.

Take a few days to think and pray about this request. Then, within a week of receiving this letter, please respond, so that we will know what our potential ministry in 2022 is likely to be.

If you are ever in doubt about the impact of your giving, look about you. Whether you have seen your church family through a screen this year or in pews as we have been allowed, every person you see is part of the story of your giving. As you consider making your gift or your intention to give this year, I ask that you also consider how you have been impacted, and how you will impact this church and our neighbors. What is the story of your gift, how will it unfold? How will your blessing be a blessing to others? This is the spirit behind our theme of Every Perfect Gift.

This year I invite you to make your perfect gift, reflective of the gifts you have received from our Creator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Finnis". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Peter Finnis  
Treasurer