

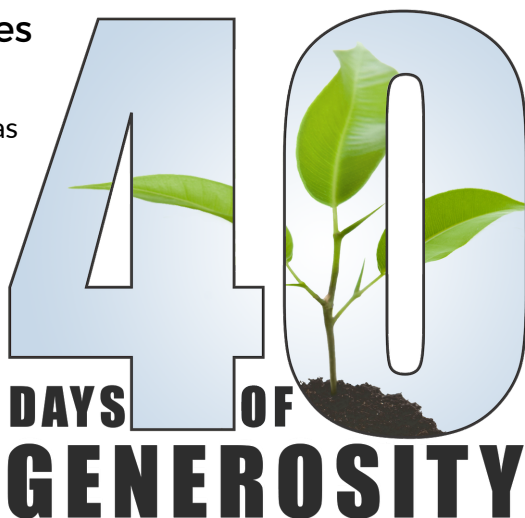
Generosity changes lives.

Whose life it changes might be yours.

In fact, it already has. God has been generous to you with the ultimate gift – love, mercy, forgiveness and everlasting hope through Jesus Christ!

How do you respond to such generosity?




You can grow in faith, stand still, or even lose ground. When you choose to grow, you seek God in disciplines of prayer, worship, giving, service and study. You are grateful and want to build others up for the sake of God's kingdom!



This is why, when we talk about giving, we're talking about matters of the heart, not money. Generosity originates in faithfulness and produces returns far greater than we can calculate in dollars and cents. God's return on our gifts, given generously and cheerfully, can transform the world!

Are you generous with all your heart?

Do you want to be? Would you like to explore the very idea? You are invited to participate in a generosity challenge for 40 days, October 1 through November 10, 2017. Here's how it works:

-  **Step 1** Gather your family around the kitchen table. Remember to save a seat for God. Pray and ask God's presence to be made known to you.
-  **Step 2** Reflect on God's generosity toward you. Read Psalm 145, Romans 8:31-39, James 1:17. Name some specific ways you have experienced God's generosity.
-  **Step 3** Ask God to help you grow in generosity. Read 2 Chronicles 31:5, Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 3:9-10, and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What impact could growing in generosity have on your relationship with God? With others?

Continued on reverse.



Step 4 Respond to the call to generosity God places on your heart.

- If you are not in the habit of giving regularly through St. Mark's, commit to giving a specific amount for the next 40 days. Make your gift to God first, not last.
- If you are striving to tithe (give 10%) but are not there yet, commit to giving a higher percentage of your income – a stretch – through St. Mark's for the next 40 days.
- If you are tithing (giving 10% or more of your income), then commit to making an offering over and above for Christ's ministries through St. Mark's and encourage others as they grow in generosity for the next 40 days.



Step 5 As a tangible sign that you embrace the generosity challenge, sign your name to a leaf on the generosity tree in the foyer.



Step 6 Conduct heart check-ups over the next 40 days – make time for reflection and give thanks for this opportunity to grow in faith. Pray, worship and study. Listen for what God may be teaching you and watch for what God can do through the commitment of the congregation.

We are the church.

Together, we are able to accomplish far more than most of us can achieve individually. When we give through St. Mark's we are empowering ministry for Christ within our own walls, outside in our community and around the world. We build people up in Jesus' name!

May your relationship with Christ be built up through this challenge to generosity. And, may your generosity build up God's kingdom on earth. Amen.

