

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

2024 Ministry Appeal



As you consider your giving to St. James this year, please consider how you can grow in your own generosity.

Systematic giving leads to generosity: For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving (Simply Giving) or just add an amount each week or month. Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of the year.

An extra gift or two during the year: A story was shared from a congregation that participated in this program last year about someone who said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April". Well, what if we decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?

Grow by a percentage each year: For some, the idea of a tithe is unachievable in a single year, but something people would like to reach someday. By growing giving by a percentage each year, it is achievable over the long-term. If you currently give away 3% of income, perhaps you can reach 4% next year and 5% the year after. This takes discipline, but over the long-term is effective for some.

You may have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a church family, growing in generosity together will have a tremendous overall impact:

I have been a member of St. James for over 35 years, as a young family at that time, we were sporadic in our weekly giving to the church, but when Simply Giving was introduced (automated regular withdrawal) we were able to determine a giving budget that worked for our family and endeavored to increase our percentage each year as our earnings increased. Simply Giving was an easy way to ensure that St. James wasn't an afterthought in our church giving or dependent on being in church on Sunday or having the checkbook with us. ~ Anonymous

HAVE FAITH AND ASSUME SUFFICIENCY NOT SCARCITY

How much is enough? Usually, just a little but more. It is common to worry there will not be enough. This is called The Scarcity Assumption. It is human and natural but it is not Christian.

Our faith teaches us God will provide sufficiently for all our needs if we but trust in God's promises. This is so even when we give away the largest portion or amount we have ever given!

Throughout scripture we find signs of this faithfulness: Abraham and Sarah, Ruth, Jonah, all the disciples and more were sustained by God's grace.

These examples were written and handed down for our instruction and assurance. Learn to give in faith means the assumption of sufficiency, not scarcity.

God will provide for God cares for us.