

2024  
Give Cheerfully



“Each one must give as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9 v. 7



Dear Cathedral Family,

As Eli and I have made our dwelling place here at the Cathedral, I am reminded again and again every day that this sacred place is a cheerful home not just to those who live here: it is also a needed home to so many more – those who gather to break bread week by week; the one-time tourist who pops in to pray or wonder at our architecture; the AA groups who gain strength for the journey meeting by meeting; the guests and volunteers who come for bi-weekly sustenance at Sandwich Ministry; and those who join online from other parts of France to halfway across the world... just to name a few.

My prayer is that you also are one of the people who calls this place home and that we all together can invite even more people into God's wide and loving embrace here.

Part of living in a home together is the care and upkeep of not just spiritual and emotional needs but also, very importantly, physical needs. This is something we do very well as Christians! Water, bread, oil, and candlelight – we understand well that these physical realities are mixed with our spiritual realities.

As we build our Cathedral's household budget for the coming year and with thanks for all you do, I invite you to join the Vestry along with Eli and me in prayerfully making a pledge (that is, to pray and make your best guess joyfully at how much you can give financially to meet our communal needs this coming year). With each of us doing our part with God's help, we can be a welcome, cheerful, and caring home to all whom we meet in this sacred place.

Peace,

The Very Rev. James R. Harlan  
Dean and Rector

## What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is our response to all of God's abundant blessings in our lives. It is how we respond generously to God's generosity and wisely care for all that God has given us. It is not only about money but it is also about all the ways in which we care for ourselves, our community, and the world around us.

### Some ways to be a steward of the Cathedral:

- **Pledge** and give to support our Cathedral Family in 2024
- **Join** a Ministry
- Become a **Trinity Society** member by leaving a bequest to support our ministry for future generations
- **Greet someone** who is new to you
- Join the **Friends of the Cathedral** if you live outside of the Paris region





## How do I Pledge?

Pledge online at [amcathparis.com/pledge](http://amcathparis.com/pledge)

You can also fill out a paper pledge card and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the Cathedral.

Pledges may be paid in installments or by a yearly gift.

Pledge now by scanning this code:



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## Every Pledge Makes a Difference

Pledging is a personal spiritual practice that also sustains the life of our community very literally. Each of us enjoys and appreciates the varied gifts of our community in different ways (Youth Group, Worship, Sandwich Ministry, Coffee Hour, Music, 20s/30s, the list goes on...), but each of us gives for the same reason: to love and be loved in this place and to share that love of God in tangible ways with each other and the wider world. Each pledge makes this possible.

## Why Pledge?

*"The sacredness and beauty of the liturgy"*

*"Damascus road experience"*

*"Great sermons"*

*"Spiritual home"*

*"Community of living stones"*

*"Diversity in... perspectives and experiences of God"*

*"When we see that everything we have is a gift, it becomes so much easier to respond generously to the staggering generosity of God."*

*"The inclusion of all ages"*

*"A place where all belong and where all are loved"*

*"Communion"*



## Tax Deductibility

In France, gifts to our Cathedral receive an income tax credit equal to 66% of the amount of the gift. Those who need a receipt for US tax purposes can still pledge through the Cathedral but will need to give through the Friends of the Cathedral ([americancathedralfoundation.org/ways-to-give](http://americancathedralfoundation.org/ways-to-give)).

Please consult your tax advisor to confirm how these rules apply to your situation. Donation receipts for tax purposes will be sent to donors during the first quarter of the following year.

# FAQs

## What is a pledge?

Just like household budgeting, our Cathedral family must plan its budget every year to ensure that we can meet the needs of our community and help the world around us. A pledge is a best guess about how much money a household will be able to give to our Cathedral home in the coming year. All of our pledges together give our Cathedral the best information possible for budgeting.

## Why pledge when I can just give?

Pledging allows our Cathedral to plan ahead in order to be as effective as possible. What kinds of outreach to the community can we do? How many staff members can we afford? What needs should we prioritize with the resources we have? Each year, pledging allows our Cathedral to be able to look into the future, make ministry decisions together, and with confidence, say, "We will, with God's help."

## Don't we have an endowment?

We do have an endowment that was generously left to us by previous generations who are still a part of our Cathedral family as members of the Communion of Saints. Our Cathedral benefits greatly from our endowment. It allows us to dream in ways that would not be possible otherwise. However, we must be good stewards of this gift by only drawing a small percentage to provide for future generations, as well. Therefore, the majority of our day-to-day costs are covered by the pledges and gifts we receive each year.

## How much should I pledge?

How much to pledge is a decision that each household prayerfully makes with God. Tithing (giving 10% of one's income) is suggested in scripture. Many people work up to this amount. No pledge is too small or too large as long as it represents an honest and joyful offering from the heart as a response to God's gifts and our hopes for our Cathedral home.

## When should I pledge?

The sooner, the better! The earlier we all pledge, the better our Cathedral can plan. We ask to receive all pledges by Pledge Sunday on 11 February 2024, when they will be celebrated and blessed during the 11am service. Our clergy and vestry have already submitted pledges for 2024.

## What payment methods does the Cathedral accept?

We welcome payments by cash, card, bank transfer, check, and stock in both euros (€) and US dollars (\$).

## Is your question not here?

Generosity is straightforward, but there may be additional questions in a church blessed by parishioners from all over the world. If you do not see your question above or if you would like more information, please contact Canon Hailey Jacobsen at [canon@americancathedral.org](mailto:canon@americancathedral.org).



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