



Saint Mary
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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A place where it becomes impossible not to share Jesus with the world!

Imagine a place shining with hope that cannot be contained, where faith inspires action, joy multiplies, and the love of Christ draws people closer to him. That place is our parish, a living beacon of hope for all who seek God.

Here at St. Mary, we are witnessing something extraordinary. Our parish family is growing, both in faith and in number. We are now the second largest parish in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, a living sign that the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work among us. Growth is a blessing that also brings greater responsibility. Together, we must strengthen the foundation of faith that has brought us this far and prepare to welcome even more souls seeking Christ.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I invite you to renew your heart with gratitude. We don't gather as Church to simply fulfill obligations, but to be grateful, joyful disciples who help make other disciples and bring Christ's light into a world that desperately longs for hope. Every prayer, every act of generosity, every moment of service becomes a spark that carries the hope of the Gospel to others.

Our vision is clear: to be a community so alive in faith that it's impossible not to share Jesus with others. Each of you plays an essential part in that vision. Together, we are helping God build something that lasts beyond ourselves: a parish where hope is contagious and faith is transformative, changing the lives of countless people.

To sustain this mission and continue to serve our growing community, we must strengthen the foundation that supports our ministries, outreach, and facilities. That's where your financial stewardship, your prayerful generosity, makes an eternal difference. Your generosity allows us to respond faithfully to the growth God has blessed us with.

With God's blessing in mind, I'm asking each of us to take the next step in our financial offering. Please look over the enclosed *"Take the Next Step"* chart and then seriously and prayerfully consider this question: Can I take that next step?

For example, if you are presently giving 3% of your total gross income, please consider 3.5%, 4%, or even higher if you are so inclined. I will, and I invite you to join me. If you want God to bless your finances, put God first in your finances. That's how it works. When we place our trust in God, he never fails to bless our generosity with grace, peace, and abundance.

Your financial commitment keeps our parish vibrant with hope and alive in Christ. It supports our youth and adult formation programs, empowers our dedicated staff and volunteers, sustains our outreach to those in need, and maintains the beauty of our church, a spiritual home where all are welcome.

My friends, God is doing something beautiful here at St. Mary. Let's build upon his blessing. With hearts full of gratitude and hope, let's take the next step together, renewing our faith, deepening our generosity, and joyfully sharing the light of Christ with all who enter our doors.

With love, gratitude, and hope in Christ,

Msgr. Doug Halsema