



# Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin

29-31 Lenox Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02118-3201

phone: 617-442-6395 ☎

November 19, 2020

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:3-5, 9-11

Dear Church Family:

Paul was in prison when he wrote this, yet in the midst of his suffering he still had a strong sense of joy and gratitude. As we continue to live through this time of uncertainty, like Paul we may feel ourselves to be imprisoned. But like him, we too are challenged to look within our hearts to find the true gift that has been implanted there – the precious gift of belonging to God. In Romans Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Such a gift inspires us to also give out of the abundance that has been given to us.

For many years our parish has celebrated Homecoming as an event to bring our extended congregation back together for a time of joy and thanksgiving. The funds raised through our Homecoming events have been extremely important to our operating budget along with smaller events throughout the year. As you know, this year we have been unable to hold any in person social activities. As a result, instead of the \$4,000 we had expected to earn through fundraising, at this time we have only raised \$92. In an effort to close the gap we are asking each member of our community to consider making a gift to the church during our "Stay at Home with a Grateful Heart" Homecoming event. In this mailing you will find a flier with three suggested levels of giving. As a token of our appreciation we have also enclosed a small book of scriptures, prayers and reflections of thanksgiving. On Sunday December 13, we will celebrate the donations we receive during our 9:30 worship service along with a look back at past celebrations. We ask that you reflect on the gifts you have received this year and give to your church with a grateful heart.

Within this mailing you will also find a pledge card. The two main sources of income to this church are from tenants and your pledges. Pledging is a way of giving back to God from the abundance that God has provided. A standard for pledging is tithing, which is giving back 10% of one's income. While this much may be out of reach for some we recommend proportional giving – that is – figuring out what percentage of giving is possible whether 3%, 5%, etc. Please return your pledge card to us along with your Homecoming donation so it will be received by December 13. Rest assured that if you pledge an amount and then circumstances change, we will understand. It is just important for us to have a sense of how much we can expect in order to make a realistic Budget for 2021.

In closing, I want you to know how grateful I am for the opportunity to work alongside you these past 15 years as we attempt to extend the love of Christ to this community and the world. In our own ways we help bring God's realm of peace and justice closer to fruition.

Peace,

The Rev. Evan Thayer, Rector

Church of St. Augustine & St. Martin Financial Pledge for 2021

In gratitude for God's blessings, and as an expression of my/our personal commitment to the parish and the Church's work, I make the following pledge to the financial support of Church of St. Augustine & St. Martin

I/we pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the church for the coming year as one aspect of my/our spiritual discipline.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like weekly pledge envelopes

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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