



ST. THADDAEUS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7 November 2011

Dear Family of St. Thaddaeus:

As we come to the close of our liturgical year approaching Christ the King Sunday we find ourselves in a time of thanksgiving and reflection of all God's blessings in our lives, both personally and as a church family. As Episcopalians we are a people accustomed to giving thanks as a community which finds deep meaning in the Eucharist, our Great Thanksgiving. Over the last several weeks we have focused on feasting on the gratitude we have for the abundance of God's providence in our personal lives and our community. This giving thanks and reflecting on our blessings is part of the process of preparing for what God is calling us to do in the coming year, and our ministries are some of the ways we show the world that Christ is our King. This is the fruit of the vineyard that God has entrusted to our care. So in proclaiming Christ as our King we have given our time, our talent, and our financial resources generously to support our ministry efforts here at St. Thaddaeus' and throughout our region. God takes these resources entrusted to our care that we offer for mission and ministry and multiplies them like the feast of the Loaves and Fishes. It is through your offerings and God's blessings that the world around us is able to feast on the gratitude that we have for God's gracious abundance. I personally give thanks to God and to you all for the faithfully grateful and enduring response of our church family in our call to reach out to one another and to those outside our community with the love of Christ. It is a blessing to be a part of a loving and accepting community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel through mission and outreach in Christ's name!

We now are preparing for how God is calling St. Thaddeaus' to move in mission and ministry in our community and beyond in 2012. Through our faithful response God continues to call us to reach more and more people with Christ's love to further establish Christ's kingdom. This is the reason for this letter, to encourage each of us to reflect, pray, and prepare for how we each are called to support Christ's ministries through our church community keeping the feast of gratitude.

We have enclosed a Commitment Card for you to consider how you can give a portion back to God from the blessings of your financial resources. To assist you in discerning your financial commitment we have included: a Commitment Card, an informative letter from our Treasurer and Stewardship Ministries Chair, a St. Thaddaeus' Ministry Opportunities booklet, a collection of reasons why people give to the ministries of St. Thaddaeus', and a return envelope. We will collect these Commitment Cards on November 20, Christ the King Sunday, and place them on the altar at Eucharist that day as a symbol of Christ truly being the Lord and King of our lives. As you pray and discern how to share your gifts remember the words of St. James, "*Every good and perfect gift comes from above.*" May God bless you and the family of St. Thaddaeus' as we continue to grow in faith together proclaiming Christ's love with all that we are and all that we have feasting on the gratitude of God's abundance.

In Christ,