

Maximizing contributions to St. Thomas/St. John!

Although the personal exemption was eliminated by the new federal tax law, the standard deduction was nearly doubled. It's now \$12,000 for single people and \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly. While the charitable deduction was left unchanged, your ability to claim the charitable contribution deduction may depend on whether you have enough other itemized deductions to exceed the standard deduction.

If you cannot itemize, there are two ways you can maximize your donations to St. Thomas/St. John:

Charitable rollovers from an IRA

Many parishioners are making direct distributions from their IRAs. If done correctly, the income won't be added to taxable income and you can make an impactful gift to support the many parish ministries.

Donor-advised funds

With this technique, you can make a large contribution in one tax year to establish or add to a donor-advised fund. If the gift is large enough, you may be able to itemize deductions that year. In subsequent years, when your deductible expenses are not large enough to itemize, you can ask the donor-advised fund administrator to make a distribution to a favorite charity, thereby continuing your support to it. Donor-advised funds are relatively inexpensive to establish and maintain.

For details, please email parish administrator Keith Tharp at keith@elcatholics.org or call Keith at 517-337-9778.