

Stewardship 2012 Frequently Asked Questions

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is our response to God's grace and moves us from grace to gratitude. Just as we love because God first loved us, we give because God first gave to us. Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

How much should I pledge as part of my Stewardship commitment?

There is not a certain number that can answer that question. Stewardship depends on the combination of time, talent, and treasure that a family is able to give depending on their particular circumstances. Nonetheless, in deciding what to pledge, some families find it helpful to know what others contribute financially. At Holy Trinity, the average pledge amount (excluding the Capital Campaign, second collections, donations for candles) was \$1,178 in 2011. This average pledge represents an over seven year trend of continued increases in the average pledge at Holy Trinity. We are thankful for our parishioners' continued increase in their generosity.

What does my pledge cover?

Your pledge covers the daily operation of our Holy Trinity parish. Specifically, the pledge is for keeping in touch with our parish family, for maintaining our buildings, for those who serve us, for worship and education and for supporting our national ministries. It does not cover candle offerings, the Capital Campaign or special offerings that are requested from time to time for various projects or charities.

How much does the parish need to operate?

Based on our 2012 budget, Holy Trinity will need \$503,900 for operating expenses in 2012. This averages out to approximately \$1,380 a day to operate.

What is the Archdiocese assessment on the pledge form?

Holy Trinity pays a yearly Archdiocese assessment. We include this amount on the pledge form for members of our Parish family to be aware of in making their pledge. The Archdiocese assessment helps to maintain the unity of our Church and people and to spread the Word of God by supporting our national ministries. The ministries include: the Orthodox Observer, the Archdiocese Website, Religious education, Hellenic College, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. More importantly, it connects us to our authentic faith by providing a link to the ancient Apostolic Church.

How can I give?

In whatever manner suits you best. You may give weekly, monthly or according to your own schedule. You can give via check, a donation of publicly traded securities, or through online giving available via the Church website.

Are there fees associated with online giving?

There are fees associated with giving by credit card or debit card. There are no fees for online giving via electronic check when using your routing number and account number. We ask that you consider giving via your checking account for Holy Trinity to avoid any fees.

Why is the 2012 Stewardship goal a 10% increase in pledging families and average pledged amount?

Simply put, to meet the budget set for 2012, we need to increase both the number of pledging families by 10% and the average pledged amount by 10%. A 10% increase to the average pledge equals just \$2.25 per week per family, but, when applied across all pledges and counting the increased number of pledges, results in almost \$70,000 for 2012.

What did I give last year?

This amount was listed on the statements that were mailed in October. If you need a statement, please contact the Church office to have one mailed to you.

Does pledging make me a member in good standing?

Not in and of itself. The Archdiocese defines a member in good standing as one who is Canonically Baptized and Chrismated; 18 Years of Age or over; lives according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith; faithfully attends Divine Liturgy and participates in the sacraments; contributes toward the progress of the sacred mission of the Church; remains current in stewardship obligation to the Church (the priest may waive this under special circumstances); and cooperates in every way towards the well-being of the parish. The Archdiocese recognizes factors negating good standing including affiliation with an Orthodox parish which defies the jurisdiction or ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese; membership in or practice of a non-Orthodox faith or other religion; and deliberately disregarding & transgressing the moral law of the Church.

Do I need to fill out a pledge form every year?

Yes. We cannot assume that each parishioner's information, including their address and their commitment of time, talent and treasure, will remain the same as in past years. We need updated information to effectively communicate with all of our parishioners. Also, our expenses grow each year and we hope and pray that our parishioners will continue to increase their pledges as they have in the past.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact John Demos or a member of the Stewardship Ministry.