

Understanding Stewardship:

Stewardship: The careful and responsible management of resources entrusted to one's care.

As Christian believers, we accept God as our Creator, Lover and Ruler of all that we are and have.

He is our God and we are His people- a two-way commitment or covenant (just like a marriage covenant). He takes care of us in this life and brings us to live with Him eternally.

Return to God His own Gifts: “No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which he Lord, God has bestowed on you.” (Deut. 16:10, 16-17)

Proportionate Giving: The Old Testament laid down the standard of giving a tithe (10% of one's income) back to God. This provides us with the example: giving should be in proportion to our income. Stewardship is returning to God a fair proportion of the resources He has given to us. The more we are given, the more is expected of us. “Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.” (Lk. 12:48)

Giving Regularly: St. Paul tells us: “On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with this income” (1 Cor. 16:2).

Each parish asks that their members indicate their intention to tithe or regularly support the church. This is a prayerful decision to dedicate a premeditated amount to the local parish over the year. This is not a legally binding contract, but a promise or intention to give, excepting in severe circumstances. Each member's pledge helps the Priest and church council to make plans for the upcoming year and set the budget.

Supporting the Church should be a priority for every Orthodox Christian and performed on a regular and consistent basis.

Consider how your expenditures on personal entertainment compare with your Stewardship pledge. Is your Stewardship simply a token donation, or are you giving to God out of His provision to you?