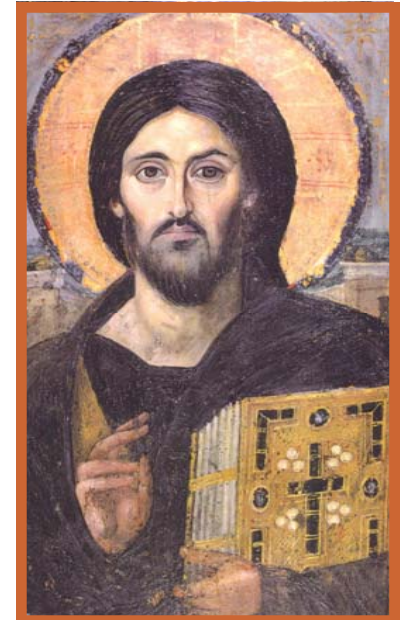


ST. PAUL'S STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



*In all things,
give thanks*

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

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How Do I Make a Stewardship Commitment?

Stewardship pledges are made for a calendar year by completing and signing a Stewardship Pledge Form. Parishioners are asked to fulfill their pledges by December 31st of the year for which they pledge. Please complete, sign and return the stewardship Pledge Form (attached to this form) to the parish office or drop it in the Sunday offering basket. If you need to revise your pledge anytime during the year for any reason, you may send a note or place a call to the parish office.

Thank You!

Thank you for your participation, love and financial support of the important Stewardship Ministry of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church. Together, we can continue Christ's mission for us here on Earth **to spread the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously, will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:6-7

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church Annual Christian Stewardship Pledge Form

Giving Plan for _____ (PRINT FAMILY NAME HERE) Pledge # _____ (if known)

Suggested annual pledge: 3% of Gross Household Income

Please accept my/our pledge of \$ _____ for year _____
I/we agree to pledge the amount stated above (please print clearly).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone # _____ (____) _____ Email: _____

Signature _____

3% Giving Guideline

Salary of:	Annually	Monthly
\$ 20,000	\$ 600	\$ 50
\$ 30,000	\$ 900	\$ 75
\$ 40,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 100
\$ 50,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 125
\$ 60,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 150
\$ 70,000	\$ 2,100	\$ 175
\$ 80,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 200
\$ 90,000	\$ 2,700	\$ 225
\$ 100,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 250

ParishPay contributor

Stewardship at St. Paul's



“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

Stewardship: What Does This Mean?

The classic definition of stewardship is “to take care of someone else’s property; to manage the property of another.” When we refer to stewardship, we usually think of finances, money, checks, tax deductions, etc. Our Christian beliefs about stewardship, however, begin with Jesus Christ. We are His Church, His Body. He commanded us to spread the Good News - and He left it to us with the help of the Holy Spirit. We are entrusted to take care of God’s property – including each other. The most wonderful part of such an immense task is that He also managed to give us all the necessary tools and instructions to accomplish this mighty task. What we do with what we have makes a difference.

What Is A Tithe?

The Jews were commanded by the Mosaic Law to return a portion of all their belongings to God. That portion was one-tenth. The term “tithe” literally translates to “tenth.” We as believing and committed Orthodox Christians no longer follow the guideline of a tithe, but instead, **Jesus asks much more of us than one-tenth.**

What Does Jesus Say?

It’s very clear that Jesus spoke about our money and our possessions more than any other topic during His ministry. Seventeen of our Lord’s thirty-eight parables were devoted specifically to wealth and possessions, and many others were meant to teach us about how to live as His stewards. We continually find the message of stewardship, **giving back, and honoring God with everything that we are and everything that we have**, throughout the Gospels. Many beloved Gospel teachings, while not directly addressing wealth, clearly refer to our giving thanks, such as the return of the Prodigal Son and the healing of the 10 Lepers (only one tenth returned to give thanks when all should have). **In this sense, stewardship is an act of worship!** There is a vital link between our wealth and possessions, and the

health of our souls. Jesus’ message is consistent and clear. How we handle our many blessings from Him, especially our money, defines how we are doing with what is really important—faith, hope and love for God and neighbor. **Where we invest our treasure on Earth speaks volumes about where our “hearts” are.**

How Much Am I Asked To Give?

God has no need for our money; clearly, He wants our hearts! When we have committed our hearts to Him, our Treasures, Time and Talents truly flow freely within His Body, the Church. When we experience the love and mercy of God in our lives, we realize that giving is no longer an obligation, but **giving in His Name truly becomes a privilege.** Jesus commands us to give in proportion to what we were already given. We are asked to give all we can. *Let not moth and rust form on our earthly treasures, but rather, let us use them for His purposes* – that is how we build heavenly treasures and work out our salvation in fear and trembling. We are asked by the Lord Jesus to give all we can of ourselves... Are you?

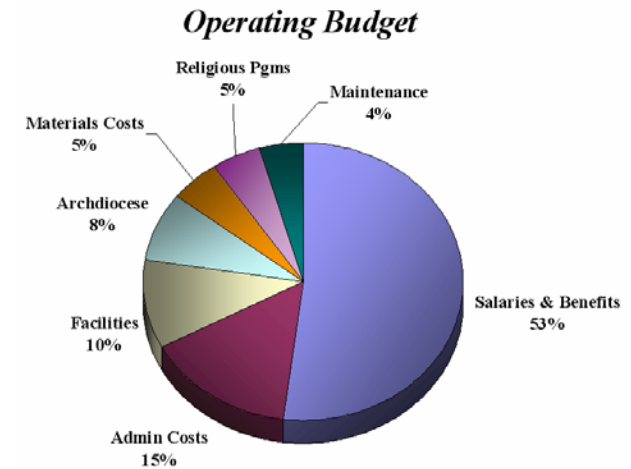
St. Paul’s 3% Giving Plan

While Jesus asks us to give all we can to the measure of what we have already been given, the stewardship committee here at St. Paul’s has suggested a **stewardship giving guideline of 3% of Gross Household Income (GHI)**. Although this amount is far less than the 10% tithe, and much less than Jesus’ command, pledging a gift of 3% of GHI by all St. Paul’s members will enable our church’s operating expenses to be fully funded by pledges. Historically, our stewardship gifts received have not met the budgetary demands to operate our church; we are forced to use much of the proceeds of our Special Fundraising events, such as the Greek Festival and the Golf Tournament, just to pay our bills. A 3% (or more) gift by all church members will fully fund our church operations and liberate the proceeds of our Special Fundraising events to grow our Orthodox Christian family - and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ here in Orange County and throughout the world. 3% Giving is also a fair and balanced way for all members to give in accordance with their means and automatically adjusts to changes in position as well as inflation. **In wage terms, this amounts to slightly over 1 hour of wage income per week in a pledged gift to St. Paul’s.** Is this too much to ask? Can I afford to give that much? Can I afford not to pledge such a gift anymore?

Why 3%?

We have studied our church’s expenses over many years of operation and compared them to the consistent shortfall in stewardship pledges over the same period. We also looked closely at the demographics of Orange County. When we look further at our parish’s demographics, we are able to determine the median household incomes for each zip code in which a church member lives, and then aggregate the income of all the zip codes (the stewardship team knows of no one’s actual income). Over the same period, we were able to determine that our annual expenses have very closely correlated with 3% of the aggregate household income of member zip codes. Therefore, if every member can pledge a gift of 3% of their Gross Household Income, St. Paul’s can exist and fully operate solely on stewardship pledges alone without the need to redirect the proceeds of special fundraisers to pay operating bills. This enables our special fundraising efforts to fund organic growth of our Orthodox Christian family.

Where Does It Go?



Why Sign a Pledge?

A signed pledge is your commitment to financially support the operations of St. Paul’s church. It is not a legal document or a binding contract with the church. It is an expression of love and your financial commitment to support the work of the Church. A signed pledge enables our church to plan for its intended revenues in order to budget our operations accordingly and judiciously.