



Christ the Sower sows the word of God

CHRIST THE SOWER

The parable of the Sower, speaks of spreading the word of God to all types of people. The good ground on which the seed falls is receptive to the Lord and multiplies a hundredfold. Our heart is the ground and the center of our being and our spiritual life. Saint Paul writes that "the word of God is living and powerful...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

BEARING FRUIT

WITNESS AND SERVICE

The Stewardship Ministry theme for this year is "Bearing Fruit: Witness and Service." As Orthodox Christians we all want our Church to bear fruit through witnessing and serving Christ. You have the privilege to become a sower, together with Christ, by assisting in sowing God's word through your Stewardship Commitment or pledge. The seed you help sow can multiply a hundredfold for the glory of God and our Church.

SCRIPTURE ON STEWARDSHIP

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 the Lord, God has bestowed on you." (Deut. 16:10, 16-17)

Proportionate Giving

The Old Testament laid down the standard of the tithe or 10% of one's income. This provides us with the principle that giving should be in proportion with 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) Stewards determine what percentage of their income will be committed to Christ and the Church for this year.



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 his income." (1 Cor. 16:2) Every Sunday we should be prepared to make our Stewardship contribution to the Church in accordance with the Lord's generosity to us personally. 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 is your Stewardship pledge a meaningful partnership with Jesus, the "Sower, who went out to sow His seed," to all people?

MONEY ENABLES MINISTRY

Money is a necessary tool for ministry. The Church's mission of salvation and evangelism depends directly on your generosity, which supports your Parish, Metropolis and Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan National Ministries develop programs which are an indispensable means of reaching all people for Christ "with the word of God."

MINISTRY RESOURCES BUDGET

The St. George Cathedral operating budget for the upcoming calendar year will be \$400,000. Our Stewardship giving should support all the Parish Ministries and the entire operating budget. Presently, it covers just 60%.

We should not depend on special affairs to meet our budget. The growth of our Faith and its dissemination is our own personal responsibility. Stewardship places the responsibility where it belongs, directly upon us.

Your Stewardship is vital to our Church to:

- Keep in Touch With You
- Maintain our Buildings
- Cover Our Expenses
- Worship and Educate
- Support the National Church

YOUR STEWARDSHIP



In making a decision, you should keep in mind that the expenses of our Parish and the Church increase every year. In order to meet our expenses and grow in ministry, stewards should strive to increase their

commitment annually.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Your Stewardship Commitment is kept in confidence. Jesus taught us that giving should be done quietly, generously and out of the sight of others. If you wish to revise your commitment during the year for any reason, you may notify the Church Office indicating your intention.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP GIVING

You may remit your commitment in the manner that suits you best. Since small regular contributions are easier to manage, it is suggested that your contribution be calculated on a weekly basis.

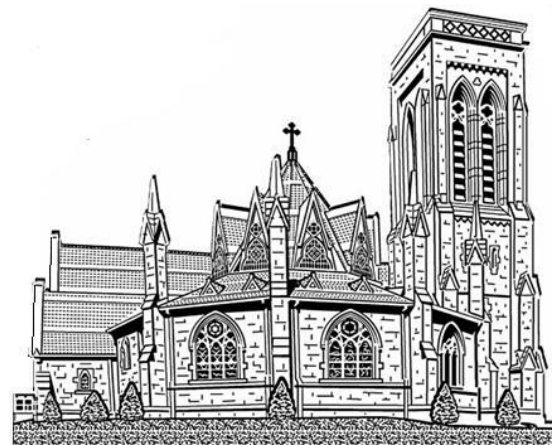
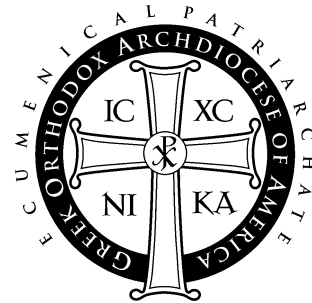
STEWARDS ARE PARISHIONERS IN GOOD STANDING

The Stewardship Commitment or pledge qualifies husband and wife for married couples and single adults as Stewards. Family members over 18 years of age, who are employed, should make their own Stewardship Commitment.

Stewards, assuming they are in good canonical order, are considered parishioners in good standing with the Parish and may vote and seek elective office in the administration of the Parish as provided in the Archdiocesan Regulations.

NEW STEWARDS

Orthodox Christians who wish to become parishioners in good standing must become Stewards of St. George Cathedral by filling out the form on the following page and by making a sacrificial donation toward a year of stewardship. A good rule of thumb for a first-time member is to contribute on a monthly basis approximately 1% of net income.



**St. George Cathedral
22 St. George Road
Springfield, MA 01104
413-737-1496**

New Member Stewardship Pledge Form

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Religion _____ Spouse's Religion _____

Minor Children's Names & Birth Dates:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Birth Date	Name	Birth Date	Name	Birth Date
Address _____		City _____		State _____ Zip Code _____	
Telephone(____) _____		E-mail 1 _____		E-mail 2: _____	
Occupation _____		Spouse's Occupation _____			
Business Phone _____		Spouse's Business Phone _____			
Retired ____		Spouse is Retired ____			

Please help St. George reach its stewardship goal of \$275,000 by pledging:

\$2,000 \$1,500 \$1,000 \$800 \$500 \$400 Other: \$ _____

Your participation – not only your pledge – is what keeps this community alive. Please consider strongly how you could contribute to the life of our community in the coming year.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an advisor/helper for GOYA | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on committees as needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve in the Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Make prosfora (holy bread) for liturgies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an advisor/helper for JOY | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach or assist with Sunday School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach or assist with Greek School | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint or do minor maintenance work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone youth trips/activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with mailing of <i>The Apostle</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls for various events | <input type="checkbox"/> Help on Church communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize the Glendi | <input type="checkbox"/> Work at the Glendi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help in the Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Help clean the church (spring)(fall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give transportation to the elderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Welcome Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Orthodox Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in the office when needed |

My talent is: _____

I think I could contribute in this way:
