

SHOULD I INCREASE MY STEWARDSHIP FOR 2011?

In making this decision, keep in mind that as our community grows, the operating expenses of our Church increase every year. In general, each Steward should strive to increase his or her pledge annually to help grow our ministries and cover our operating expenses. This is especially important in 2011, because we have requested a full time priest and are starting the construction of our church. We need to cover the operating budget with our Stewardship pledges so all fundraising can go to the building Fund.

CHEERFUL GIVING

St. Paul tells us that each of us should give from our heart, not reluctantly or out of obligation, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

YOUR GIFT OF LOVE

You may remit your pledge in the manner that suits you best. Regular stewardship contributions are easier to manage and keep the Church and her ministries in our thoughts and plans. "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his/her income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). In this way, we offer back to God the "first fruits" of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Your Stewardship Pledge is kept in confidence by your priest and treasurers. Jesus taught us that giving should be done quietly, generously, and out of sight of others.

Stewards are highly encouraged to submit a pledge card by March 1st, as the pledge card allows us to plan and operate the parish ministries and designate you as an official steward of the parish.

As per the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR), ARTICLE 18: "...a parishioner in good standing must: be eighteen years of age or over; be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish; abide by all the UPR regulations and the Parish Bylaws; and cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well being of the Parish..."

MY STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

"How can I thank God for my many blessings?" Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity.

Breaking the \$2,000 Pledge Barrier:

- *About \$5 per day*
- *Less than \$40 per week*



Gather My People to My Home COME AND SEE



Philip brings Nathaniel to Christ, telling him "Come and See."

2011 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

SAINT ANNA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archimandrite George Nikas, Interim Pastor

Liturgical Services at:
Allerton United Methodist Church
104 Allerton Road and Route 31 South,
Annandale, NJ 08801
Tel.: (908) 782-9741
Pastor's Cell Phone: (732) 232-1036
Web: www.StAnnaGOC.org



In the Gospel according to John we read of the calling of the disciples...Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see" (John 1:45-46).

Each of us is also called to "Come and See" the One who brings us peace and understanding. Jesus is the One who came to be our great example in life.

SEE THE WORLD

AS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU

"Come and See" God's many blessings in your life. What is your response to His gifts? In gratitude and thanksgiving, you offer your time, talents and treasure in proportion to what He has given to you.

Our Stewardship commitment of "Time, Talent and Treasure" represents our commitment to the continued success of our Saint Anna Parish, Metropolis and Archdiocese.

COME AND SEE

This phrase is simple yet powerful. It calls us to change our location – physically and spiritually. If we want to find Christ, we must move toward Him. We must grow and mature in our faith. We have a God-given opportunity to give to the Church. It is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It is an opportunity to participate in the work of God.

Why is Stewardship extra important for our parish?



...Because we are building our future...our Church.

It is through the committed contributions of parishioners that our Parish is able to thrive. Without your strong stewardship commitment and fulfillment, we would be unable to consistently plan and therefore provide the services that make our community an Orthodox Christian Church.

With stewardship support let's **COME AND SEE** what we can do together.

STEWARDSHIP

It will cost approximately **\$200,000** to operate our Parish in 2011. Our current challenge is our significant reliance on fundraising to pay for operational necessities, rather than to support our new building plans. The planned budget anticipates that our Stewardship giving will provide only **48%** of the total operating expenses. In practice, our Stewardship giving should support **100%** of the Parish Ministries and the entire operating budget.

We should not have to depend on fundraising to meet our budget – for this is our personal responsibility. Stewardship makes us – the parishioners – accountable. Since we are the recipients of God's gifts, we should actively participate in spreading Christ's work of salvation.

YOUR PLEDGE

Approximately 100 steward families are responsible for the 2011 operating budget, which can be fully met with an average pledge of **\$2,000** per steward family. However, we recognize that some families may not be able to afford this pledge while many others can afford much more. Those who can give more help those who can't.

Why is this so important? The closer the average pledge is to **\$2,000**, the sooner we can afford a fulltime Priest and build our Church.

Why? Because, if we can fully cover our operating expenses through stewardship, all the fundraising efforts can be directed toward our building fund. **It's a win-win for all of us.**