

## **SCRIPTURES ON STEWARDSHIP**

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### **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 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)

## **MONEY ENABLES MINISTRY**

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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 Saints Peter & Paul operating budget for fiscal year 2009 is about \$240,000. Our Stewardship giving should support **all the Parish Ministries and the**

**entire operating budget.** Therefore each of our approximately 200 families would need to commit an average pledge of \$1,200 for the 2009 stewardship year.

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:

- ◆ Worship and Educate
- ◆ Keep in Touch With You
- ◆ Maintain our Building
- ◆ Provide for Those Who Serve Us
- ◆ Support the National Church
- ◆ Outreach to Those in Need

## **YOUR 2009 STEWARDSHIP**

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Jesus taught us that giving should be done quietly, generously and out of the sight of others; your Stewardship Commitment is kept in confidence. If the need arises to lower your commitment during the year for reason of financial difficulties, you may contact Father Anastasios.

It is not required that you make an offering along with your commitment. Stewards can make their offerings, weekly, monthly annually or at any interval that is convenient. Everyone is asked to prayerfully consider how important our parish is to his or her life. **Please consider one of the following Stewardship offering plans to keep our parish alive and well in 2009:**

### **Proportionate Giving Plan**

While tithing (giving 10% before taxes as prescribed in the Bible) is a lofty goal, each family is asked to consider a Proportionate Giving level. Individually, take your household annual income (before taxes), divide this number by 100 and multiply by the appropriate percentage. If we could each accommodate a 2% level, (just 2 cents of every dollar) we could make significant strides towards our goal of being a True Stewardship parish. Giving back to God 2 cents out of every dollar He has blessed us with is a minimum that we hope you consider.

The following chart is provided to assist you when considering the 2% Proportionate Giving Plan:

| <u>Income</u>   | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Annually</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| \$25,000 .....  | \$10 .....    | \$42 .....     | \$500           |
| \$50,000 .....  | \$19 .....    | \$84 .....     | \$1000          |
| \$75,000 .....  | \$29 .....    | \$126 .....    | \$1,500         |
| \$100,000 ..... | \$38 .....    | \$168 .....    | \$2,000         |
| \$125,000 ..... | \$48 .....    | \$210 .....    | \$2,500         |

### **\$100 Per Month Giving Plan**

If you want to simply be a \$100 per month Steward, we encourage you to contact your bank to schedule automatic bill pay service, which will deliver your Stewardship offering check to the church via U.S. Mail each month for the entire year. If you require assistance to set this up, please contact us for assistance. Note that by 2010, other options will be made available, such as bank transfer and credit card payment.

Imagine the renewal and revitalization of our parish and her ministries if we could achieve this proportional giving towards God and His Church!

### **PARISHIONERS IN GOOD STANDING**

A Stewardship Commitment (pledge) qualifies husband and wife for married couples and single adults as stewards. Family members over 18 years of age, who are employed, must make their own Stewardship Commitment.

Stewards who are considered parishioners in good standing with the Parish have completed and submitted a 2009 Commitment Card and have fulfilled their 2008 commitments. Stewards in good standing may participate in the parish ministries, vote and seek elective office in the parish.

### **NEW STEWARDS**

Orthodox Christians, who wish to become parishioners in good standing in our Parish, may become Stewards of Saints Peter and Paul by contacting the Church Office for information and making a Stewardship Commitment for the current year.



## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

**Office of Parish Development**

# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2009

·MIRACLE OF LOAVES AND FISH·



*Christ Multiplies our Gifts*

## **PROPORTIONATE GIVING TO KEEP OUR CHURCH ALIVE**

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