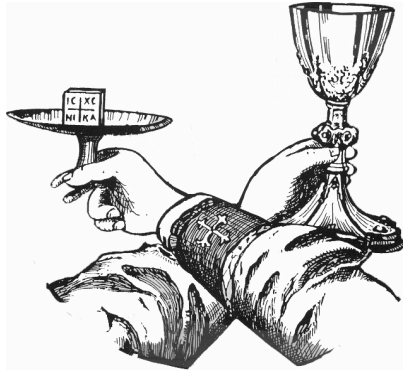


Christ is asking for your Stewardship toward His Church



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

We offer ourselves and all creation to the Lord at every Divine Liturgy with the words, "*Your own gifts, of Your own, we offer to You.*" We acknowledge that everything we offer to God is a gift from Him. We take what God has given to us and we return it to Him as an act of our thanksgiving and praise.

As stewards of God's gifts, we return to Him a portion of our time, talents and treasures for Christ's work on earth through His Church.

The Christian Stewardship Program is an opportunity to respond to Christ's love by perpetuating His ministry through the Church. Stewardship places the responsibility to support the Church exactly where it belongs, on us. Let us offer then from the goods He has given us back to Him: "*Your own gifts, of Your own, we offer to You.*"

***Our Church needs our financial support.
Let us offer from the gifts God has given us.***

How much should I offer to the Church in order to support the work of God?

Proportionate giving involves two things. Firstly, that our level of giving rises out of our level of income. Secondly, that giving out of thanks will involve sharing a portion of that income for God's work.

We should ask ourselves "what is a worthy level to determine my Stewardship?" The Bible gives much guidance by teaching us that direct giving to God and His work should be proportionate to our income, wealth and possessions. Each person is to give according to his or her own ability.

The Old Testament laid down the standard by asking for a percentage of one's income. This provides for us the principle that giving should be in proportion to our income. Each Steward should determine what percentage of his or her income will be committed to Christ and the Church for 2005.

We should consider what we spend on cable television, holidays, pets, dining out, sports events, vacations and so on. How do these compare with our giving for God's work?

We should ask ourselves if our Stewardship Commitment is serious and responsible before God. Is our gift a genuine response to the Lord: "*Your own gifts, from Your own gifts, we offer unto you?*"

Offer your Stewardship each Sunday. Family members over 18 years of age, who are employed, should make their own Stewardship Commitment.

Participation in the Christian Stewardship Program allows each Greek Orthodox Steward to vote and to seek elective office in the administration of the parish as provided in the Archdiocesan and Parish By-laws.