

Stewardship- A Way of Life

2012 ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PROGRAM

Saint Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church

Dear Parishioners,

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our lives, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

Our parish has made much progress since its founding in 1993. We have grown to provide a major spiritual and cultural presence in Houston. We have built a beautiful House of God in which we worship and pray. We have developed a thriving, energetic, Christian community. As God has accomplished great things at St. Basil, greater things still are ahead. Your stewardship is your affirmation of faith in the future of St. Basil as a brilliant example of Christian life on earth.

We know from St. Paul's letter to James that faith without works is empty, dead. He instructs us that a true faith *causes* us to devote ourselves to God from the abundance of His blessings. We ask you to participate in the growth of His Church, thanking God for His graces and generosity that have been bestowed upon us, and giving of your time, your effort, and your resources. The question is not, "How much should I give to be a member?" but "What can I do to make God's Church thrive?"

Before completing and mailing the enclosed Commitment Form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Our budget for 2012 is to spend a total of \$1,352,235, of which ongoing expenses are \$871,935, or about \$2,300 per day. Based on the income which is reflected in our budget, our goal is to raise \$348,000 from stewardship pledges alone. In order to achieve that with 200 families, we all need to pledge at least \$1,740. This breaks down to a little over \$4.75 a day. If you think you can do more, then by all means do so. If not, then offer with conscience. In addition to monetary resources, we also need the time and talents of your parishioners. No offer is too small or too big and they are all of equal importance.

“But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing” (James 1:25)

Yours in Christ,

Petros Skoumpourdis

Stewardship Chairman

**2012 COMMITMENT FORM
STEWARD INFORMATION**

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Child / Age: _____

Child / Age: _____

Child / Age: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2012 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

In gratitude for God's blessings and after prayerful consideration, I/we make the following commitment to St. Basil's stewardship program for 2012:

_____ ½ day's expenses (\$1,120) _____ 1 day's expenses (\$2,240) _____ 2 days' expenses (\$4,480)

_____ 1 week's expenses (\$15,680) _____ Other (\$ _____)

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

If you wish to pay your stewardship pledges by credit card, please provide the information requested

below. When paying by credit card, please keep in mind that up to 2% of your payment is collected by the credit card companies as a fee.

Type of card (circle one): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please charge my card in the following manner (circle one): Quarterly One-Time

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

I would also like to help our parish as follows (check all that apply):

Bible Study Youth Groups Vacation Bible School Thursday Spaghetti
Lunch Sunday School Greek Language School Choir/Chanters Visit
Sick/Elderly Newsletter Fundraising Greek Festival Altar
 Greek Dancing Office Work Construction Mechanical
 Computer program/set up Website

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our parishioners have donated icons, furnishings and other items (from an approved list) in addition to their stewardship commitment. There are still many opportunities available. Please see a member of the Growth and Development Committee for more information regarding specific donations.