

STEWARDSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is our personal offering to God from the bounty of our time, talent and treasure. Stewardship is based on the Bible and it acknowledges that everything we have is from the Lord. Therefore, our personal offering is how we return to God a portion of our time, talent and treasure for Christ's work to continue.

We pray in the Divine Liturgy, "Your own gifts, of Your own, we offer to You." Our Stewardship commitment fulfills this prayer when we fulfill our personal pledge as stewards.

2. Why have we adopted stewardship at Saint George Trenton?

Because stewardship, unlike the antiquated dues system, is scripturally based, Orthodox and Christ-centered!

3. How do I determine my Stewardship offering or pledge?

By sincerely asking yourself how much you love Christ and your own parish of Saint George. When prayerfully considering all the blessings we receive daily from the Lord and His Church, we should be as generous as He.

The Bible guides us to give in proportion to our ability. The Old Testament set the standard of tithing or offering 10% of our first fruits. In the New Testament, Jesus cites the example of the poor widow who gave all that she had to God.

4. What does "*Transition Year*" mean?

It means that we are in the process of changing from a **dues** structure for meeting our financial obligations to **Stewardship Offering** structure for meeting our financial obligations. In the year 2008 you have the option of selecting to be a Steward of the Church or remaining with the dues option. **During the transition year we are requiring that the Stewardship Offering be an amount in excess of the normal dues amount.**

5. Will we always have the option to select between Stewardship and dues?

No. This option is only available for the year 2008. In 2009 we will all be on Stewardship.

6. Will we continue to pass trays in Church?

During the transition year (2008) we will continue to pass trays in Church because not everyone will be on stewardship. If you are on stewardship you have the option of putting your stewardship envelope in the tray or mailing it in to the Church.

7 Will we continue to have trays in 2009?

It is our goal to eliminate the passing of trays during the Divine Liturgy in the future. We will pass trays during special holidays such as Christmas and Pascha (Easter) and we will have special trays for organizations such as Choir, GOYA and Philoptohos for philanthropic reasons on occasion.

8. Will we continue to make offerings for candles?

Yes.

9. Can I pay my Stewardship Commitment in installments?

Yes. You may pay in the manner that suits you best. Smaller regular contributions may be easier to manage; therefore, you may contribute on a weekly or monthly basis. You may also contribute, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

10. What are the methods of payment?

You may pay by check, credit card, cash or automatic bank withdrawal.

11. If I am on stewardship and am paying my commitment through installments, how will it be determined if I am a parishioner (member) in good standing?

Financial Good Standing will be determined on a quarterly basis. A steward must have at least one quarter of his/her annual pledged amount fulfilled (paid) by each quarter. (25% by March 30th, 50% by June 30th, 75% by September 30th and 100% by December 31st)