WELCOME TO STEWARDSHIP

ST. KOSMAS AITOLOS ON GIVING TO GOD

Enclosed for your use are materials to guide and direct your parish towards a fruitful and meaningful stewardship program. Containing various examples in both Greek and English of "how to begin", this packet is designed for parishes new to stewardship. Inside are the following:

"Be Ye Transformed", a blue pledge card to assess giving of time, abilities, and resources. The brochure entitled **"Local Parish Brochure",** is an outline of what items to include.

Two sample Parish Brochures from St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines, IL. and Holy Trinity in Waterbury CT.

"Stewardship Commitment Program", is a description in Greek and English of the purpose of a stewardship program for use as a parish brochure.

Stewardship writings on Time, Resources, Commitment and Abilities.

If further information is needed, please contact the Department of Stewardship Ministries, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese @ (212) 570-3536.

> "It is our duty to love God because He has given us such a large earth here to live temporarily: so many thousands of plants, springs, rivers, seas, air, day, night, sky, sun, etc. For whom did He create of these if not for us? What did He owe us? Nothing. These are all gifts. He made us human beings; he didn't make us animals. He made us in His own image. Although we sin thousands of times an hour, He has compassion for us like a father, and He doesn't put us to death and place us in hell. But, He awaits for our repentance with open arms, so that He will embrace us to put us in paradise to rejoice forever. Now, shouldn't we too love this sweetest God and Master? And if there is need, to shed our blood a thousand times for His love as He shed His for our love?"

STEWARDSHIP IS MEANINGFUL USE OF GOD-GIVEN
TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES

When we give in God's name, He promises to MULTIPLY that gift. One mustard seed, tiny as it is, can yield hundred more God keeps his promise when we plant the seed.

I NEED to give. without giving, I never grow. A priest once said, "Few give until it hurts. Even fewer give giving until it feels good." Giving is

the a

"For
will

)MONITIONS OF SCRIPTURE

)LY BAPTISM

ɔ ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and he Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (St. *Matthew* ***28*****:19-20)**

)LY UNCTION

any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, inting him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord ll raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (St. James 5:14-15)

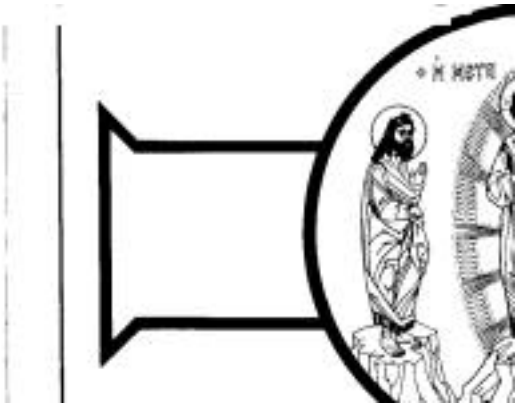
)LY SPIRIT

ıd I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide h you for ever; Ev en the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it th him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall n you." (St. *John* ***14*****:16-17)**

)RD'S PRAYER

fter this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy gdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And give us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from : for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (St. *Matthew* ***6*****:9-13)**

EWARDSHIP



"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay that there be no gatherings when I come." (/ *Corinthians*

SHOULD WE NOT FULFILL ALL ADMONITIONS?

The pledge to your Church found on the opposite page is most essential in the following areas:

1. You, as a faithful Christian, are called by God to share in the ministries of the Church.
2. God has gifted you with certain gifts and talents that He wishes you to use toward the betterment and service of the whole community.
3. Your personal life will be significantly enhanced as you exercise your privilege to offer service in Christ's vineyard.

S
T
E
W
A
STEWARDSHIP
D
S
H
I
P

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH t ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
2350 DEMPSTER STREET - PHONE 827-5519
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS 60016

... now when. all ages of time are nearing the, end, he has appeared once and for all, to remove sin through the sacrifice of Himself. Hebrews 9.26.

My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit and in this way you become My disciples. John 15.8.

To the Parents of the St. John the Baptist Parish.

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is the practice of regular giving to the Church-of time, abilities and material possessions in proportion to our means. The good steward is one whose whole life is modeled after the life of Jesus and helps manage the needs of Christ's Church

on earth. The degree to which our life is
will determine how we respond to Christian
parents have given all too much thought
being of their children, leaving out the spiri
of life. It is time to teach them of the great re
ahead in supporting their Church so that it ca
out its Christian ministry. To meet these resp
groom our children in the one thing tha
workable stability: Faith in God. This can be
Church. The Church in turn must be in a pos
work of Christ. We have to instill in our C
Christ and His Church so that they, as Christi
good witness for Christ at home, at school, a

We ask you to study this booklet with
them make a commitment. This will be the
transformation into good and faithful servan
Jesus said "well done good and faithful serva
your Lord."

Rev. Emmanuel M. Lionikis
Rev. Dean Hountelas

STEWARDSHIP

B
u
t

if you endure suffering even when you have done right, God will bless you for it was to this that God called you, for Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps. I Peter 2:21-22.