

Eternal Light Society

The Eternal Light Society was established in 2012 as an organization of all that have made a commitment to support the ongoing ministries of our Church through a planned gift. Regular meetings, luncheons, dinners, newsletters, financial planning seminars, annual artoclasia, annual memorial service and more make up the various programs and benefits of the Eternal Light Society.

Come and See

Giving to the Church is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. Giving is not a substitute for our commitment – it is an expression of our commitment. **Come And See** what we can do together with your support.

**“Come and See
the works of God,
Who is awesome”**

Psalm 66:5

Help is Available

National Stewardship Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in cooperation with the Parish Development Office, has established the Planned Giving Initiative to develop resources to guide the faithful in planning their estates according to their Orthodox Christian Faith and values.

Contact your parish priest or parish planned giving committee to receive more detailed information and resources.

Or contact

The Office of Parish Development

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Telephone 847/478-5275

E-mail JMinetos@goarch.org

or

Stewardship Ministries

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Telephone 646/519-6160

E-mail Stewardship@goarch.org



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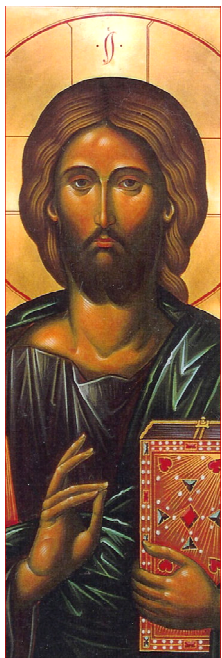
THE ETERNAL LIGHT SOCIETY

“...but lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven....”



REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH THROUGH
PLANNED GIVING

The Body of Christ



The Church is the Body of Christ on earth and carries on His ministry in the world today. Giving to the Church is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace.

For most people, the greatest financial gift we are able to give is what we leave behind when we fall asleep in the Lord.

Through a charitable gift, you can have a significant positive effect on the ministries of the Church and those people whose lives are changed because of them. The impact of your gift will be felt for years and generations to come.

A charitable gift may also give you substantial current tax benefits as well as estate tax benefits.

As you explore the ways by which you can support the ministries of the Church, please know that the staff in the church office, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese are available to assist you in any way possible.

Ways to Give

Consider making a gift in one of the following ways:

- Bequest
- Matching Gift
- Gift of Cash
- Gift of Securities
- Gift of Life Insurance
- Gift of Real Estate
- Qualified Retirement Plans
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Deferred Gift Annuity
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Remainder Trust

Americans give generously to charitable organizations in this manner. In 2009, more than \$250 billion was given by individuals through their estates.

RECIPIENTS:

- Religious Organizations: \$90 billion
- Education: \$41.6 billion

(Source: American Association of Fundraising Counsel 2009)

Planned giving can be very rewarding, allowing to you to see your gift at work while receiving tax benefits now.

The material provided here is designed to furnish our Orthodox Christian faithful with general information. It is not intended as legal or financial advice. When considering a charitable gift, be sure to consult your attorney, professional adviser or accountant to ensure that it meets your individual circumstances.

Do You Have a Will?

Though you may not want to consider preparing a will, it will save your heirs significant time and money.

With a will you also ensure that your family, charitable, and financial wishes are carried out.

Most people who prepare a will also have planning directives. These documents, known as powers of attorney, letters of instruction, and living wills provide guidance about one's wishes for:

- Medical Care consistent with your beliefs
- Tax-Advantaged & Charitable Financial Planning
- Distribution of personal property

**Live with peace of mind knowing that
your wishes will be followed...**

~ Prepare a will ~

A NOTE ON LIVING WILLS

When doing your estate planning it is common to also include a Living Will dealing with how medical care will be provided if you are unable to give the instructions yourself. The Archdiocese has arranged for an Orthodox Living Will that can be completed by you and reviewed with your family, doctor and legal advisor. For Orthodox faithful, it is important that the Living Will reflect your Orthodox Christian beliefs. There are many prayers and observances that can give great comfort to the you and your family. If you have your attorney prepare your living will, we urge you to include language that reflects your Orthodox Christian beliefs.