

Stewardship Question & Answer Sheet

How does our Stewardship program support our Parish?

Our Stewardship program funds the parish's **annual operating expenses**. Parishioners are asked to **pledge** by sacrificially giving a **proportion** of what is received through their **weekly or monthly disposable income**. Your **weekly or monthly pledge** pays for the **ongoing permanent costs** of the parish. These include:

- Rent of place of worship;
- Supports and houses a full time priest to serve our spiritual and sacramental needs;
- supports our parish activities and ministries such as Orthodox Christian Education, youth, publications, mission and evangelisation; and
- helps support our Archdiocese

Your annual pledges ensure that we can meet these costs without having to depend on adhoc fundraising activities to fund our annual operating budget.

Why do our parishioners support the annual operating budget through an annual pledge?

We would like to acknowledge that for many years now a number of our parishioners have generously supported the parish through the stewardship program. By doing so it has had many benefits:

- It encourages us to express our financial commitment in Christ centred way as expressed in the scriptures;
- It creates a predictable flow of income that allows the Parish to plan and budget for the forthcoming year without worrying whether there is enough money in the plate collection each week;
- It spreads the responsibility and accountability for the needs of the parish family so that each family/individual is truly giving according to their ability and resources; and
- It creates a more organised and transparent system.

I already place my donation in the donation box. Isn't that considered my pledge?

This is still an expression of our thanks to God. However, by making an annual pledge commitment, it allows us to better plan and budget. It also encourages us to individually reflect on our commitment over the entire year rather than on an adhoc basis.

Is giving money to the building fund the same as pledging?

The building of our Church is an exciting and significant project for our parish community. However, money donated or raised for the building fund can only be used for that purpose and not to cover the parish's operating expenses.

Money raised for the building fund is obtained through other means such as **government grants**, **parish fundraisers** and **non pledge receipts**.

The risk of directing our annual pledge to the building fund is that the parish will not be able to service its operating costs necessary to meet its spiritual needs.

How do I determine my level of giving?

The Old Testament laid down the standard of the tithe or 10% of one's income. This provides us with the **principle** that giving should be in **proportion** with our income.

After prayerful consideration it is up to each person to determine what proportion of their income will be committed to Christ and His Church.

How confidential is my stewardship pledge?

Only our treasurer has access to the stewardship records. All records are kept in the strictest confidence.