“A time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Stewardship of Time

November 27, 2019

Dear Steward,

In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, we read that there is “a time for every purpose…a time to plant, a time to reap….” Our challenge is to balance our time and energy with all the various demands that are made on it. This passage teaches us to make the most of God’s great gift of time.

The most personal, most appreciated and most unique gift that you can give is the gift of time – your time. Your precious 24 hours daily that has been given to you, by God. As Christians it is also important to value the time we spend at Church, in worship, service and activities. Every member of the Body of Christ plays a role, according to their gifts, in the life of their Home Church.

This past year, with the support of our members, many of our ministries grew due to so many of our faithful offering their time and talents. New faces were engaged in our Sunday School, Greek dance program, various fundraising activities, the new security committee and in so many other ministries. In the coming year we expect to call on you, in some way, to help us to realize the new fellowship building that is so desperately needed. The building process will be difficult, and we are all going to be committed, but the outcome is worth it. …a new Community Center to lead us for decades to come.

We ask you to support these worthy ministries. Giving to His Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. This year more than ever as we push forward into the next chapter of the Assumption’s great history and solidify the Community for the next 100 years to come. This is the year for a big leap of faith forward in all areas: stewardship of time, talent and treasure!

Before completing the enclosed Commitment Card and Information Form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Financial Stewardship should not be a burden on your family but should be “felt” as a recognized offering to God and your Church.

A check mailed to the church is most meaningful when accompanied by your presence, your willingness to serve, your prayers, and your commitment. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment and an expression of thanks for the many blessings in your life.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Cupkovic
Stewardship Chair
(216) 544-5116

Stewardship Sunday is December 15th!
(Please return your pledge to Church)
**ASSUMPTION**

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

**“ATTRACT, SERVE, ILLUMINATE”**

† Stewardship 2020 †

**FAMILY NAME:** __________________________________________ **HOME PHONE:** (___) ____________

**ADDRESS:** __________________________________________

**CITY:** __________________________ **STATE:** ___________ **ZIP:** ___________

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>FIRST NAME</td>
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**NAMES AND BIRTHDATES OF CHILDREN:**

____________________ __/__/____

____________________ __/__/____

____________________ __/__/____

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**PERCENTILE GIFTING METHOD**

A portion of His blessings are being offered back to His Church in Thanksgiving. *(for guidance, see chart on back)*

In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/we make the following commitment to our Blessed Parish for 2020.

☐ I/We would like to offer annual stewardship at the parish average of $2,155.

☐ I/We want to become a member with a pledge of $20 per week!

☐ Please list me/us among the faithful with this pledge!

Other Amount $__________  ☐ Weekly  ☐ Semi-Monthly  ☐ Monthly  ☐ Annual

☐ I/we would like to make our offerings by Electronic Fund Transfer *(ACH/EFT authorization attached)*

☐ I/we would like to make our offering with a transfer of highly appreciated stock *(explanation on back)*

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“A time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1
Everything we have comes from God - our time, our talents and our treasures. This means that our gifts that we use in our daily lives all are from God, whether it be the gift of teaching or healing, motivating or counseling, or even just walking, listening or seeing.

Stewardship is giving back to God a portion of what he has given to us. This means volunteering of our talents and time as well as our resources. According to the Old Testament, the standard is the tithe (10%). In the New Testament, the bar was raised. We are no longer called to give 10%, but our whole lives (see Trifold Brochure)!

What are we called to do? First, make a decision that is achievable, yet a true sacrifice. Second, make it official by stating your intentions with a pledge. Third, make your offering weekly so it is timely but not isn’t overwhelming.

**Pick a percentage and determine a weekly offering. Start at 2-3% and grow each year!**

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>$25,000</th>
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**WHAT IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCK?**

If you’ve held a stock for more than one year and it has risen in value, its donation to a charity, may create a charitable tax deduction for the market value of the stock, and neither you nor the charity has to pay capital-gains taxes when the stock is sold. The combination can result in a bigger deduction (and more tax savings) for you and a bigger gift for the charity than if you sell the stock, pay the taxes, and donate the net proceeds. If you would like to donate highly appreciated stock, please check the box on the front of this form and the parish’s financial advisor will contact you.

**PLEDGE OF TIME AND TALENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altar Leader</td>
<td>Greeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>HOPE/Joy Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAP Church Ambassador</td>
<td>Outreach/Evangelism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choir/Chantor</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival Volunteer</td>
<td>Prosforo Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival Chairperson</td>
<td>Philoptochos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden and Landscape</td>
<td>Sunday School Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glendi</td>
<td>Visitation Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOYA Leader</td>
<td>Worldfest Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Dance Leader</td>
<td>YAL Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School Teacher</td>
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</tbody>
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*Mark H(usband) and/or W(ife) next to each ministry*
ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
“ATTRACT, SERVE, ILLUMINATE”

AUTOMATED STEWARDSHIP GIVING
(ACH/EFT TRANSFERS)

What is ACH/EFT?
It is a paperless, Electronic Fund Transfer that goes through the Automated Clearing House and transfers funds from one bank to another. The Steward therefore chooses an automated way to exercise good financial stewardship by having his/her regular offerings electronically delivered to the church.

Benefits:
- For those who embrace stewardship as a way of life, Automated Giving for the Sunday collections provides an opportunity to keep the Church a priority when it comes to the offering of their “Stewardship of Treasures.”
- Implementing an Automated Giving strategy allows our members to be confident in the fulfillment of a pledge while allowing the parish to have better fiscal planning.
- Automated Giving is more secure than cash gifts. For example, when largely promoted, the use of Automated Giving minimizes the physical cash on hand in the parish office.

Authorization Agreement for ACH/EFT Transfers
I, ____________________________, hereby authorize The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Louisville, Kentucky, to make transfers from the following bank account as indicated below.

Amount: $___________  ○ Weekly on Monday
○ Semi-Monthly on the 1st and 15th
○ Monthly on the  ○ 1st or ○ 15th

Account Type
○ Checking
○ Savings

Bank Name: ____________________________________________________________

Bank Address: __________________________________ City, State, Zip: __________

Banking Routing #: ___________________________ Bank Account #: ___________________________

(Attach to this form a voided check or a pre-printed savings deposit ticket.)

This authorization is to remain in full force effect until the Assumption has received written notification at least five business days in advance of the desired termination date.

_________________________________________  Date: __________

(Authorized signature for above account)         (Print Name)
The Great Feast (Luke 14)
In the Gospel of Luke we read of the man who planned a great feast and invited many people. When it was time to serve the dinner, they were all too busy – one with his farm, one with his bride, another with his oxen. We can become so busy making a living that we forget to make a life. God gets crowded out of our lives over the most unimportant things.

At the first Christmas when Jesus was born, there was no room at the inn. And today we still have no room for Jesus. We crowd Him out with so many things.

In The Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis shows how the devil captures us, not by preventing encounters with God, but by whispering in our ear that we are “just too busy right now. We’ll get to that soon. But just not right now.”

Resetting Our Priorities
Just as we budget our financial resources to reflect our priorities, we can re-set our allocation of time. We are all busy, but not all of that busy time is well-spent. We may need to say no to certain demands on our time, opening our schedule to God’s prompting. We can live each day anticipating the opportunities he places in our path to offer our gift of time.

For Further Reflection…
Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The Biblical motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, “as God has prospered you.” II Corinthians 8 and 9 teach clearly, “He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” God blesses those who give with generosity.

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, “How much do I give to stay in the club?” or “What are the dues?” but “How can I thank God for my many blessings?”

The Stewardship of Time
A Time for Every Purpose
Under Heaven
Ecclesiastes 3

Stewardship Ministries
GREELK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM
www.stewardship.goarch.org | stewardship@goarch.org
“Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Psalm 90:12

The first long-term Orthodox Christian missionary priest from America to East Africa was sent by Archbishop Iakovos in mid-1980s. As he gradually assimilated into the local culture, he found the local concept of time to be a most difficult adjustment, and upon his return to America, liked to quote the Kenyans who loved to tell him, “White men have watches. We have time.”

Our brief time on earth is God’s gift. As faithful Christians, we are accountable for our stewardship of this precious gift. The American scientist, Thomas Edison said, “Time is not a commodity that can be stored for future use. It must be invested hour by hour or else it is gone forever.”

“Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow.”

Psalm 144:4

Our lifetime is a small bit of eternity, “a fleeting shadow” (Psalm 144), which we receive as stewards. Time is a precious gift that we dare not waste. Like the three stewards in the Parable of the Talents, one day God will call each one of us to give account of how we have used the time entrusted to us.

“…a time for every purpose under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is “a time for every purpose,” as the verse from Ecclesiastes instructs us, “a time to plant, a time to reap…” The challenge is to appropriately allocate our time to the various purposes that make claims on it. The passage teaches us to make the most of God’s great gift of time.

The Gift of Time

“The greatest gift I ever received,” said a young attorney, “was a gift I got one Christmas from my dad. He gave me a small box with a note inside that said, ‘Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, one hour every day after dinner. We’ll talk about what you want to talk about, go where you want to go, play what you want to play.’”

The young attorney continued, “My dad not only kept the promise of his gift, but he renewed it every year – and it’s the greatest gift I ever had in my life. I am the result of his time.”

The most personal, most appreciated and most unique gift that you can give is the gift of time – your time. That valuable 24 hours a day that only you can spend. Depending on your profession, your time may be worth hundreds of dollars an hour. But the time you give to another person and the Church is priceless.

Our children need our time, helping shape their lives by word and by example. The time we give to our children is an investment in their lives that is not wasted.

Spending Time with God

As Christians it is also important to value the time we spend at church in worship, service and activities. Every member of the Body of Christ plays a role, according to their gifts, in the life of the local church. The church is not a social club, but rather a place where people of faith gather for worship, fellowship and service.

Most importantly, we gather together in worship, praising and thanking God for the blessings in our lives and hearing His Word. Of the 168 hours in every week with which we have been blessed, we offer back the short time we spend in church on Sunday morning and other services, gathered together as the Body of Christ. We are united in prayer and united in Holy Communion. We become His hands and feet carrying out His work in the world. As we offer ourselves and our time as His Church, we are part of something much bigger than we can imagine – much bigger than the project we support, the service we provide, the prayer we offer.