



METROPOLIS  
OF ATLANTA

# Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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*For every good endowment and perfect gift is from Above,  
coming down from the Father of Lights. James 1:17*

## My Gift Back to God



2018  
STEWARDSHIP

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

*For every good and perfect gift is from Above, coming down from  
You the Father of Lights.*

*~From the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (adapted from James 1:17)*

Our Stewardship Committee has been working hard to define our stewardship campaign a bit differently than in years past. Our theme for 2018 is *My Gift Back to God*. Stewardship is not about what we give to God or His church, it is what we GIVE BACK. If we believe that everything good is from God, then we can joyfully approach our gift of stewardship as a gift back to Him. We offer to Him our time, our talent, and our treasure with thanks for all He has given to us. We invite you to consider each of these areas that you will GIVE BACK to God.

The gift of time is what we GIVE BACK to God in worship, prayer, study. The Orthodox Christian life is filled with opportunities to enhance and deepen your personal relationship with God. With your pledge form this year we have included a "Gift of Time" form with some suggestions for how you can grow closer to God with your time. We will not collect this portion of the form. Rather, keep this at home so you can be reminded of your spiritual goals for this upcoming year. Perhaps you discuss this as a family or with a trusted friend to help you keep this commitment of spiritual growth.

The gift of our talent is the skills we GIVE BACK to further the work of the church. This includes participating in the various ministries of the church.

The gift of treasure is the amount of financial resources we GIVE BACK to God to sustain the work of the church. Not only should we meet the financial needs of the church, we should exceed them, so that the church can also support Orthodox and non-Orthodox charities, both local and global.

The more we GIVE BACK to God our time, talent, and treasure as individuals and as a community, the stronger the Body of Christ - the Church - will grow. Our new vision statement is to Love God, love your neighbor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an Orthodox Christian Community. We believe that with your commitment to GIVE BACK your gifts, the more the church can be the Church Christ calls us to be—one that embodies our core values of Love, Worship, Community, Learning, and Service. It starts with your decision to GIVE BACK.

Thank you for carefully and thoughtfully reviewing the stewardship materials in this packet and on the pledge form. Please return them on Stewardship Sunday as your statement for what you will GIVE BACK this year.

With love in the Lord,  
+Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis  
Proistamenos

# Vision, Mission, & Core Values



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

*Without a vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18*

### **VISION:**

Love God, love your neighbor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an Orthodox Christian Community.

### **MISSION:**

The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is to welcome and serve people with love, truth, joy and peace, and to create an environment that encourages all to seek salvation through Orthodox Christianity.

### **CORE VALUES:**

Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

## Our Stewardship Goal

**To fund 100% of Parish ministries through  
stewardship contributions.**

This will eliminate dependence on the Greek Festival revenue and other major fundraisers to meet operating needs. Funds raised from these events may then be used for the reduction and ultimate elimination of our mortgage, upgrades to our Parish facility, and philanthropic efforts.

# Parish Needs

In order to carry out the various ministries that are integral to our Parish mission, certain costs must be incurred. These 2018 budgeted amounts reflect actual operating expenses.

Office/Church Supplies	\$48,200
Archdiocese/Metropolis Obligations	\$96,137
Buildings and Maintenance	\$186,900
Salaries and Benefits	\$356,561
Ministries	\$15,600
Charitable Contributions	\$19,000
Other	\$13,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$736,348</b>

Cost per month	\$61,362
Cost per week	\$14,160
Cost per day	\$2,017

## Parish Stewardship

Parish stewardship refers to the fiscal practice of assuring that current spending programs are affordable and sustainable over time. It also refers, in an organizational context, to the responsibility to properly utilize and develop resources, including people, property and financial assets.

On a Parish level, Stewardship:

- ♦ Enables the ministries of the church
- ♦ Molds our community into the Body of Christ
- ♦ Fulfills our Parish's vision
- ♦ Promotes Christ's Great Commission

# Our Stewardship Supports

## Local Ministries:

- ♦ Liturgical services and Sacraments
- ♦ Music ministry: Choir, Chanters
- ♦ Sunday School
- ♦ Adult Catechism: Bible Study, Small groups, Orthodoxy 101, Parish retreats
- ♦ Parish bookstore
- ♦ Youth Ministry: GOYA, HOPE/JOY, Altar Boys, Junior Olympics
- ♦ Young Adult Ministry
- ♦ Cultural & social programs
- ♦ Young at Heart



## Church Communications:

The Messenger - our monthly publication, church website, Prayer Team, mailings, livestreaming of services

## Outreach Ministries:

Philothonos, Community Outreach, Visitation of the Sick, Food Pantry, Welcoming Ministry, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (College Ministry)

## National Ministries:

- ♦ Archdiocese & Metropolis Ministries
- ♦ Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary

## Charities:

- ♦ LifePath Hospice
- ♦ IOCC – International Orthodox Christian Charities
- ♦ St. Basil's Academy
- ♦ Matthew 25 – Homeless Ministry
- ♦ OCPM – Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

## Parish Support:

- ♦ Personnel
- ♦ Utilities, grounds & maintenance
- ♦ Facility repairs





# Personal Stewardship

Personal stewardship refers to an individual's responsibility for taking care of another person's property or financial affairs. Stewardship is a way of life for Orthodox Christians. It is the means by which we sustain and grow both our personal spirituality as well as the work of our church. We do this in three ways:

## *Time*

**The amount of time we GIVE BACK to God for personal spiritual growth. This includes worship in church, daily prayer, reading of scripture, study of the faith, and yearly confession.**

## *Talent*

**The skills we GIVE BACK to further the work of the church. This includes participating in the various ministries of the church.**

## *Treasure*

**The amount of financial resources we GIVE BACK to God to sustain the work of the church. Not only should we meet the financial needs of the church, we should exceed them, so that the church can also support Orthodox and non-Orthodox charities, both local and global.**

## **Becoming a steward will:**

- Strengthen your faith and commitment to Christ.
- Encourage you to lead a Christ-centered life-style.
- Provide "a good defense before the judgement seat of Christ."
- Allow you to vote at all regular and special Parish Assemblies.
- Qualify you to be nominated for Parish Council or other committees.
- Establish "good standing," which is needed to become a sponsor for Sacraments\* in all Orthodox Churches.

**\*You must be a Steward before sacrament request is made.**



# Proportional Giving

The Old Testament laid down a standard of tithing 10% of one's income. This provides us with the principle that giving should be a percentage of our income. In the New Testament, St. Paul instructed the believers, *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7

Income	3%	4%	5%	10%
\$20,000	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$2,000
\$25,000	\$750	\$1000	\$1,250	\$2,500
\$30,000	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$3,000
\$35,000	\$1,050	\$1,400	\$1,750	\$3,500
\$40,000	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$4,000
\$45,000	\$1,350	\$1,800	\$2,250	\$4,500
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$55,000	\$1,650	\$2,200	\$2,750	\$5,500
\$60,000	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$6,000
\$65,000	\$1,950	\$2,600	\$3,250	\$6,500
\$70,000	\$2,100	\$2,800	\$3,500	\$7,000
\$75,000	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$3,750	\$7,500
\$80,000	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$8,000
\$85,000	\$2,550	\$3,400	\$4,250	\$8,500
\$90,000	\$2,700	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$9,000
\$95,000	\$2,850	\$3,800	\$4,750	\$9,500
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$125,000	\$3,750	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$12,500
\$150,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$175,000	\$5,250	\$7,000	\$8,750	\$17,500
\$200,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$20,000

# My Stewardship Pledge

To commit your 2018 Stewardship Pledge, you can do one of the following:

- ♦ Fill out both sides of the enclosed 2018 Stewardship Pledge Form and mail it back to the church office.
- ♦ Go to [www.greekorthodoxchurchtampa.com](http://www.greekorthodoxchurchtampa.com) and fill out an online Pledge Form.

Stewardship financial contributions can be made via cash, personal check or credit card online. Contributions are typically made in either weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual installments.

Make checks payable to:

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- ♦ Fill out the enclosed Gift of Time Pledge Form and keep it for your reference.

## St. John Legacy Society

Consider becoming a member of the St. John Legacy Society by leaving eternal stewardship to the church through an estate gift.

## Make your commitment!

Do you believe that everything that is good in your life is a gift from God?

What gift will you GIVE BACK to God?

# My Gift Back to God