

## **Questions and Answers about Stewardship**

### **What is Stewardship?**

Stewardship is, first of all, a Christian life-style in the Church. Additionally, it is a proportional commitment of time, talents or treasures, through which an individual supports their local parish. It is the regular, voluntary, and sacrificial practice of returning to God a portion of all that God has given us.

### **Is the Stewardship Commitment mandatory for all parishioners?**

No. Nothing in the life of the Church can be forceful, under pressure and obligation. God gives us an opportunity to do everything according to our free will and conscience and it is up to us to decide which road we will take.

### **Is there a minimum Stewardship Commitment?**

There is no minimum or maximum commitment. All people should feel comfortable in their financial or other commitments to the Church.

### **What will happen if I am not able to fulfil my commitment due to job loss, sickness or an unexpected situation in the family?**

Nothing. It may happen sometimes that a Steward of a parish is not able to fulfil his commitment due to unforeseen circumstances. However, he will continue to be responsible and should fulfil his commitment to the Church when the situation improves.

### **Who is included in my Stewardship Commitment?**

The Stewardship Commitment covers only the named individual on the commitment form.

### **What can I get in return for my Stewardship Commitment?**

Stewardship is the active participation in the life of the Church and has all privileges that are aligned with that participation; the privilege to vote at the annual Church Community Assembly; the privilege to be nominated/elected to serve as a member of the Church Community Board.

### **What cannot be included toward the Stewardship Commitment?**

Buying candles and other items from the Church; Regular weekly plate offerings; Offerings for Pascha, Nativity and Church Slava celebrations; Offerings for Christenings, Weddings, and Funerals.

### **How do I apply for Stewardship?**

You must complete the Stewardship Commitment form and deposit in the collection box near the candle area in the church. This must be done on an annual basis for both existing Stewards and new applicants alike. For existing Stewards this is necessary to ensure all our details (addresses etc) are up to date and that we are explicitly aware of your desire to remain a Steward. To participate at the annual Church Community Assembly, new Stewards must have their application received at least 6 months in advance of the assembly.

### **Who will see my Stewardship Commitment form?**

Your commitment is private. In a way, it is an example of your responsibility before God and the Church. The Stewardship Commitment form will be seen by the priest and relevant members of the Church Community Board only. Names of Stewards may be mentioned publicly together with total commitments made, but not individual commitments of each Steward. This approach eliminates prideful giving, competitive giving, jealousy, and alleviates the discomfort for those people who are not able to give a large commitment.

### **How will I know if my application for Stewardship has been successful?**

The Parish Priest will be the sole person to decide if a person's Stewardship application has been successful. Using the contact details provided on the Commitment form, you will be notified in writing of the success or otherwise of your application within 6 weeks of submission.

### **What are some examples of a Stewardship Commitment?**

As already stated, this is up to individual circumstances. It should represent a significant gesture of support for the individual concerned. The Commitment form highlights the categories, examples might be: monetary donation, regular cleaning or gardening, regular help with the KSS, school or major church events.