



CHRIST THE SAVIOR HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

4385 ASHLAND AVENUE NORWOOD OHIO 45212
V. REV. STEVEN KOSTOFF · RECTOR

Dear Parishioner,

One of the keys components to our Orthodox worship, education, charity and financial health is your stewardship. The vibrant Orthodox Christian life that we enjoy in our Parish is only possible through the stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) of all our members. We expect the parish to provide us with worship, education, fellowship, and charity. Conversely, as members of the parish, it is our Christian responsibility to support the parish financially. When practicing Christian Stewardship, our goal is to offer God the "first-fruits" of our gifts, not the "leftovers." In so doing, we fulfill the Apostle Paul's exhortation to be a "cheerful giver." In supporting the Church as a steward of God's grace, we support each other in our common life in Christ.

We recently had a series of parishioner forums to get a better understanding of what is important as our Parish grows. There were a number of excellent ideas suggested for both the short and long-term. A few emerged that were supported by the majority of those who attended: expand our outreach into the Norwood community, finalize a long-term plan for renovating the Hall with emphasis on upgrading the Kitchen, provide Parish support for our Deaconate candidates, and increase scholarship funds to send more parishioners to camp and retreats. We are not finished collecting your comments, and these ideas need further assessment to better understand the implications from a "time, talent and treasure" perspective. We are committed to presenting our recommendations at the next Annual Parish Meeting in February.

When we give money to the Church, we are offering back to the Lord something of ourselves. All things ultimately are from God, and they belong to Him. We have been given the task of being faithful stewards of that which belongs to Him and is entrusted to our care. While, time and time again, we may ask, "How much should I give," the real question is, "How much have I been given?" We are asking each parishioner to make a pledge to support our parish. Please pray and carefully consider how important your financial stewardship is as you complete your 2012 pledge form.

We pray that God blesses you abundantly in the coming year; we remain your servants.

Father Steven Kostoff

Treasurer Steve Joachim