

Have you ever considered that
Stewardship is necessary for individual
Salvation?

Many verses in the Bible and reflection from the Holy Fathers clearly focus on the fact that we will be judged by how we use the gifts that God has given us. Stewardship is not limited to the financial aspect, the grounds, the buildings that encompass the Church property but all of the gifts that one has. It is a good Steward's responsibility to care for everything that he or she has since it was provided by God to be used for His work.

This is why, as Orthodox Christians, we must consider Stewardship as spiritual and focus on our Time, Talents and Treasures.

2 Corinthians 9:6

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully.

Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Do not lay up for yourself, treasures on earth...
But lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven...For
where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also. (Matt 6:19-21)

Are you living for Heaven or for all that is here on this earth? Do you believe in working towards your personal Salvation or working towards becoming wealthy? Do you focus on supporting the ministries within the Church or supporting those items which bring earthly pleasure. These are very difficult and tough questions for each and every one of us. Having all the things that you feel are necessary is not wrong but their pursuit is distorting from the one thing which alone is needful – our Salvation!

The recommended cure for this illness is poverty or simplicity of life. The more we focus on the Heavenly, and less on the earthly, the closer we become to God. In summary, one must focus on how he or she will stand before the Dread Judgment Seat of Christ - especially since we are held accountable for how we use everything we have, since it is provided by God.

What I want my church to be!

My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am. Its
pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to
many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into
its worship and fellowship, if I
invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a church with a noble spirit,
if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself to
the task of being all the things
that I want my church to be.

God desires that first of all
You give him yourself.
When you do this,
you will find a certain satisfaction.

God then wants you
to use your time, talent, and treasure for
his purposes. This means total commitment
of what you have to God. That's a hard
step to take, but it will bring complete
happiness and satisfaction in serving God.



St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

2013



DO SOMETHING RELIGIOUS

How much should I give? Most of our giving is leftover giving, token giving, disproportionate giving—hardly, worthy of Him, hardly expressive of our love and commitment. Push a pencil a little or take out your calculator and see what percentage of your income goes to God. Then kneel at the foot of the cross, look up into the face of your suffering Savior, and when you place your offering in the collection tray, remember that it is not a tray at all but the hands of your Savior receiving your commitment and love.

Tel: (513) 542-4452

2013 ANNUAL PLEDGE CARD — ST. GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, CINCINNATI

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

DAY/CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

TIME

(NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

Where your heart leads you and where you know you would be of most help to your Church, that's where you should volunteer and be involved....check as many as you wish:

- ___ Executive Board ___ Sunday School
- ___ KSS ___ Altar Boy/Helper
- ___ Candle Making ___ Choir
- ___ Sunday Lunches ___ Coffee/Cake
- ___ Building Maintenance
- ___ Landscaping ___ Refreshments
- ___ Dance/Events ___ Panegyri
- ___ Treasury Audits ___ New Church
- ___ Cooking

TALENT

(NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

Depending on your interests and talents, please share with us any special expertise that you have that you could offer to the Church and our broader community (e.g. "I'm a CPA, I can help review your tax returns").

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in me, I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:4-5.

TREASURE

(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

- WEEKLY OFFERING \$ _____
- ST. GEORGE SLAVA \$ _____
- CHRISTMAS \$ _____
- EASTER \$ _____
- ST.SAVA \$ _____
- MY FAMILY SLAVA \$ _____
- SUNDAY LUNCHESES \$ _____
- BUILDING FUND \$ _____
- OTHER \$ _____
- TOTAL COMMITMENT 2013** \$ _____

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

2011 FINANCIAL STATUS—for perspective

<u>2011 Donations</u>	<u># Families</u>	<u>Source of Income</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
>\$500	20	Events	\$14,706
\$200-\$499	30	Donations	\$37,722
<\$200	45	Total	\$52,428