



# SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

November 9, 2020

† St Nectarios of Aegina

***“And the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13)***

Stewardship Campaign 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Although the entire world was affected by the novel Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, our parish met those challenges as a community while celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The people of Saints Peter and Paul, the staff, parish council, ministry leaders and volunteers, rose to meet and overcome the numerous challenges together and in signature ways. We have grown in donating our time: even the simple tasks of prior years’ take more attention under pandemic constraints, but moreover we reached out to each other through virtual fellowship hours and check-in calls to all families (not once, but twice in 2020). We have advanced our talents by providing the best livestream liturgical events in the Metropolis, by large-scale participation in our “Front Porch” project, directory, and memory book, and by cultivating ZOOM skills across the parish that enabled a first ever virtual Parish Assembly. As a testament to this communal effort, and despite the current economic challenges, we are collectively surpassing many stewardship giving benchmarks with generous consideration of our treasures.

To build on this momentum, our stewardship committee recently crystallized our focus: *“The mission of the SSPP Stewardship Ministry is to inspire joyful, generous, and sacrificial giving of our Time, Talents, and Treasure to care for God’s House -- our first home -- and for one another through Christian love.”* The goal of our parish stewardship ministry is not simply about giving. Rather we aim for our actions to share God’s love with each other and the world around us.

By happy circumstance, the Archdiocese Stewardship theme for 2021 is *“And the greatest of these is love”* (1 Corinthians 13:13), which is drawn from the full verse, *“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* The ‘love’ our patron Apostle Paul speaks of is ‘agape’ or the self-sacrificial love of God we all strive to have and to live. This love is not a sentiment or feeling, rather it is an action. The Apostle James states: *“faith without works is dead”* (James 2:20).

Our faith must be lived in words and deeds of love. As a hallmark observed for 60 years and as encouragement today, our parish ministry life abounds. For worship and fellowship, for learning and serving, the parish strives greatly to exceed the needs of our diverse membership. In order to do this, we leverage **top-quality staff members, committed volunteers, and versatile and well-maintained facilities**. In 2019 the parish adopted a capital master plan paired with the parish strategic plan to guide and pace the continued and balanced investment in our community.

At the end of 2019 we completed the new roof and HVAC project for the community center. In 2020 we engaged a new youth director and associate priest. Hopefully, very soon, we will embark on a new roof over the sanctuary, hire a part-time administrative assistant, place solar panels on the community center roof and replace the HVAC system in the sanctuary. We need to press on towards further goals of remodeling the administrative offices, community center bathrooms and classrooms, as well as improvements to the interior of the sanctuary. The multitude of projects and initiatives constitutes a multi-year plan that surpasses the typical bounds of a simple capital campaign approach. Instead, the parish aims to lead in a progressive direction once again: our stewardship giving as a community can sustain operations and projects, ministries and enabling support on a managed and annual basis.

So, specific to stewardship giving, the parish continues to ask each and every parishioner, couple, and family to give two percent (2%) or more of their gross income to the parish annually. If we each strive to attain this goal, then we will support our community goal that **stewardship = operations plus capital**. In addition, we will progress towards the biblical goal of tithing or giving a tenth of our income to God.

Let’s join together to make our SS Peter and Paul parish community the best and the brightest it can be! We are grateful to the Lord for all His blessings. Let us be generous in serving Him and each other!

Sincerely in Christ,

✠Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrios Andrews, *Proistamenos*

Mr. Keith Anderson, *Parish Council President*

✠Rev. Fr. Paul Angel Dinkov, *Associate Priest*

Mrs. Voula Colburn & Mr. Dino Tsitsis, *Stewardship Ministry Co-chairs*