



FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “DUES” & “STEWARDSHIP”?

A: Yes! Three or four generations ago, it was commonplace for families throughout our Archdiocese to pay their annual “dues” or required membership fee to be a member of their local parish. Over time it was clear that this was not the healthiest way of committing to a local church as giving remained stagnant and the authentic Christian commitment of sacrificial giving became an afterthought. (note: the annual “dues” of \$300-350 *back then* would equate to roughly \$2,500-\$3,000 *today*) Stewardship, however, offers us the chance to recognize our unique blessings from God, and to give back based on what we have received. Stewardship is management of another’s property, and all our blessings and gifts we have been given ultimately belong to God. We are but his caretakers, his priests, his *stewards* on this earth.

Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

A: The foundations of Christian stewardship is both from Scripture and the teachings of our Lord. You may have heard the term *tithing* (the word *tithe* literally means *tenth* in Hebrew), and this refers to the biblical giving goal of 10% of your household income to your local church (*Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:25-28; Deut. 14:22-24; 2 Chron. 31:5-6*). Yet, we also hear from our Lord Jesus Christ that true giving is when we offer sacrificially “all that we have” (*Luke 21:4*), “store up your treasures in heaven” (*Matt. 6:20*), “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (*Acts 20:35*), “for God loves a cheerful giver” (*2 Cor. 9:7*). With this in mind, you are invited to prayerfully reflect on your own household income, and make your sacrificial offering based on what you receive. Consider also what you offer to Christ’s Church in comparison to your monthly utility/service payments. (“*Am I giving my phone more than my Church?*”) Use the chart to the right as a guide.

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%	15%
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$250,000	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$37,500

Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?

A: It costs approximately \$2,000/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are mortgage, utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church programs.

Q: WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO FULFILL MY PLEDGE?

A: The easiest way is online! Pledging and paying online is fast and EASY and is the preferred method for many of our families. Simply go to our website saint-anthonys.org and click the DONATE button and this will take you to our online giving platform. Under “Regular” click the Make a Donation button, then click Create a Recurring Donation, enter your weekly/monthly/semi-annually amount and fill in the necessary information. You can always call the church office for assistance in setting up easy recurring giving payments. Paying your pledge can also be done by check, envelopes, or credit card payments, though these are not as convenient for you.

Q: WHEN SHOULD I MAKE MY ANNUAL PLEDGE?

A: We would ask you to turn in your pledge card by January 31st. Our church budget is based on our expected annual income and expenses. Forecasting stewardship in January helps meet our parish goals.

Q: I DON'T LIKE TO PAY MY PLEDGE UNTIL DECEMBER. SHOULD I STILL PLEDGE IN JANUARY?

A: Yes. January pledging allows for effective fiscal budgeting. Pledge your annual amount, then pay weekly, monthly, semi-annually or annually.

Q: WHY DO I HAVE TO UPDATE MY INFORMATION EVERY YEAR?

A: We ask for updated information to provide you the opportunity to review your pledge for the upcoming year. As cost of living increases every year, so do our own parish expenses, and our giving to the church needs to adjust accordingly. We anticipate automatic online giving to become the standard in order to simplify the process.

Q: DOESN'T THE GREEK FESTIVAL BRING IN MOST OF THE FUNDING FOR THE CHURCH?

A: No. While the annual Pasadena Greek Fest is an important source of funding and support, it actually accounts for less than 15% of the total revenue brought in each year. Stewardship raises four times as much and is our primary source of funding for operating expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to have zero reliance on outside sources of funding, which would then make the Festival an outreach and community building opportunity, thus greatly alleviating the stress and dependency of this event.

Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL, BASKETBALL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY STEWARDSHIP TOO?

A: These programs operate independently from the church operating budget. The church provides the facility in addition to expenses enabling their operation and receives no money from these organizations. *It is also important to know that families participating in our children's ministries must be currently pledged stewards.*

Q: IF I DONATE TO A MEMORIAL FUND, BUILDING FUND, FESTIVAL, OR EVENT, DOES THAT COUNT AS PART OF MY STEWARDSHIP?

A: No. Your stewardship is represented entirely by your stated pledge.

Q: IF I MAKE A NON-MONETARY DONATION TO THE CHURCH, CAN THIS REPRESENT MY STEWARDSHIP?

A: No. Your stewardship pledge cannot be substituted for non-monetary donations. However, your various donations to the festival and the church are always greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

Q: WHEN SHOULD MY CHILDREN BECOME STEWARDS?

A: As the principles of stewardship is that of sacrificial giving from what we have received, everyone is encouraged to become a "cheerful giver" as soon as one begins to generate his/her own income.

Q: WHAT IF I OR MY FAMILY EXPERIENCE A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SEVERE CHANGE IN INCOME?

A: Parishioners who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to fulfill their stewardship obligation, but still want to be considered in "good standing", can always contact the church office, and you may always speak with one of our priests.

Fact: With our congregation at roughly 300 families, to fully cover our operating expenses our goal is to have average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above. Right now, 83% of our stewards are under that goal.