



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Emergency Stewardship Appeal

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he [or she] may prosper..." (1Cor16:1-2)

Dear Parishioners,

As the pandemic of COVID-19 abates in New York, we hope and pray that his letter finds you and your family well. May each of us find our strength in the words of St. Paul, when he says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31)

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many members of the AMC community, and the church itself. For almost three months, the church was forced to hold all services without any parishioners present. Major AMC fundraising events, including the 2020 Greek Festival on the Harbor and Name Day Dinner-Dance Gala, have been cancelled.

It is with this in mind that we seek to highlight the importance of our stewardship commitment to the church.

Stewardship is based on the Eucharistic tradition of the church. We receive Holy Communion in the church out of a deep, heartfelt, expression of gratitude because of everything that God, the Father, has done for us through His only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ and through the glory of the Holy Spirit.

This act of gratitude is shown by our commitment to giving our time, talent and tithe to Christ through His body, the church.

Time: "redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16) The best gift we can give to God is our time. Our time to pray! Our time to fast! Our time to read the Holy Scriptures! Our time to worship and to receive the Holy Body and Blood of Christ! Time is truly a gift given by God in order that we may be sanctified to become holy! "Be holy for your God." (Number 15:40)

Talent: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man ... who... delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents...to each according to his own ability." (Matthew 25:14-15) The beauty of the community of the Archangel Michael church is found in all the different talents that each parishioners possesses by God's grace and they are offered to the beauty of the church

Tithe: "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year." (Deuteronomy 14:22) A tithe in the Old Testament was a 10% offering of the first fruits to God. Below are some different scenarios of tithing.

The purpose of this summer stewardship appeal is to strive towards a goal of increasing stewardship by an average of 15% per family. Here are a few examples of what this would mean:

If current stewardship is \$400.00, the proposed increase would be \$60.00 to \$460.00.
If current stewardship is \$800.00, the proposed increase would be \$120.00 to \$920.00.
If current stewardship is \$1,200.00, the proposed increase would be \$180.00 to \$1,380.00.

We only ask that one do that which circumstances allow, given one's current economic situation. We are here to help one another. May your summer be blessed by the Panagia and the great memories that it may provide for you and your family.

In Christ's Ministry

Nicholas Papain
President

Fr. John K. Lardas
Protopresbyter

Demetrios Frangiskatos
Stewardship