



Honor the Lord with your wealth and the best part of everything you produce.

--Proverbs 3:9

Stewardship at Archangel Michael Church- Frequently Asked Questions

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

What are Stewardship funds used for?

- Stewardship funds pay the operating expenses of our Church, including essential services such as various ministries (GOYA, JOY/HOPE, SUNDAY School, etc.) utilities, insurance, maintenance, snow removal and items such as supplies and postage.
- Stewardship funds pay for the annual mandatory assessment by the Archdiocese, which can be more than **10% of the annual budget.**
- Stewardship funds also contribute to the payment of salaries for the clergy and the Church staff.

What is our budget for the annual operating expenses for 2022?

- The budgeted expenses this year are approximately \$1,120,000, which increased from the prior year due to additional costs the church is incurring and inflation
- Like other nonprofit institutions, *our Church operates on a **breakeven** basis, which means that 100% of revenues are used to pay 100% of the expenses.* However, because of the pandemic, we have been limited with some sources of charitable revenue which makes Stewardship critical to supporting and operating our Church.

What portion of the operating expenses are covered by Stewardship?

We have historically budgeted 50% of Stewardship to cover our operating costs. We achieved 70% in 2021, which is a great achievement!! We are also only passing ONE basket during liturgy as we want to continue moving to our goal where we cover ALL operating expenses with Stewardship, and we need your help to do that!

What does that amount to on a per family basis?

- Our Church has approximately 720 active Stewards/families as of December 2021, this is the most families in our history (that is something we should ALL be proud of as a community)!! Our community is growing, and we hope to continue that trend in 2022.
- With approximately 720 Stewards/families and a goal to cover ALL our operating expenses, each family would have to contribute on average \$1,600 annually to cover our budgeted expenses of \$1,120,000.

What amount should I consider for my Stewardship pledge?

- Stewardship is based on encouraging each Steward/family to give according to their means.

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- We are all called to give what we can. As noted above, the average annual cost per family to operate the Church is approximately \$1,600. On a monthly basis, that is approximately \$125/month.

Please be advised that Stewards with credit card information on file with the Church Office will continue to have their credit card charged as they have had in the prior year. If we receive new instructions, we will make changes accordantly.

Where does the remaining 30% to 40% funding come from?

Mostly from fundraising and special events, including our annual Golf Outing and our Super Raffle, as well as weekly donations for candles and trays.

Is there a minimum Stewardship contribution?

Stewardship should be whatever one can afford to donate based on one's means.

An expected Stewardship contribution of \$650 has been suggested for families who register for educational, athletic, and other youth activities. In 2021 we had an average Stewardship of approximately \$971 which is a generous increase from the prior year. we are hoping all families' support

When should I submit my Stewardship for 2021?

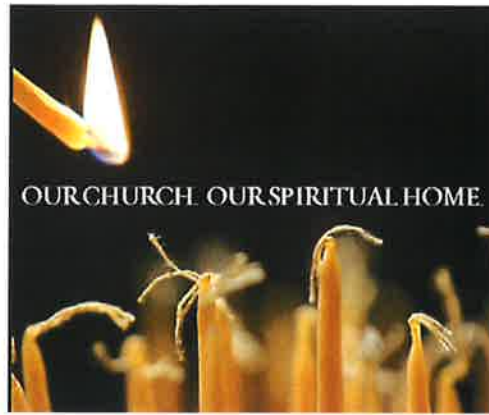
- We ask that Stewardship pledges and contributions be made as early in the year as possible. This allows us to manage our expenses more effectively throughout the year.
- In addition, an early start would be an ideal time to consider a monthly payment plan to assist the Church in fulfilling its financial obligations while affording you the ability to space your contribution over the course of the year.

What about the money raised by the Festival?

Festival revenues are allocated to the non-operating needs of our Church. These include the completion of construction, capital improvements of the complex and the monthly payment of principal and interest on the Church's mortgage.

Does the money we pay for Greek School, Nursery School, athletic activities help to offset operating costs?

- Most fees collected by these organizations cover their own annual expenses (Athletics) as well as salaries, supplies, and materials (Greek and Nursery Schools).
- The ministries also provide many FREE events for our community which they sponsor with their own funds.
- These groups do generate some funds that help offset operating costs, but they cover only a small fraction of the Church's overall operating expenses.



We are Stewards of the Gospel and the Stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.