



## ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

100 Fairway Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050 Tel: (516) 944-3180 Fax (516) 944-3185  
Email: [info@archangelmichaelchurch.org](mailto:info@archangelmichaelchurch.org) Web: [www.archangelmichaelchurch.org](http://www.archangelmichaelchurch.org)



### Your Guide to Stewardship at Archangel Michael Church

#### What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. The 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.

#### Who is included in the Stewardship Program?

The Stewardship pledge includes husband, wife, children, and all dependents. If self-supporting members of the family over the age of 18 live with their parents, they would/could make their own separate pledge. Family membership allows each Orthodox spouse voting privileges in parish matters. Young or old, however, the purpose of stewardship is to involve all age groups in the life of the Church. Even our youngest parishioners are welcome to partake in being active members of the mission and teachings of our Lord.

#### What amount should I consider for my Stewardship pledge?

- Stewardship is based on encouraging each Steward/family to give according to their means. We are all called to give what we can. Our goal is to cover all our operating expenses. To meet this goal, each family would have to contribute on average approximately \$2,500 annually to cover our budgeted expenses of \$1,550,000 for 2025.
- On average, our stewards pledged almost \$1,000 per family in 2024.
- **Our minimum expectation for stewardship is \$750 annually (approx. \$16 a week, \$63 a month). This minimum is required for families participating in youth ministries and sacraments.**  
Please be considerate of how little this is, on average *that's less than most spend on Starbucks a week.*

#### What type of expenses is the Church Stewardship funds used for?

Every dollar of your offer will directly support the development, operations and upkeep of our facilities.

Stewardship funds pay the operating expenses of our Church, including essential cultural, educational, and religious ministries such as HOPE, JOY, GOYA, Sunday School, Little Angels, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Women's Forum, etc. It will also fund Stewardship to our National Church, utilities, insurance, maintenance, snow removal, remuneration, outreach, 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.

#### How shall I pay my stewardship pledge?

For your convenience, multiple means are available to fulfill your pledge. Whether you choose the traditional means of mailing a check with the pledge card attached, or setting up a recurring online payment through REALM, our goal is to make this a convenient and seamless process for you. Feel free to use the QR code in our stewardship commitment form to make your pledge and gift or return the completed form in the self-addressed envelope enclosed.

### **What is our budget for the annual operating expenses for 2024?**

The operating budget expenses this year is approximately \$1,550,000.00. 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.*

### **What portion of the operating expenses are covered by Stewardship?**

We have historically budgeted 50-60% of Stewardship to cover our operating costs. We received approximately 40% in 2024!! 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!

### **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.

Families who register for educational and athletic activities must be active stewards and provide a minimum contribution of \$750 annually.

### **When should I submit my Stewardship for 2024?**

**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?**

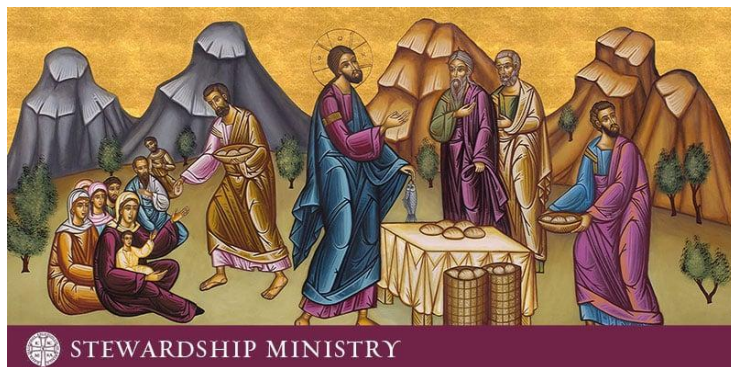
Festival revenues are allocated to the non-operating needs of our Church. These include the completion of construction, capital improvements of the complex and the monthly payment of principal and interest on the Church's mortgage.

### **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.



### **“YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN”**

The theme of this year's STEWARDSHIP campaign is **“Your Own from Your Own,”** from the Divine Liturgy as we offer back to God that which He has given us. He receives our humble offering of bread and wine and returns them to us as His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.