



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Saint Tabitha the Widow

Greetings to all the Stewards, Benefactors, and Friends of St Andrew's,

The new year is quickly approaching, and I pray it brings many blessings to you and your families.

We have all gone through many changes over this past year which have affected our personal lives and our communal life of worship. In spite of the difficulties we have faced and are still facing at the end of 2020, we as a Church continue to say with our patron Saint Andrew, "We have found the Messiah," inviting those who are seeking God to pray and worship with us here at St. Andrew's. Our life for the present includes wearing masks, distancing, etc., but we are finding our way in this new situation with the hope of a better future.

Notwithstanding some difficulties and inconveniences, God has blessed St. Andrew's Church in 2020. This has been a lean year, but thanks be to God we have been able to meet all our expenses. Our Patron has blessed two weddings and we have rejoiced in the reception of new members into the Church through Chrismation. We have also witnessed the beatification of our Sanctuary with new Iconography and have successfully completed a fund drive to commission Icons to grace our Sanctuary ceiling, which are scheduled to be installed early in 2021. These are just a few of the blessings received and we hope for many more blessings in the New Year.

What shall we render to the Lord for all his blessings to us? (*Ps. 116:12*) God has given us many blessings. We each have personal gifts, talents, and material possessions to be used for the benefit of His Church. We are not all the same, but we are all stewards of what God has given us. Stewardship of these gifts acknowledges that God is the source of everything we have received. As Orthodox Christian stewards, we are reminded that these gifts are not our own. We are trustees, not owners. As stewards, we desire to give a portion of what God has given us as a small token of thanksgiving for his gifts to us.

St. Andrew's Church meets the financial needs of its Ministries and annual Operating Budget by means of our Christian Stewardship. For St. Andrew's to continue to serve in Lewes, Delaware, we all need to participate as stewards of this ministry. Let us all, according to what we have, accept responsibility for supporting our Church financially so that it may progress and prosper in its mission here.

I ask that you give prayerful and thoughtful consideration to your stewardship commitment for 2021. May the amount you give be an expression of gratitude and love to God for all that He has given. Please complete the enclosed Pledge Card, indicating both your financial commitment and the Ministries to which you may wish to commit your time and talent.

It is my privilege to send you this greeting on behalf of St. Andrew's, and to thank you for the prayers you offer and the financial support you provide. I ask you to give in all the ways you can so that our Church continues to represent God's community here in Lewes, Delaware, helping us to move beyond a lean year to a year where God's flock can be nourished in the green pastures of worship, praise, and service in the first city of the first state in the United States.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Herman Acker