



SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Stewardship 2023

When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you.

Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's offering. (Exodus 35:5)

October 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Blessings in Christ!

As we come close to the end of 2022, we once again prepare to take on the continuing work of St. Andrew Church in the coming year.

Each one of us has been given a gift from God. The first gift we have experienced is life itself. Along with this gift is the gift of time in which we spend and use our talents and money and any of the resources God has seen fit to allow us to possess. How we spend our time, our talents, our money and other resources is dependent on what we value. We believers, like all people, have been given physical life. We believers are called to trust and obey the Lord using our time, talents, money, and resources in our endeavor to “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt 6:33).”

In the Liturgy the Priest raises the Holy Gifts above the Altar Table and says, “Thine Own of Thine Own we offer unto thee, in behalf of all and for all.” In other words, what is offered by us is what God has given us—no more and no less. We can only give out of what God has given us. In this letter I ask you to think about what you can give to help St. Andrew’s continue for many more years the ministry that has been offered to the community from this temple for the past ten years. We desire as a Church family to point in unison to God’s Kingdom through our communal worship, Bible studies, ministries of outreach to our surrounding community, and acts of mercy and generosity, so that we may follow the teaching of our Lord, who said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

Our Church Sanctuary is the focal point of our Communal gatherings and is used for weekly Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy. It is also used for special days of celebration, the Twelve Great Feasts and Holy Pascha, weekly Bible studies, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, just to name a few of its many uses. None of these are possible without the financial support of generous donors who contribute the funds to help us meet our monthly operating expenses as well as those expenses which come up unexpectedly from time to time. As we use our resources to maintain our own homes, let us together use as much our resources as we can to support and maintain our Sanctuary and thus all of the many events which take place in it, wherein we point to God’s Kingdom, as we hear at the beginning of every Liturgy: “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit!”

May the Lord bless you in all good things,

Fr. Herman

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“AND THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH” (ACTS 11:26)