



# SAINT CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Andrew Maginas, Protospresbyter

## *All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ*

October 17, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to let you know about an important upcoming event in the life of our Saint Catherine parish. Stewardship Sunday is November 4. I am asking you to be with us that day for the Divine Liturgy and our semi-annual Parish Assembly immediately following.

Stewardship has become a critical determining factor in where we go from here. I firmly believe that we need to change the way we have been practicing it. Unfortunately, due to a multitude of factors, many of which are outside of our control, we are no longer able to operate the parish based on a system where members contribute a fixed, often *minimum*, amount, and we make up the difference through fundraising.

Despite our successful annual festivals and hall rentals, our finances are not keeping pace with the requirements of running a large parish out of a beautiful but also aging structure. Many of our most active members are getting older and can no longer volunteer for activities as they once did. Our financial reserves are dangerously low.

The solution is simple: we must renew and reinvent ourselves according to a true Stewardship model where each one of us makes a highly individual financial Stewardship commitment annually. Offerings of time and talent are necessary, but do not pay the bills. What we desperately need is your *sustaining* stewardship commitment. Please feel free to make your offering weekly or monthly throughout the year.

If this vision of Stewardship is new to you, I urge you to begin by simply looking at what you contributed in 2018 and to increase it by at least 10% for 2019. For those who can do more, the ultimate goal is the Biblical tithe of 10% of our income. This is admittedly a big leap, and not possible for everyone; however, it is still possible to

move forward by giving a smaller percentage of our incomes. God will honor every effort that we make in this regard.

Enclosed is the list of our parish ministries and the 2019 Stewardship Commitment Form. You will notice some changes to the form, primarily in the area where we make our financial commitment. We are giving parishioners more freedom to choose whatever level of giving is most appropriate to their situation rather than simply defaulting to the fixed, minimum amount. I ask you to prayerfully consider your commitment, then to complete the form and bring it to church on November 4. It is not necessary to make any payments on that day.

In closing, I want to recognize your past generosity and service to Saint Catherine. Without the financial support and hard work of devoted parishioners like you, we risk no longer having a place of worship, let alone pursue our many essential ministries.

I look forward to seeing you at church and at the Assembly on November 4.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr Andrew Maginas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Andrew Maginas  
Proistamenos