



SAINT
ATHANASIOS

Saint Athanasios Stewardship 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why does the Orthodox Church call stewardship a spiritual practice?

Stewardship is an offering, and it is part of how we participate in the saving work of Christ and His Church. By offering back some of what has been given to us, we allow God to work through that offering "for the life of the world." Just as we offer bread and wine for the Liturgy which God transforms into the Body and Blood of Christ to transform us into the living Body of Christ, so do we offer our time, treasure, and talents to Christ and His Church so that God might receive them and transform them into the means not only of our salvation, but for all Creation.

2) Is my stewardship defined only by the money I give to the church?

Absolutely not. Time and service given to the Church and others is a critical component of stewardship. Our church can't function without these gifts of Time and Talent.

3) How does stewardship help the church?

Money is a necessary tool for ministry. Every act of giving, no matter the size, makes a difference. The church's mission of salvation and evangelism depends directly on our generosity. Our parish's many ministries; Youth, Fellowship, Liturgical, and Educational are all funded by our stewardship.

Stewardship is vital to our church and, among many things, helps to:

- Provide religious services and sacraments
- Provide religious counseling
- Provide visitations to the hospitalized and shut-ins
- Minister to the community outside of our church walls
- Offer help and support to those in need
- Support those who serve us
- Support our Metropolis
- Keep our church grounds and buildings in good condition
- Support the various Church ministries for all groups within our community

4) Why is making a pledge important?

Pledging yourself to any spiritual practice increases the likelihood that you will actually do it. In the fall each year, we ask you to commit to the practice of giving. We're most concerned with your commitment to this practice and less concerned with how much you give. Additionally, the Parish Council does its best to operate our church on a sound financial basis, and knowing what the church can expect in income enhances their ability to plan responsibly for the year.



SAINT ATHANASIOS

5) How much should my stewardship pledge be?

At St. Athanasios, we do not give a suggested amount to be a steward - that would make us a club. Rather, we encourage you to consider all that God has done for you and His abundant blessings. As the Evangelist Matthew writes, "where your treasure is, there your heart will also be", we encourage you to give in a way that indicates where your heart is. For example, if I spend more money each month on Starbucks than I donate to my church, perhaps my priorities are misaligned. The Scriptural model is to tithe 10% of our income to our God. Prayerfully consider what is possible for you and your family. Many of our stewards strive to offer 2 - 3% of their yearly income. What we offer to the church is something we should notice and feel in our budget.

6) When should I make and fulfill my stewardship pledge?

Stewardship occurs on a calendar year basis, starting January 1st. Parishioners are encouraged to offer their pledges on Stewardship Sunday or as early in the calendar year as possible and to fulfill them by the end of the calendar year. All payment frequencies are accepted.

7) What happens if I make a pledge and find that I cannot fulfill it?

Our commitment is not a legal obligation, but a promise to God. You can change your commitment according to your changing financial situation by advising the church office.

8) How much does it cost to operate St. Athanasios annually? What percent of the church's annual budget is supported by stewardship?

The 2026 Expense Budget, less Annual Special Events, is \$731,280. The budgeted 2026 Stewardship amount is \$408,300, which means Stewardship will cover 56% of the church's operating expense budget if we meet the 2026 Stewardship goal. In past years, Stewardship typically covered about 45% of the expense budget.

9) What is our long-term Stewardship vision?

Our long-term Stewardship vision is that Stewardship would cover 100% of the church's expense budget or Stewardship Independence. To achieve this goal, on average each household in our parish family would need to offer a \$2,400 pledge. We recognize that this will not be achieved overnight, but will be achieved over a several year period.

10) What is our 2026 Stewardship Goal?

Our 2026 Stewardship goal is \$408,300, which is \$48,000 or 13.4% greater than our expected 2025 Stewardship amount, which equals an annual increase of \$155 per Steward or \$3 per week.

11) Isn't stewardship really just a membership fee for the church?

This is an "old school" teaching that has come out of the church. Christian stewardship is not about simply paying dues. It is not a sense of obligation or a club membership. Christian stewardship is a response of worship in giving back a portion of the gifts God has given us. In love we return His blessings back to Him; knowing full well that He will always provide when we put our trust in Him.