



# SAINT NICHOLAS Flushing, New York GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

## STEWARDSHIP 2014

Beloved parishioners and friends of Saint Nicholas,

Every year the Church asks each of us to pledge or provide an estimate of giving for the mission and ministry of the Church in the coming calendar year. Once again we thank you for all your contributions of time, talent, and treasure for the furtherance of our Lord's Gospel through our Church and parish.

Our St. Nicholas parish has set a number of \$425 as the stewardship minimum. However, we understand that this amount should not become the norm for our giving. There are many of us who have been blessed to be able to give more than this, and yet others who cannot fulfill the minimum. What is important to remember is that God's grace is not based on mood or affordability at the moment, but on God's commitment to love us. The same must be true of our offering to the Church in return.

We have much to be thankful for as a congregation. Our mission, "to grow as a faithful community through which all people can deepen companionship with God and each other in Christ through the Holy Spirit and participate in God's continuing work in the world" is being realized, and in many ways. There are new faces in our midst, seriousness about personal spiritual growth, opportunities to learn and deepen our faith which have been utilized. Our life continues to be made richer by our children who bring to us their own gifts and spiritual wisdom. We have our educational institutions and youth activities, which involve hundreds of our young people. We continue to reach out to our community and we find new energies to consider other possibilities for service and witness. The Gospel is proclaimed, the sacraments are ministered, and a major institutional task has been completed- the raising of seven million dollars to make our facilities more serviceable for our mission.

So as a community of God's people, we have much for which to give thanks. Each of us has many things personally about which we might also offer thanks. As each of us thinks about God's generosity and grace, the list of our thanksgivings gets longer.

One of the ways we live thankfully is to return a portion of the material gifts God has entrusted to our care, to him for the yearly ministry and witness of His Church. This letter is to invite you to do so, *from your own gratitude*.

Please, keep in mind that your stewardship offerings should be mailed to the Church, or placed in the special box for this purpose found in the narthex of our Church. Please do not place your stewardship offering as part of the tray collection on Sundays.

Make your Stewardship Commitment today and enable our Church to continue its vital ministry in our midst. For your convenience we have enclosed a Stewardship Commitment Card 2014 and return envelope. Please sign the card and return it with your commitment to the Church.

Yours in the love of Christ and His Church,

Fr. Paul C. Palesty, Pastor

Manny Kratsios, Stewardship Ministry Chairman