

Parish Membership

I. SACRAMENTAL LIFE

i. Confession during the Lenten Season.

If you receive Confession from another canonical Orthodox priest, please inform **Fr. Jonathan** so that parish records accurately reflect your sacramental standing.

ii. Receive Holy Communion During the Lenten Season.

We should be attending Church every Sunday as part of a healthy sacramental life with our God. Bylaws of the Diocese note that Holy Communion must be received during the Lenten Season. It is part of our preparing for Holy Pascha.

II. STEWARDSHIP

i. Prayerfully reflect on how Christ is calling you to **cheerfully give of your time, talent, and treasure** in support of the life and ministry of His Church.

When making a financial offering, **please use a parish envelope** and make sure your name is clearly written on it so that your stewardship can be properly recorded.

III. ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

i.. Each year our parish observes a **Stewardship Month**, during which we reflect together on Christian stewardship and distribute annual pledge cards.

ii. Our parish adopted this model of stewardship in place of the older **dues system**, which required members to give a set minimum amount.

iii. Under stewardship, **there is no minimum gift**. We are invited to give prayerfully, freely, and out of love according to the blessings God has entrusted to us.

iv. **Consider proportional giving.** Some follow a tithing approach with 10% of a household's income. Proportional giving can help with considering how to give to God in relation to the gifts we receive.

Each adult parish member shall annual complete **stewardship pledge card to be considered a member of our parish, per our amended bylaws voted on at an annual meeting. This helps us know that you want to belong to our parish.**

PLEASE NOTE:

Approximately **\$89 from each member's annual stewardship is given to the Diocese** as part of the assessment required to help our diocese function. This is given directly from each member's parish offering.

PARISH HEALTH and ADMINISTRATION

Do I understand that my local parish is not a social club, business, or congregationalist community?

We belong to the wider Orthodox Church with a **Patriarch, a Bishop, and a Priest**. Within the life and order of the Church, the priest serves as the head of the parish in spiritual matters and as overseer of its material affairs given the opportunity to offer counsel before any official decision is made.

This is important because non-Orthodox churches have very different models for how a church is cared. In Orthodoxy parish life cannot be understood as though the clergy are present only to conduct services while every other matter belongs independently to a board. In our diocese The Parish Board consists of not only faithful lay members but also the parish priest.

Healthy Orthodox parish life requires prayer, humility, healthy communication, good order, and a shared understanding of the responsibilities entrusted to clergy, parish leadership, and the faithful.