



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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What is Christian Stewardship?

Christian Stewardship is:

- The call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work.
- Our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the welfare of our community at large in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

How can I get involved at Ascension to give of my Time and Talents?

We need all stewards and families to participate in ministries and offer their volunteer time, as well as their talents, to help further the Church's mission and ministries. We are all blessed with unique gifts that can help Ascension in a variety of ways: As our parish continues to grow, we need to mobilize everyone's talent, so the burden isn't left to a small group. Fill out your pledge card or go online form to let us know how you can help!

What is the annual operating budget for Ascension?

The 2020 operating budget for Ascension is approximately \$650,000 (compared to \$540,000 in 2019). The budget has increased from 2019 to account for the necessities of our larger facilities and added staff to support our youth ministries. The 2020 operating budget is approximately \$1,800 per day.

What is the average pledge per Ascension family to cover the operating budget?

Over the past several years, the average pledge per family has been \$1,200 per year. This average needs to increase starting in 2020 to meet the higher operating expenses of our parish.

How much of the operating fund is covered by Stewardship pledges?

Stewardship pledges have historically covered 2/3 of the operating budget each year. The remaining amount is covered by candles and tray donations, and individual special donations. Ascension does not have fundraising events planned (e.g. festivals) to help support the operating budget.

Where does my giving go?

Ascension relies on generous giving to support the many vital activities of the church. Your gifts are essential to continue the support and growth of Ascension's ministries, as well as the operation of our new church home. Specifically, your financial contributions help Ascension:

- Provide religious services, sacraments, religious counseling, and education
- Minister to our communities and those in need
- Maintain and operate our Church, the office, classrooms, fellowship hall, and grounds
- Grow our many ministries to support families and individuals of all ages

How much can I give?

Giving is a personal choice, but we do know that God has called each of us to contribute. Since everything comes from God, everything we own belongs to God. Stewardship is based on encouraging each steward/family to give according to their means. We are all called to give what we can. As you consider how to financially support Ascension in 2020, we'd like to provide the following points of reference:

- Average stewardship per family at Ascension has been \$1,200 per year, but needs to increase to meet the increased operating budget for 2020 and beyond
- The cost of operating and maintaining our church is \$1,800 per day
- We have no plans to hold fundraising events for our operating expenses. There will be fundraising for our supplemental building fund to make our new house a home for all our ministries.

STEWARDSHIP VS. OPERATING COST

