



**Giving Our Gifts with Faith in Christ**

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

# Stewardship Is ...



- Submitting our will to God's will in turning away from the desires of the world in some small way.
- Our way of dealing responsibly with the things in our life that we think of as “ours.”
- Giving back to God some small portion of all that He has given us to manage.
- Emphasized by Christ more often in the Gospels than any other direction on how to live our lives.



# Stewardship is Not...



- Another word for “the Church asking for money all the time.”
- That administrative committee that sends out pledge cards.
- The financial gift I give to the parish.

# Christ Teaches Stewardship



Isn't God's message of stewardship clear?

- The Annunciation: “Let it be to me according to your word”
- Parable of the Prodigal Son
- The Incident of the Widow's Mite
- Fool! This night your soul is required of you!
- For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven
- For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints
- For where your treasure is, so will your heart be also
- From those to whom much is given, much will be required
- Christ's own passion, death, and resurrection

# Christ Teaches Stewardship



- What Christ feeds us is the most beneficial food of all: His words of teaching and His Body and Blood
- The disciples panic at the thought of feeding such a crowd: how could they? They did not have enough food!
- God had given food to the Israelites in the wilderness, but only what was needed. In this case, a little that was offered to Christ became an overabundance.
- Whatever we have is multiplied by Christ when it is offered to Him or to help those in need



# Stewardship: a Sacrament?



## What is a Sacrament?

- “A holy action through which the invisible grace of God is given to a believer.”

## We see stewardship within the “7 Sacraments”

- Eucharist, Marriage, Baptism

## Stewardship is sacrament, mystery in that we...

- Respond to God’s call
- Set aside some part of our gifts, of ourselves
- Receive God’s Grace through that action
- Take a bold step to overcome the passions
- Struggle in this life toward our salvation

# The best way to begin...



...is first to prayerfully consider your own pledge.

Is it generous ?

Is proportionate to all you've been given?

Prayerfully consider increasing it this year!