

# Our Church Our Spiritual Home



STEWARDSHIP 2022



# Holy Apostles – Our Church, Our Spiritual Home



- Home is safe and familiar. It is where we belong. Our Orthodox Christian Church is our spiritual home. It is a place of prayer, comfort, spiritual healing and celebration.
- We are at home in the fragrance of incense, the sound of hymns and prayers, the physical touch of kneeling, bowing and making the sign of the cross, and the taste of Holy Communion and antidoron.
- You may have been brought to the Orthodox Church on your 40th day or the Orthodox Church may have been the destination of your spiritual journey. For both, the Church is a spiritual home to which we may always return. We are brothers and sisters in Christ – a family.

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– We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body.



– To be truly a member of the Church as the Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another - in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

# 2022 Stewardship – Goals

For the third consecutive year, our goals are to have 100% participation of all families in at least one ministry and 100% of our operating expenses funded through stewardship contributions of time, talent and treasure.

These three aspirational goals will position our church community for greater growth and vitality in 2022 and beyond:

1. 100% of Families Involved in One or More Ministries
2. 750 Stewards
3. \$1,097,974 (100% of 2022 Budgeted Operating Expenses) Pledged

# 2022 Stewardship – Strategic Initiatives

One of our goals is to have 100% of our stewards participating in at least one ministry. Today, we estimate our parish's participation level at 30%.

Studies show that increased participation will result in increased giving. In order to ignite interest for participation by the vast majority in the church, we have identified the following strategic initiatives:

- Restructure the stewardship committee so that it's comprised of a broad cross section of parishioners, not just Parish Council members, to generate fresh ideas.
- Create opportunities for people to be heard; listen to and validate parishioners' concerns; enhance outreach efforts to the community through personal touch.
- Seek additional community service opportunities to ignite parish participation.
- Create videos with testimonials from parishioners: What I love most about Holy Apostles?
- Tie the Ministry Fair and Stewardship Sunday together so that time and talent needs are equally emphasized with those of treasure.



# Time & Talent Contribution Opportunities – Worship

Holy Apostles has over 30 ministries from which to choose across these five categories: Worship, Philanthropy, Education, Youth and Community.



**Altar Boys** (Contact Dean Theophilos at [theophilosdean@yahoo.com](mailto:theophilosdean@yahoo.com)) – Serving in the sacred Altar is one of the greatest honors and responsibilities open to Orthodox males, ages 10+.

**Girl Epistle Readers** (Contact Vanessa Clohessy at [vanessa@clofam.com](mailto:vanessa@clofam.com)) – We seek high school girls interested in reading the Epistle during Divine Liturgy.

**Ushers** (Contact Val Dranias at [valdranias@aol.com](mailto:valdranias@aol.com)) – Volunteers and Parish Council members greet and seat parishioners, assist with communion and dismissal and staff the candle stands.

# Time & Talent Contribution Opportunities – Philanthropy



**Philoptochos Society** (Contact Kathy Obmascik at [iwrite4u@xnet.com](mailto:iwrite4u@xnet.com))  
– As the largest Christian women’s organization in the US, Philoptochos, or “friends of the poor”, provides critical services to aid the poor, feed the hungry, the sick, and victims of disasters.

**Missions Ministry** (Contact Spiro Kinnas at [Eyedoctorkinnas@aol.com](mailto:Eyedoctorkinnas@aol.com))  
– The Missions Ministry is committed to inspiring and empowering our community toward an integrated Orthodox outreach and intercultural witness that serves the physical and spiritual needs of all.

**Stewardship** (Contact Lou Kafkes at [loukafkes@yahoo.com](mailto:loukafkes@yahoo.com)) – Every member of the Body of Christ plays a role, according to their gifts of time, talent and treasure, in the life of the church. We need volunteers to help engage our parishioners in its ministries.



# Time & Talent Contribution Opportunities – Education

**Sunday School** (Contact Amelia Lozano at [biki63@comcast.net](mailto:biki63@comcast.net)) – The mission of our program is to nurture students and give them a foundation to build their lives on faith in Christ and live in personal communion with the Holy Trinity, always bearing joyful witness to God's loving and redeeming work in the world.

**Greek School** (Contact Zoe Koulirides at [zoealiasis@yahoo.com](mailto:zoealiasis@yahoo.com)) – Our overall objective is to teach students, children and adults, about our faith, history, culture and provide the necessary skills to communicate in the Greek language.

**Adult Religious Education** (Contact Deacon Perry Hamalis at [pthamalis@noctrl.edu](mailto:pthamalis@noctrl.edu)) – Sessions entitled "Discoveries in Orthodoxy" and "Communing with the Saints" are meant to provide us with a set of tools to assist in better understanding our Faith as we move toward a deepening relationship with Christ.

**Adult Bible Study** (Contact Father Nicholas Dahdal at [frdahdal@gmail.com](mailto:frdahdal@gmail.com)) – This ministry is held weekly on Thursdays at 1:00pm. The discussions seek to understand the Scriptures from a liturgical, ethical, historical and spiritual point of view. Lunch or dessert are provided prior to Scripture study.



# Time & Talent Contribution Opportunities – Youth

**Jr. GOYA (Grades 6-8)** (Contact Nicole Kubesh at [angelosnic@yahoo.com](mailto:angelosnic@yahoo.com)) and **GOYA (Grades 9-12)** (Contact Alexa Cussick at [acussick@icloud.com](mailto:acussick@icloud.com)) – Our missions are for young Orthodox Christians to build relationships with their Lord, their Faith and each other through service, social and spiritual activities.

**Young Adults** (Contact Marina Dimas at [marinadimas@gmail.com](mailto:marinadimas@gmail.com)) – The mission of the Young Adult League (YAL) is to inspire and empower young adults' holistic connection to Christ and His Church.

**Adventure Theater** (Contact Mr. D at [fanari@me.com](mailto:fanari@me.com)) – This group, comprised primarily of boys and girls of grade school, junior high, high school, produces three original plays annually. The goal of these productions is to teach Orthodox Christian values and their application in everyday life.

**Athletics** (Contact Aleka Ernst at [alekaernst@gmail.com](mailto:alekaernst@gmail.com)) – Our mission is to bring together our faithful youth, ages 8-18, to participate in Metropolis events such as basketball and Junior Olympics and enhance their Orthodox life through competition while showing respect and dignity.

# Time & Talent Contribution Opportunities – Community

**Fellowship & Welcome** (Contact Emily Rehn at [platovalentine@hotmail.com](mailto:platovalentine@hotmail.com)) – We strive to create a warm, friendly, hospitable and connected environment for the entire Holy Apostles family. Currently, we seek volunteers to help welcome new members and enlighten them on the many ways to get involved.

**Caregiver Support** (Contact Kathy Steffenson at [gksteff@gmail.com](mailto:gksteff@gmail.com)) – This group offers a sanctuary in our spiritual home where we can gather as brothers and sisters in Christ to share concerns, resources, receive advice, and understand that we are not alone. Our members are comprised of those who are currently caregivers and those who have been caregivers in the past and wish to offer their experiences and compassion to others.

**Building & Grounds** (Contact Steve Savas at [spssav@gmail.com](mailto:spssav@gmail.com)) – Skilled plumbers, electricians, handymen and landscapers are needed to help with various projects.

**Mosaic** (Contact Marilyn Athas at [mcathas@gmail.com](mailto:mcathas@gmail.com)) – Skilled writers, copy editors and photographers are needed for our monthly newsletter.



# 2021 Stewardship Results



We are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

- We were blessed in 2021! Our Church is thankful for all those who have contributed and supported it, even in what were limiting times.
  - 683 YTD pledges are 3% MORE than received in 2020 and 91% of our 2021 stewardship goal.
  - \$719K pledged is 4% MORE than received in 2020 and 75% of our 2021 stewardship goal
- Please note that our 2022 budget includes a 14% increase in annual operating expenses. Funding this increase is best accomplished through an increase in both the number of stewards and pledge amounts.

# Treasure Contribution Opportunity – Stewardship Pledge

We hope and pray that 2022 will be filled with God's blessings.

- Given our expected increase in operating expenses, we'd like to ask those stewards who are actively employed to **please consider a 10-15% increase over last year's pledge amount.**
- Or, if you'd prefer, you might want to pledge a percentage of your annual income to the Church. While the concept of tithing dates to the Old Testament at a rate of 10%, even 2% would lead to a significant increase in dollars pledged. Simply put, it's \$2,000 for every \$100,000 of household income. As a frame of reference, only 84 or 12% our stewards pledged \$2,000 or more.
- Many stewards are elderly and no longer earning an income. We are grateful for whatever amount you are able to offer. However, **please consider these alternate approaches after consulting with your financial advisor, as they may yield immediate tax benefits while increasing your support of the Church:**
  - Planned (Estate) gift
  - Gifts of appreciated stock or other assets
  - RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) as a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution)



