

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Church's constitution distinguishes between voting and non-voting members. A voting member is at least 18 years of age and turns in a stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The church also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

We compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget. Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, people's circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please talk to Fr Mark if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment.

My Commitment Pledge

I pledge to maintain a spiritual life for myself and for my household which includes:

- 1) Frequent participation in the Sacraments of Communion and Confession**
- 2) Regular prayer, which includes public worship on Sundays, weekday services, and daily prayers**
- 3) Following the weekly and seasonal fasting practices of the Church**
- 4) The support of St Ephraim Church in the form of committee work, serving in the parish council, volunteering in the various organizations and the general offering of our time and talents**
- 5) A commitment to personal peacemaking, the preservation of marriages and the protection of our children from all types of harm.**
- 6) The support of the Church and Fr Mark by submitting and fulfilling a monetary pledge.**



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St Ephraim the Syrian

Orthodox Church

2017 Commitment Card

Information

NAME Birth date (month/day)

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) Birth date (month/day)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE(S)

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

Dependent Children's names and birthdates:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

May we include your contact information in the parish directory?

☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:*

May we add you to our parish email list?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Stewards of the Gospel

Psalm 91:2 declares, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Indeed, we have much to be thankful for... health, strength, possessions, our situation in life and even life itself. Christ has told us that we are stewards of the gifts we have been given. If we don't manage them well, we will simply hoard or squander them.

St. Paul tells us that, "God loves a cheerful giver." He also says that, "if we sow bountifully, then we will also reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6-7). As members of the Orthodox Church we should sow bountifully within our Church so we may also reap bountiful rewards within our spiritual lives in Christ. We should also be eager to share our earthly goods with our brethren, for our Lord also tells us, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt 6:21). Thus, if our heart is truly found within the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven, then our Time, Talent & Treasure should be sown bountifully within our Church.

In his first letter to the Corinthians (4:2), St Paul states "Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." Seriously consider what you can commit to give.

Treasure:

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$ _____ each _____ (week / month / year)

Please automate your financial commitment through PARISH PAY®. To enroll, go to our website, www.saintephraim.com and click on the PARISH PAY® logo and register on their secure web portal.

Time and Talent

If completing this as an individual steward, simply place a check next to the area you are interested in.

If completing as a family, you can indicate each person's interest by placing an "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

MEMBER

INVOLVEMENT

- ☐ Bible Study
- ☐ Adult Religious Education
- ☐ Intro to Orthodoxy
- ☐ Sunday Coffee Hour
- ☐ Bookstore
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Youth Leader
- ☐ Vacation Bible School
- ☐ Landscape/Mowing
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ AC/Heating
- ☐ Member Directory
- ☐ Website & Email
- ☐ Bulletin (print)
- ☐ Newsletter (electronic)
- ☐ Fellowship Breakfast

LITURGICAL LIFE

- ☐ Sanctuary & Alter Care
- ☐ Altar boys/Acolytes
- ☐ Baking Prosthora
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Greeter/Usher
- ☐ Sound System

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

- ☐ Events Committee
- ☐ Women's Ministry (SEWS)
- ☐ Men's Ministry
- ☐ Visitation Ministry (to the elderly, sick and new members)
- ☐ Young Adult Ministry
- ☐ Youth Ministry
- ☐ Computer/Technical

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ☐ Finance committee
- ☐ Stewardship committee
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office help
- ☐ Order of St Ignatius

Any other talents or information on items listed above:

