

# Information

Your Name

Street Address

City/ State / Zipcode

Mobile Phone

Date of Birth( Month & Day)

Occupation

Email Address

Name of Spouse (if married)

Spouse's Date of Birth ( Month & Day)

Spouse's Occupation

Spouse's Mobile Phone

Spouse's Email

Dependent Children's Names & Birthdays

May we include your family's contact information in the parish directory?

yes  no

If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:

Please add me to the parish email list.

Please add my spouse to the parish email list.

# LET YOUR

# LIGHT SHINE



## ST EPHRAIM ORTHODOX CHURCH

### 2025 STEWARDSHIP

**“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Matthew 5: 14-16

# Talent

My Talents to Parish Ministries God bestows upon each of us unique and wonderful abilities. Listed below are ministries in which you can use your talents. Please take some time to consider what abilities God has blessed you with and mark the ministries below in which you would like to apply your talents. Families please mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife, or "C" for child.

- Altar Services
- Bookstore
- Chanters/Choir
- Coffee Hour
- Family Outreach
- Fundraisers
- Legacy/ Planned Giving
- Loaves & Fishes
- Maintenance
- Proshora Bread Making
- St. Ephraim Men (SEM)
- Women's Society (SEWS)
- Stewardship
- Sunday School
- Teen SOYO
- Usher
- Visitation
- Welcome Ministry

# Treasure



Generous gifts of treasure enable St. Ephraim's ministries and His Church to thrive and grow. Additionally, our journey through percent giving to tithing is an important part of our own spiritual discipline and growth, helping us to grow in faith and love through Christ through our faithful and cheerful giving.

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per

Week  Month  Year

**Expected total for 2025: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please automate your giving through WeShare.

To begin, go to

[www.saintephrain.com](http://www.saintephrain.com), click on the WeShare logo, and register on the site.

Annual Income	Annual Gift		
	1%	3%	10%
\$25,000	\$250	\$750	\$2,500
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$5,000
\$75,000	\$750	\$2,250	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$10,000
\$200,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$20,000
\$400,000	\$4,000	\$12,000	\$40,000

# The Giving Path

Every journey begins with a step. As we walk our spiritual journey, we are moving forward in being more Christ-like. Jesus said that, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The steps on the giving path are tools to help us grow in faith and love through Christ! We ask ourselves: Where are we on this path? Will we accept the invitation to take the next step in 2025?



**Exploring:**  
Begin to Give



**Growing:**  
Give a Percentage



**Deepening:**  
Increase Percentage



**Centered:**  
Begin to Give  
10%



**Transformational:**  
Give Beyond the Tithe

# Time

Prayer and participation in sacraments are the foundation of stewardship. This is how we lovingly prepare to offer ourselves in service to Christ and others.

God has graciously bestowed upon us the entirety of our lives. He has blessed us with 168 hours per week (or a little more than 10,000 minutes per week).

How many of those 168 hours do we offer to Him each week? Please take some time now to consider what you are willing to offer to God in thanks for all He has given to you.

Here are a few ways we can offer our time to God each week:

- Attend Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Sundays
- Partake in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- Attend Vespers on Saturday evening
- Attend Orthros and Divine Liturgy on weekdays
- Participate in the Sacrament of Confession
- Pray the Jesus Prayer
- Spend time daily in personal prayer
- Pray together with loved ones
- Read the Bible

# ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP 2025 LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

## STEP 1: REFLECT

Please prayerfully reflect on all that God has given to you. Think about your hopes and dreams for our community in the coming year. Using the resources in this book, learn more about how God may be calling you to let your light shine and to give generously in the coming year. How can you be part of helping us to be a vibrant and engaged community and a shining beacon of the light of Christ to San Antonio and beyond?

## REFLECT

## STEP 2: RESPOND

Complete the 2025 Stewardship Pledge form included at the back of this packet. Tear/Cut it out and return it to the church. You can also make a secure online pledge at:

[www.saintephrain.com](http://www.saintephrain.com) and click on the Give online with "We Share" button.

Your pledge information will remain confidential and can be fulfilled anytime during 2025.

## RESPOND

## STEP 3: REJOICE

Bring your pledge cards to church on Sunday, December 15th, for Stewardship Sunday. We will collect all of the pledge cards, and Father Mark will offer a special prayer service for the gifts we are offering back to God and our community.

## REJOICE

# Because of you... Thank You!

2,400

sandwiches made for the needy

\$2,000

to orphange in Syria

30

people Chrismated and or baptised

40

catechumens

\$500

to parish mission in Guatemala

\$500

to adopt a child at Mexico Orphange

4

weddings

2

Woman's Retreats

\$31,250

raised for church bells

Visit to Holy Archangel Monastery

\$10,000

to Project Syria

300

Proshora loaves baked

120

average Sunday attendance

# Directory of Ministries

## Teen SOYO

**Purpose:** The goal of Teen SOYO is to fully integrate each teen into the full life of the Church, to create a safe and nurturing environment for teenagers to grow in Christ, and to form spiritual and social bonds between each individual so that a profound and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ and His Holy Church can be realized.

**Contact** April Lally Zeid Saadi  
(210) 867-0313 (210) 232-0716  
[prapril@aol.com](mailto:prapril@aol.com) [saadi\\_zeid@hotmail.com](mailto:saadi_zeid@hotmail.com)

## Ushers

**Contact** Albert & Tanya Haddad  
(210) 216-0166  
[loans782@gmail.com](mailto:loans782@gmail.com)

## Visitation

**Purpose:** Call, email or visit new, sick and the shut-ins on a monthly basis.

**Needs:** People to commit 1-2 hours per month

**Contact** Vasi Vair  
(443) 224-0421  
[vasilija@gmail.com](mailto:vasilija@gmail.com)

## Welcome Ministry

**Purpose:** Write an Email welcoming and following up with visitor/inquirers and give them some basic articles/info about the Orthodox Church

**Needs:** Each member to build up support and connections with new people.

**Contact** Dn. George Nashawati  
(210) 392-8310  
[bnashawati@yahoo.com](mailto:bnashawati@yahoo.com)

# Directory of Ministries

All of this was possible through your generosity.

## St. Ephraim Women's Society (SEWS)

Purpose: To foster among women in the Parish a genuine expression of love and service through works of charity, and to instill among them and the Parish at large a sense of fellowship and a deeper understanding of the heritage and traditions of the Antiochian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church.

Contact Laila Saadi  
(210) 542-1009  
[ls4645058@hotmail.com](mailto:ls4645058@hotmail.com)

## Stewardship

Purpose: To empower our parishioners to worship God and grow in Christ through the sharing of their time, talents and treasure for the glory of God.

Needs: For each parishioner to give of their time & talents to serve our Parish and each other, and to give of their financial resources to support the ministries and outreach of our Parish.

Contact Brian Korb  
(210) 819-4214  
[doctorkorb@gmail.com](mailto:doctorkorb@gmail.com)

## Sunday School

Purpose: To provide Christian Education to the children of St. Ephraim.

Needs: Teachers and substitute teachers

Contact Travis Nedrich  
(210) 392-1288  
[Travisnedrich@hotmail.com](mailto:Travisnedrich@hotmail.com)

52

Choir Rehearsals

300

Worship Services

104

coffee hours

4

ongoing Sunday School classes with 5 teachers serving 40 children per Sunday

1

Christian parenting workshop

200 welcome emails sent to

visitors/inquirers

300

Visitations to new, sick and shut-ins

4

SOYO

trips/events

4 teachers went to Christian Education Training

7 teens went to basketball tournament

300

hours of volunteer maintenance

\$54,000

raised at Fall Concert

# Directory of Ministries

## **Maintenance**

**Purpose:** To provide continuing care, cleaning, and repair of Parish properties.

**Needs:** Parish members who are willing to work and learn. Previous knowledge and experience in the construction trades is helpful but not required.

**Contact** Jay Sikes  
(830) 660-2546  
[jaysikes@mac.com](mailto:jaysikes@mac.com)

## **Prophora Bread Making**

**Purpose:** To make holy bread that is used every liturgy for communion.

**Needs:** Anyone who wants to make bread or learn how to do it.

**Contact** Nancy Korb  
(210) 238-2147  
[painekorb@gmail.com](mailto:painekorb@gmail.com)

## **St. Ephraim Men (SEM)**

**Purpose:** To assist our Church and Priest in the best manner that we can. To raise capital as needed for the benefit of the Beautification of our Sanctuary and local and worldwide outreach. To help any Parishioner needing help at their home, such as yard work and transportation to liturgical services.

**Contact** Albert Haddad  
(210) 216-0166  
[loans782@gmail.com](mailto:loans782@gmail.com)

# Directory of Ministries

## Coffee Hour

**Purpose:** Build parish relationships and community

**Needs:** Bring food, stay, and share a meal.

**Contact** Martha Cheney  
(406) 546-5480  
[marthacheney@gmail.com](mailto:marthacheney@gmail.com)

## Family Outreach

**Purpose:** Provide meals to those who have just given birth, to those who have recently lost a loved one, or to those in need.

**Contact** Vasi Vair  
(443) 224-0421  
[vasilijaj@gmail.com](mailto:vasilijaj@gmail.com)

## Fundraisers (annual golf tournament in the spring and concert in the fall)

**Contact** Laila Saadi  
(210) 542-1009  
[ls4645058@hotmail.com](mailto:ls4645058@hotmail.com)

## Legacy/ Planned Giving

**Purpose:** Encourage parishioners to use estate planning as a way to leave a legacy for the church that strengthens God's ministries and expresses thankfulness to Him.

**Contact** Brian Korb  
(210) 819-4214  
[doctorkorb@gmail.com](mailto:doctorkorb@gmail.com)

## Loaves and Fishes

**Purpose:** To make sandwiches for the needy.

**Contact** April Lally Laila Saadi  
(210) 867-0313 (210) 542-1009  
[prapril@aol.com](mailto:prapril@aol.com) [ls4645058@hotmail.com](mailto:ls4645058@hotmail.com)

# OUR IMPACT, REACH & NEED IS GROWING...

Reaching our goal in 2025 will allow us to...

Fulfill our mission which is to be:

A warm, loving and welcoming Orthodox Christian community dedicated to glorifying God through worship, instruction, spiritual growth, stewardship and community service to San Antonio and the world.

2023

2024

2025

Jan-Oct

GOAL

Homes Pledged: 24  
Median Pledge: \$3,723  
Stewardship  
Collected: \$184,691

Homes Pledged: 26  
Median Pledge: \$3,581  
Stewardship  
Collected: \$176,840

\$356,000



"Your generosity and commitment allows St. Ephraim to continue our growth and increase our investments in ministries to help those within and beyond our walls. By accepting this invitation of generosity, we remove the limits to our mission of growing in faith and love through Christ! This is the goal we are all invited to reach through the use of our gifts."

— Father Mark Vair

# Directory of Ministries



As good stewards we gratefully acknowledge that all we have, and all that we will receive, comes from God. As we cultivate our stewardship of time, our prayer life and faith grow. As we give our stewardship of talent we enter into the Lord's work through the ministries of the Lord's church. The following pages include a description of each of the current ministries at St. Ephraim.

If you aren't currently involved in a ministry at St. Ephraim we encourage you to read through the following pages to discover how you might offer your time and talent to grow your faith and grow the Church!! Please reach out to the listed ministry lead with questions or to see how you can get involved.

# Directory of Ministries

## Altar Services

**Purpose:** To assist the Priest and Deacon during Liturgy and other services and to care for, prepare, and clean liturgical objects (e.g. candles, censer, oil lamps, etc.) and the area around the altar.

**Needs:** Boys and men who are willing to learn and serve regularly following the directions and guidance of the Clergy and head altar server.

**Contact**  
Jay Sikes  
(830) 660-2546  
[jaysikes@mac.com](mailto:jaysikes@mac.com)

## Bookstore

**Purpose:** To encourage and enhance the Orthodox experience in our Parish by offering items that aid in the development and awareness of our faith: books, icons, cards, and items for the home altar.

**Contact** Albert & Tanya Haddad

## Chanters/Choir

**Contact** Dn. George Nashawati  
(210) 392-8310  
[bnashawati@yahoo.com](mailto:bnashawati@yahoo.com)

Katherine Baine  
(409) 828-2241  
[katbaine79@gmail.com](mailto:katbaine79@gmail.com)