

Tithing & Percentage Giving



STEWARDSHIP
CALLING

Bill Marianes

You can download this presentation at:

Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with the following items: WHY ARE YOU HERE?, BLOG, RESOURCES, STEWARDSHIP, EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODEL, STRATEGIC PLANNING, INTERNET RADIO & PODCASTS, KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP, STEWARDSHIP TRAINING VIDEOS, METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO – IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT & METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY – IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP, COF SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP ANALYSIS (FSA) FOR CHURCHES. The main content area features a banner for the Metropolis of San Francisco with a match icon and the text: "Metropolis of San Francisco – Igniting the Flame of True Christian Stewardship Program". Below the banner, there is a paragraph: "Under the inspiration of the Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco and his presentations of stewardship, I am honored to be delivering ZOOM presentations of True Christian Stewardship Program and several monthly presentations on the following topics in greater detail. We will discuss the proven best practices of true stewardship." and another paragraph: "The Power of Giving can be... the 5-2-22 program on Tithing and Percentage Giving. Here: [TITHING AND PERCENTAGE GIVING](#)".

[StewardshipCalling.com](https://stewardshipcalling.com)

Under the Stewardship Tab

Metropolis of San Francisco “Igniting The Flame” Page

<https://stewardshipcalling.com/san-francisco-metropolis-stewardship-program/>



WHY are you here?



**“That the end of our lives
may be Christian, without
pain, blameless and peaceful,
and for a**

**WHY Are
You Here?**

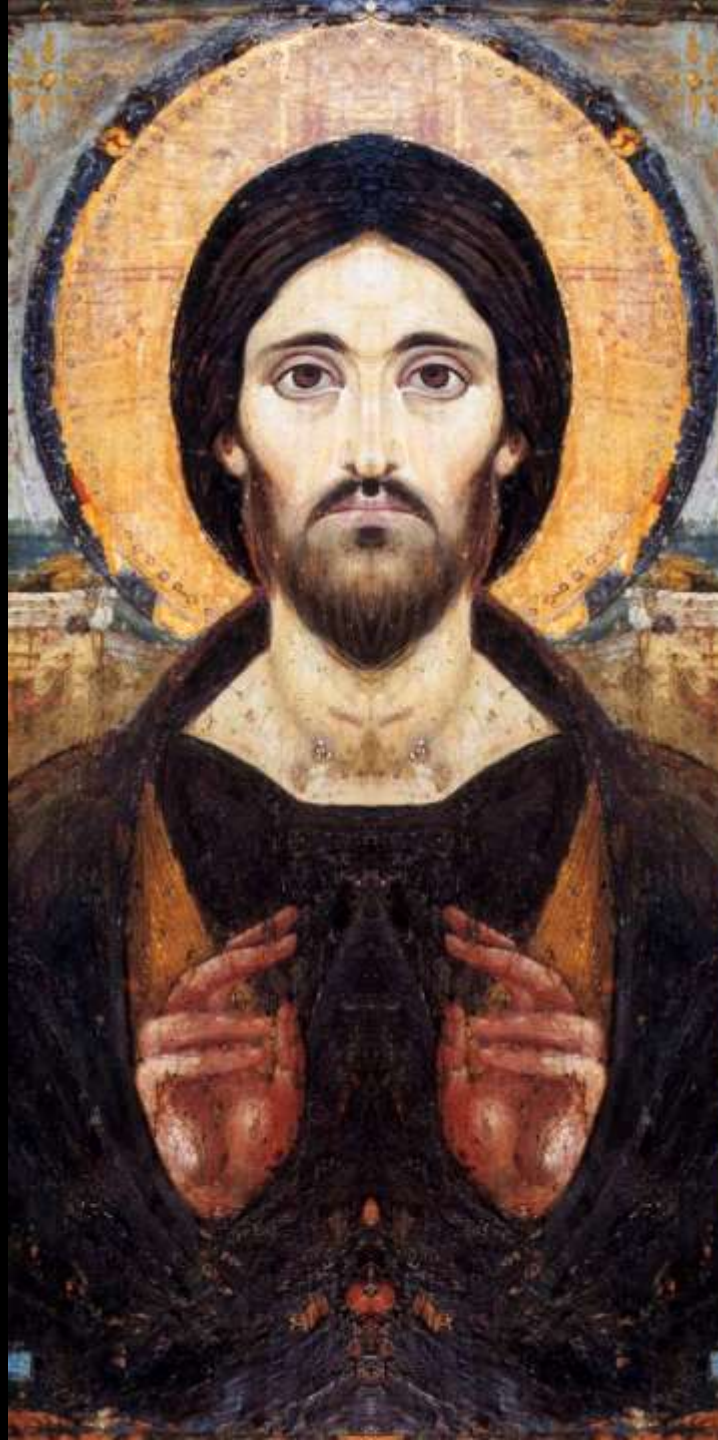
**GOOD ACCOUNT before the
AWESOME JUDGMENT SEAT
of CHRIST.”**



2 Corinthians 5:10

Orthodox Divine Liturgy

**Christ's
possible
very difficult
question to
you about
your
generosity**





What did **you** do for **My** church and people,
under **your** watch,
given all of the gifts **I** gave **you** ?



How Can You Become a Steward of Christ's Church?



**Why Do Orthodox
Christians Pray**

but...

**Orthodox Christians
Don't Tithe?**



**You do not do, what you
never learned to do.**



**What have you taught your
loved ones about stewardship?**



A Steward Is Someone Who...

1. “is a temporary caretaker for another”
2. joyfully gives with a heart of gratitude
3. never says “their” money
4. expects no recognition or benefit
5. only regrets not giving more
6. gives their “first fruits” before anything else
7. gives proportionally to their blessings
8. views giving as a walk of discipleship with Christ

Today's Life Changing Idea

INY IG

It's Not Yours It's God's

“You received without paying, give without pay.”

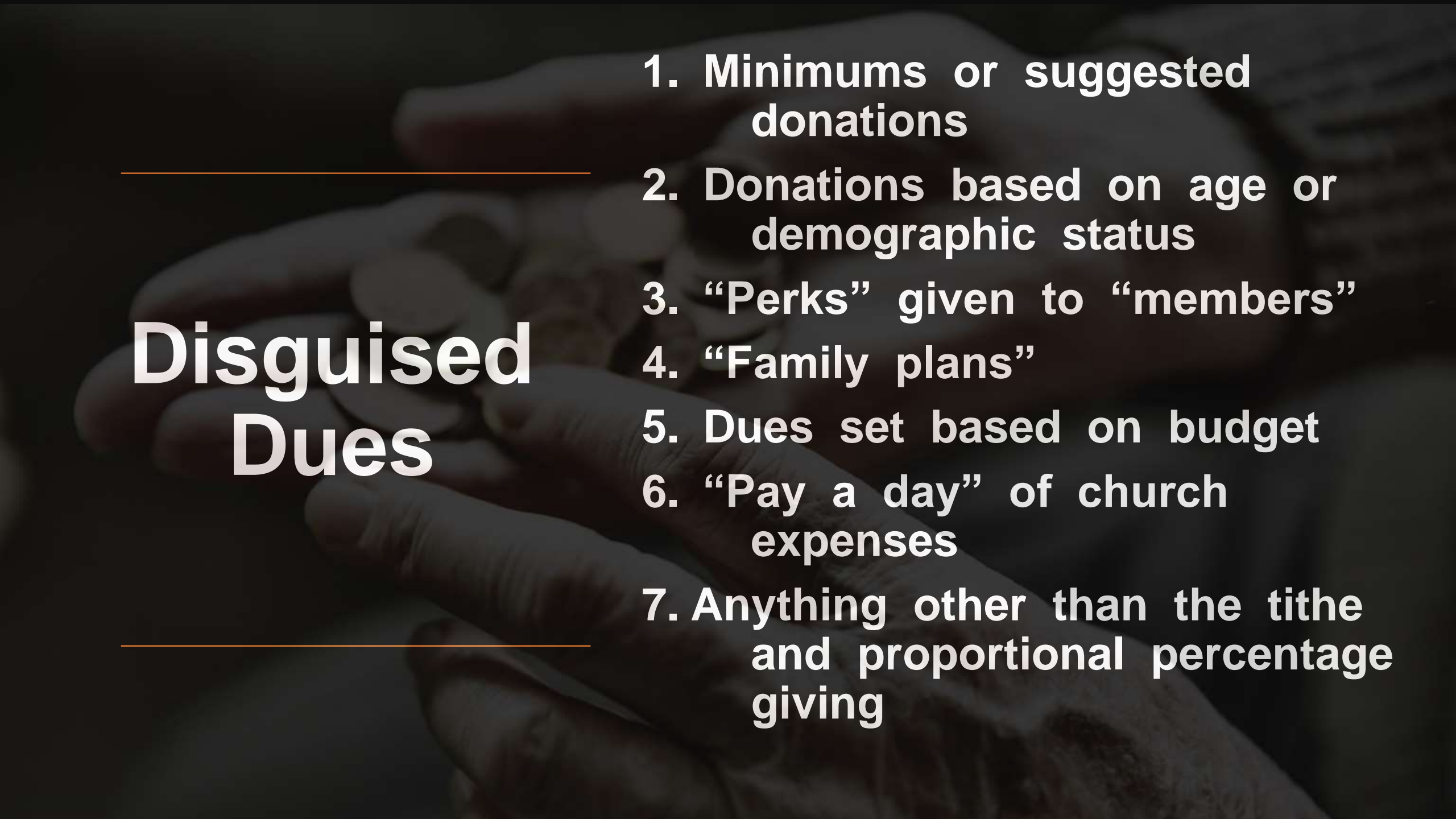


New 2022 Parish Stewardship Card

STEP 1: How much do you make \$_____

STEP 2: Send it all to your church.

Matthew 19:16-26 Stewardship Card



Disguised Dues

1. Minimums or suggested donations
2. Donations based on age or demographic status
3. “Perks” given to “members”
4. “Family plans”
5. Dues set based on budget
6. “Pay a day” of church expenses
7. Anything other than the tithe and proportional percentage giving

The Problem With Dues?

Dictionary Definition of Dues:
“charges for membership in a club or organization”

1. Christ taught the opposite of dues

2. Christ explained our stewardship obligation

= 100% in the parable of the Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:16-22)

= 50% + 4x what was taken \approx 100% in the parable of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

The Problem With Dues?

3. Membership dues create entitlement benefits and are given with expectations because “it’s my money”

- ~ Payer gives for recognition and not out of gratitude and humility
- ~ Payer uses money to claim a “right” to determine all church spending
- ~ Payer withhold funds when they don’t get what they want (and tries to convince others to do likewise)

4. Funds are given from what’s left not “first fruits”



**“For everyone
to whom
much is given,
from him
much will be
required; and
to whom
much has
been
committed, of
him they will
ask the more.”**

(Luke 12:48)

**“Every man shall
give as he is able,
according to the
blessings the Lord
your God gave you.”**

(Deuteronomy 16:17)



Tithing of all 3 Ts

Tithing (percentage giving) of Time, Talents and Treasures is called for by Holy Scripture and can make a significant positive difference





**“Now all the
tithe of the
land, whether
seed of the land
or fruit of the
tree, is the
Lord’s. It is holy
to the Lord.”**

Leviticus 27:30



**“Bring the whole
TITHE into the
storehouse...**

**Test Me in this says
the Lord Almighty,
and see if I will not
throw open the
floodgates of
Heaven and pour
out so much that
you will not have
enough room for it.”**

Malachi 3:10

In the instructions to the faithful:

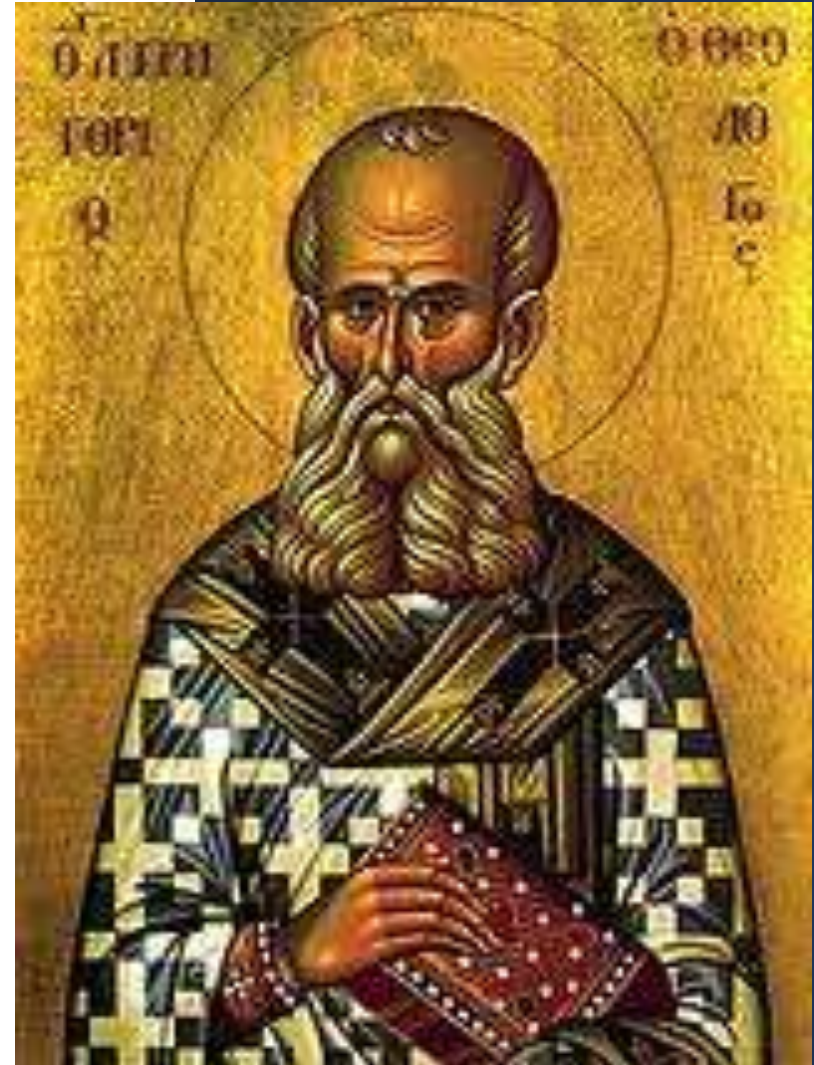
The Didascaly Apostolorum ¹

“Set aside part-offerings and tithes and first fruits to Christ, the true High Priest, and to His ministers, even tithes of salvation to Him...”

¹ The *Didascalia Apostolorum*, is a Christian legal treatise belonging to the genre of the Church Orders. It presents itself as being written by the Twelve Apostles at the time of the Council of Jerusalem; however, scholars agree that it was actually a composition of the 3rd century, perhaps around 230 AD

**“If there was a danger
then (during Old Testament times)
in omitting tithes,
think how great it
must be now!”**

St. John Chrysostom, Homily on Ephesians
2:10 - Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers,
Volume XIII First series, p.69



Tithing Is Not Just An Old Testament Thing

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17)

“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone”
(Matthew 23:23)



“Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one’s annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese”

Uniform Parish Regulations

Article 18, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



**Tithing should be
your goal.**

**A minimum of
10% Time, Talent
and Treasures.**

(“You shall tithe...” Deuteronomy 14:22)



**THE tithe
challenge**

U.S. Tithing Data¹

- ~ GOA proxy median tithe analysis² shows we give \approx **0.5 to 0.7%** (rather than 10%)
- ~ **77%** of tithers give **more** than 10%
- ~ **70%** of tithers base it on their **gross** income
- ~ Churches accepting tithes online increase overall donations by **32%**

¹ <https://nonprofitssource.com/online-giving-statistics/church-giving/> <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-giving-statistics-tithing>

² Stewardship Analysis from 250+ Orthodox parishes by Stewardship Calling



What ministries, services or charities could you fund if you had

\$2,500,000

in total annual stewardship

Here's How This Is Possible

- Est. Median U.S. Orthodox Christians income = **\$81,750¹**
(**\$8,175** = a median Orthodox income tithe)
- N = your number of Stewardship units/families
- \$8,175 x N = your new Stewardship total

100N = **\$817,500**

200N = **\$1,635,000**

300N = **\$2,452,500**

400N = **\$3,270,000**

500N = **\$4,087,500**

600N = **\$4,905,000**

- What could you do with **\$ X Million** more?

¹ Median annual household income U.S. Census as reported 10-02-2020: Lebanese \$87,099; Russian \$85,989 - Greek \$82,036; Romanian \$81,878; Ukrainian \$81,603; Serbian \$81,452; Bulgarian \$80,626; Armenia \$77,110. = MEDIAN INCOME OF AMERICANS FROM HISTORICALLY ORTHODOX COUNTRIES = \$81,750

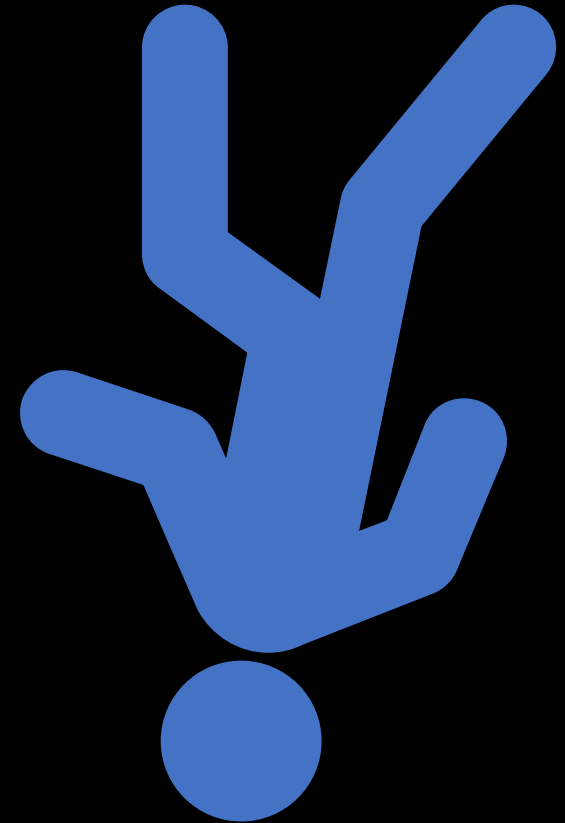
How To Start A Tithing Program

1. Teach tithing & % giving
2. Share the impact and lives improved
3. Leaders lead by example
4. Use the “ROUND-UP”



How To Start A Tithing Program

**You must totally flip
the parish culture
and overcome
generations of
teaching deficiencies**



How To Start A Tithing Program

1. Teach tithing & percentage giving

- ~ You have to teach the WHY and history of the tithe
- ~ You have to start teaching it monthly for at least a year
- ~ Teaching includes homilies, articles, Sunday School lessons, adult classes, stories and testimonials



How To Start A Tithing Program

2. Share the impact and lives improved

- ~ Provide specific examples of how tithes changed people's lives
- ~ Actual stories of people helped and higher percentages of impact are most effective
- ~ Testimonials from recipients and tithers / percentage givers make a big impact



How To Start A Tithing Program

3. Leaders Lead By Example

- ~ “Your actions speak so loudly, I can’t hear what you’re saying.”
- ~ Clergy, Parish Council, and Ministry Leaders must show their leadership commitment
- ~ Tithing and percentage giving must become a criteria for selecting and promoting leaders (like church attendance)



How To Start A Tithing Program



4. Use The Roundup

- ~ Calculate the % of last year's income you gave to your church to 1 decimal point (e.g., 0.5%)
- ~ This year, "round up" your gift to the next highest whole number percent of income (e.g., 1%)
- ~ Next year add 1% more
- ~ Add 1% a year until you reach 10% (or more)



How Much Due I Owe?

HOW MUCH DO I OWE?

By Bill Marianes¹

"How much do I owe" asked the parishioner. "For what?" I asked. "You know, for my church dues." I truly did not know what to say next, so I asked a simple question: "How much have you been blessed?" "A lot" they said, "but what has that got to do with anything? I just want to know how much of my money I have to give to the church as dues to be a member?"

And that was when I finally realized that, among other things, they got the pronoun wrong. They weren't really dealing with "their" assets. They are all "His" (i.e., God's). They failed to understand that Christ's church does not sell "memberships" or charge "dues" and that everything "they" had was really a gift from God, their Father. Everything! Their life, their talents, their genetic composition, their life experiences, the people who loved them, the opportunities presented them for greatness, the chances to make a difference in the world, their stuff and even their money. None of it was really theirs. They were merely a temporary steward (caretaker) of God's gifts. They didn't get it and just wanted me to give them a magic number as if it were written in some golden tablets.

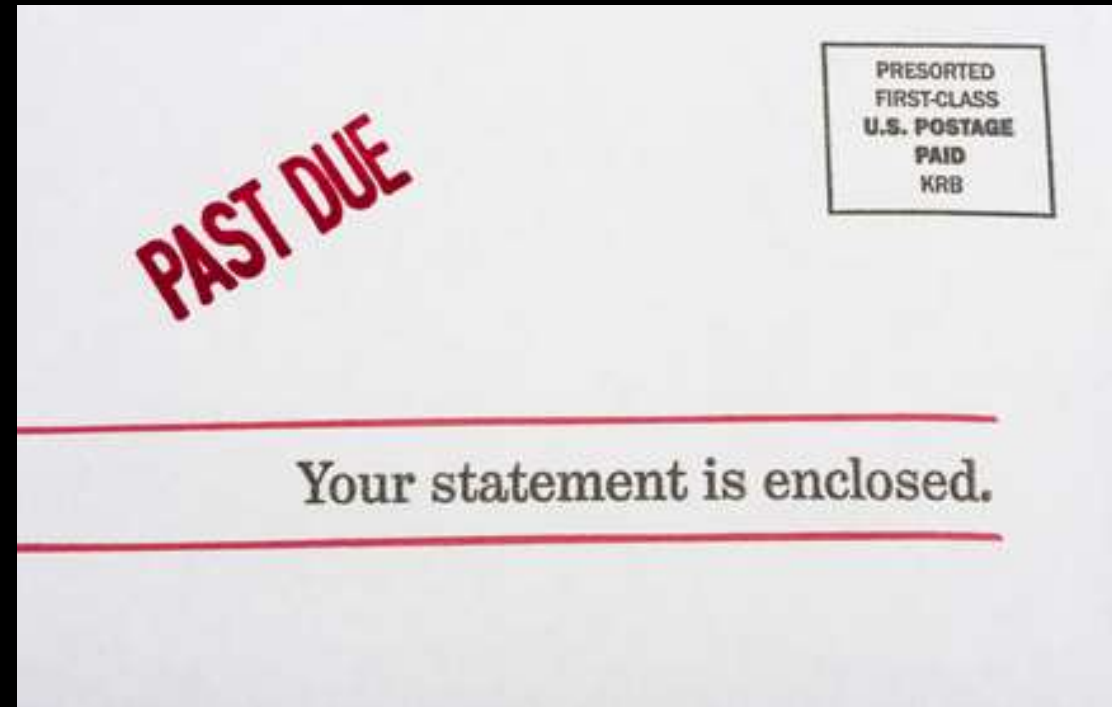
So I replied with what Christ taught us on the subject: "Give it all, I said." In Matthew 19:16-21 we are presented with parable of the young man who asked Christ: "What good deed must I do to have eternal life?" The young man was focused on the right thing, namely eternal life, and not some temporary success, job promotion or nice lifestyle. Christ responded by essentially first reviewing the 10 Commandments and then gave the following clear guidance: "If you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me."

Notice what Christ said. "If you would be perfect..." Perfect, he said, not average, or in the 2nd quartile. The roadmap to perfection is to give back everything we have been given. How many of us are ready to go "all in" and take the journey down that path toward an ultimate goal that is more rich and fulfilling than anything we could imagine? The young man was not ready, and "...he went away sad."

Paradoxically, it is kind of funny, because eventually we will give everything. When we die (on this earth) we will not take any of our stuff with us. You still never see a hearse followed by a U-Haul trailer. So why not give it now and experience the joy that comes from helping someone else. Or would you prefer to also "go away sad."

An endless number of Scripture passages make it clear that our obligation of stewardship over God's many gifts to us is to give in proportion to the blessings we have received. Indeed the Parable of Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 is all about taking whatever gifts God gives us, putting them out into the world and causing them to multiply, and then giving them back in proportion to what we earned in order to receive the reward of hearing: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much."

1st Corinthians 9:7 teaches us: "So let each one give as he purposeth in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Note the emphasis on cheerful giving, not





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BILL MARIANES

REVITALIZE STEWARDSHIP IN
YOUR PARISH AND PERSONAL LIFE

A STEWARDSHIP CALLING



Ancient Faith
PODCASTS

“The Tithe & Percentage Giving”

February 6, 2019

https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/the_joy_of_the_tithe

Nick Kasemeotes



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**WHAT WOULD
YOU DO IF
YOU WEREN'T
AFRAID?**





AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION TIME!

What questions do you have about “the Roundup,” tithing, percentage giving, or stewardship?

Will you agree to Roundup in 2022?



Tithing & Percentage Giving



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