

In Faith and Love Draw Near
Eucharistic Stewardship



ASSUMPTION 
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we participate in the mystery of Holy Communion we are drawn out of ourselves and embrace the mission of our parish, *to grow in faith and love through Christ*. Through the Holy Eucharist we carry the fire of God's love within us, with its power to renew all things. When we understand this meaning of the Eucharist, we bridge the gap between liturgy and life, between the love of Jesus on the cross and our daily lives, between our beautiful theology and practical stewardship. When we (as Eucharistic Orthodox Christians) see the world as God's gift, we are able to offer the world back to God in thanksgiving with the words, "Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee..."

Our church has accomplished so much because of the generous gifts offered back to God by stewards like you. Your generosity supports our ministries, allows us to reach out to those in need (over the last 5 years we've tripled out outreach), and to share our Orthodox faith with others. In 2024 your gifts of time, talent and treasure allowed us to: implement a new Faith Formation Ministry to support our spiritual growth; host a Pan-Orthodox Retreat; grow our youth ministries; support 2 local charities through our Bite of Greece outreach festival; and much, much more!! There is still more outreach to be done, more lives to be touched, and more opportunities for growth, all made possible by our stewards' generosity.

As our spiritual journey continues in the coming year, our 2025 stewardship theme of "Eucharistic Stewardship" is a reminder that we are the manager of the gifts God has given out. Our time, our talents, our possessions, our bodies, and our souls – all belongs to God. Saint Paul asks us, "What have you that you have not received [from God]?" Our stewardship of treasure, for example, becomes as a sacrament when it is offered to God. It becomes a visible expression of our commitment, faith, and love for the Lord. Once given to God, our gifts are consecrated by the Holy Spirit, who then translates them into works of mercy that bring glory to God.

As you prayerfully consider how you will offer your gifts back to God for this year, I encourage you to reflect on all the ways God is calling you to "draw near." Our stewardship offering always begins with the eucharist, where we draw near to the Lord and offer ourselves to God who, in return, dwells within us and prepares us for our journey to theosis. Our map for this journey is percent giving, where all are invited through prayer and planning, to steadily increase the amount of time, talent and treasure we offer to Assumption and ultimately, to God. The material in the following pages has been lovingly assembled by the stewardship ministry to help you in your journey, so that you may discern how to use the unique gifts Christ has entrusted to your care to do His good works. As always, if you have any questions, or feel called in some additional way, please reach out to us!

I am thankful for each and every one of you, and blessed to be in a parish of generous and loving stewards. Let us all offer our treasures and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

In Christ's Love,

Gus Mehas, Stewardship Ministry Chair



In Faith and Love Draw Near Eucharistic Stewardship

Giving to God the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure is a spiritual practice that orients our lives to Christ and His kingdom. This giving of first fruits, or stewardship, begins with partaking of the Eucharist. When we attend Divine Liturgy we offer ourselves to God, in return a miracle occurs; God dwells within us!

REFLECT



STEP ONE: REFLECT

Pray about how God is calling you to orient your life towards Christ in 2025.

RESPOND



STEP TWO: RESPOND

Complete and return the pledge card located on the last page of this booklet (or make an online commitment) on, or before, Sunday, **November 17, 2024**.

REJOICE



STEP THREE: REJOICE

Join us on **Sunday, November 17, 2024**, for Stewardship Sunday when Fr. Dean will offer a special prayer service for the gifts we are offering back to God and our community.



Please set up or update your recurring and online giving amount on January 1, 2025

Submit your 2025 Pledge Card online at
<https://assumptionseattle.360unite.com/online-giving>

TOGETHER WE ACCOMPLISHED...



12
Festival
Inquirers



ACOLYTE
RETREAT

2 TEACHING
LITURGIES
PRESENTED

2 BUDGET
Q & A
SESSIONS



Families hosted
COFFEE
HOUR
50

75
MEALS
For Homeless at
Nickelsville

80
BETREAT
A Pan-Orthodox Retreat ENCOUNTER. EMBODY. ENGAGE.
ATTENDEES

Eight
Dates
Small
Group

\$8,400

Donated to



will provide

1,344

Children with a
Weekend Hunger Bag
+

16 Volunteers
Assembled

630

Weekend Hunger
Bags

\$1,000 to
IOCC
+50
Emergency Hygiene Kits

2,000
BITE OF GREECE
Volunteer Hours

2 LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOPS



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

350

WORSHIP SERVICES
Time & Talents From:

CHANTERS
ACOLYTES

READERS
USHERS

GREETERS &
ATTENDEES

NEW
Council of
Ministries
Meetings



NEW

DISH
WASHER

+

Back of
Kitchen
Reconfiguration/
Drying rack

22
Church Tours
With Over
250
Participants

200 MEALS
every month
COOKING
FOR THE
HOMELESS
2,400
meals per year

YIAYIA'S ATTIC
PROCEEDS
WILL PROVIDE
2,052
MEALS TO
HOMELESS MEN

\$2,200

Donation for



2 PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to our generous 2024 Stewards who offered their time, talent and treasure!!



4-Part

Series on Sacrament of Confession

*Image from orthodoxpebbles.com

ADVENT GIVING TREE

CHRISTMAS FOR

9

CHILDREN & THEIR PARENTS



20 Volunteers at 4 Garden Work Parties

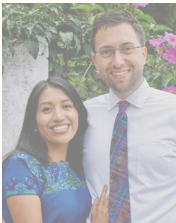
\$21,000
of Philoptochos Philanthropy Including:
\$6,270
Donated to Westside Neighbors Shelter for Utility Costs

9 Baptisms
2 Weddings
10 Funerals



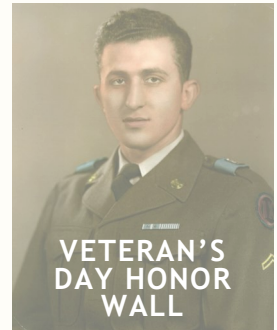
\$8,400 Donated to:
SUMMIT
COMMUNITY CENTER

\$12,000



For O.C.M.C. Missionaries Jesse & Juanita Brandow to help grow the Church in Central America

* NEW GROUP *



VETERAN'S DAY HONOR WALL

9 MYRRH BEARERS

1 DORMITION of the THEOTOKOS LEGACY SOCIETY DINNER



Medal of St. Paul Awarded to Ted Dimitriou

200 PALM CROSSES
144 RED EGGS



\$8,500

300+

Christmas Hygiene Gift Bags for Homeless Women at ANGELINE'S DAY CENTER

NEW Legacy Society Recognition Board

2 PSALTER GROUPS



Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference

Help Make a Difference in 2025

Stewardship occurs in many ways. When done selflessly, it honors the giver, the receiver and most importantly, God. Jesus' ministry was defined by the transformational ways he gave of himself and embodied Eucharistic Stewardship. Your selfless giving to Assumption, and ultimately to God, allows the parish and its ministries to live our mission to *grow in faith and love through Christ!*

Your 2025 Stewardship Will Make a Difference in the Following Ways:

- Continue offering abundant worship, music, and ministry experiences
- Hire a second priest to allow for the expansion of our ministries
- Continue to implement and enhance site safety and our security plan
- Expand our music ministry
- Complete the church dome project
- Increase outreach giving and community engagement
- Make further investments in our gifted clergy and staff team

"My hope and prayer for our Assumption community is that one day we are all together in the kingdom of heaven. When we attend Liturgy and participate in the sacrament of the Eucharist together, we are taking steps to gain victory over death so that we may live



together in heaven! Similarly, when we make sacrificial gifts of our time, talent and treasure to Assumption, our gifts are transformed by God and give life to His kingdom on earth. I invite you to join us on our

transformational journey to becoming a tithing parish, where all are invited to increase our gifts of time, talent and treasure to God by 1% each year until we reach a tithing level of 10%. In doing so, our Church will continue to grow into the image and likeness of God."

**2025 Pledge Goal
\$550,000**

2024: \$471,000*

2023: \$465,546

2022: \$408,130

*2024 Pledges as of Sept. 30th
2023 & 2022 is Stewardship Received



DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL SUPPORT MINISTRY

AV Support Ministry

Assist the parish in using video outreach to support the ministries of the parish community. Gus Mehas ♦ (206) 321-9875 ♦ gmehas@mac.com

Church Cleaning Ministry

Provide a sanctuary and narthex that are clean and tidy for all services.

Chris Pampoukas ♦ (206) 850-5111 ♦ cgpamboukas@comcast.net

Prospora Ministry

Provide fellowship, instruction, and baking of prospora for parish worship.

Tasoula Pampoukas ♦ (206) 246-7573

Koliva Ministry

Assist Philoptochos in preparation of Koliva for Memorials. Mary Lou Barton ♦ (425) 432-9592 ♦

barzar@comcast.net

Icon Decoration Ministry

Assist in decorating the icons for major feast day services. Jillian Chandler ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦

parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

Chanting Ministry*

Assist the parish in praying the services of the church. Fr. Dean Kouldukis ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦

frdean@assumptionseattle.org

Reading Ministry

Join a team who reads the Epistle during Sunday Liturgies and other feast days.

Jillian Chandler ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦ parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

Acolyte Training Ministry*

Train and coordinate boys from ages 8-16 to serve and assist the priest in the altar.

Fr. Dean Kouldukis ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦ frdean@assumptionseattle.org

FAITH FORMATION/EDUCATION MINISTRY

Spiritual Café*

Monthly educational programming following Sunday Liturgy to support spiritual growth within the community. Maggie John ♦ (253) 377-0941 ♦

maggieassumption@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Sunday School Ministry*

Provides the religious education foundation for a lifelong practice of the Orthodox faith for Pre-K to high school aged children.

Rachael Pamboukas ♦ (425) 432-2786 ♦

rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

Youth Stewardship Ministry

Laying the foundation of our Orthodox tradition of generosity with our children. Thom Dimitriou ♦

(206) 931-5670 ♦ tdimitriou@comcast.net

Oratorical Festival Ministry*

Prepare Youth to speak on faith-related topics at community and District level festivals.

Rachael Pamboukas ♦ (425) 432-2786 ♦

rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

All Saints Camp Ministry

Faith based youth camping program for grades 3-

12. Rachael Pamboukas ♦ (425) 432-2786 ♦

rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Psalter Group Ministry*

Praying for one another while we pray the Psalms during the Lenten and Advent fasts. Maggie John ♦ (253) 377-0941 ♦

maggieassumption@gmail.com

Scripture Reflection Ministry*

A bi-weekly practice of scriptural reading, contemplation, and prayer (*lectio divina*). Maggie John ♦ (253) 377-0941 ♦ maggieassumption@gmail.com

THESE MINISTRIES ARE INCLUDED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN



DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

Studies in the Faith-Adult Catechism

A survey course to give adult participants a foundational understanding of the Orthodox Christian Faith - its beliefs, worship and practices. This class is mandatory for those who wish to become Orthodox Christians. For those already Orthodox, this course will provide an enriched understanding of your faith. Fr. Dean Kouldukis ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦ frdean@assumptionseattle.org

Pre-Marital Counseling

Counseling to prepare couples to have a healthy, Christ-centered marital relationship. Fr. Dean Kouldukis ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦ frdean@assumptionseattle.org

Stewardship Ministry*

Empower our parishioners to worship God through the sharing of their time, talents and treasure for the glory of God. Gus Mehas ♦ (206) 321-9875 ♦ gmehas@mac.com

Eight Dates Marriage Ministry*

"Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love." Each session is designed to engage couples in conversations on topics including: Trust & Commitment, Addressing Conflict, Sex & Intimacy, Work & Money, Family, Fun & Adventure, Growth & Spirituality, Hopes and Dreams. John Skandalis ♦ jskandalis@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Fellowship Coffee Hour Ministry

Coordinate providing coffee and a light snack following church services to help us get to know one another, and help clean up after Coffee Hour has ended. Sophia Foote ♦ (206) 334-8049 ♦ sophiafoote@comcast.net

Small Groups Ministry*

Provide our parishioners with new opportunities for spiritual development, outreach, fellowship and parish support in a small group setting. Laurie Skandalis ♦ (206) 941-3805 ♦ laurieskandalis@yahoo.com

YAL (Young Adult League)

To provide single adults, between 18 and 35 years of age, opportunities for fellowship, service, witness and worship. Email: yalseattle@gmail.com

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Welcome Ministry*

Provides Christian hospitality to help guests feel at home in our parish.

Bookstore Ministry*

Encourage and enhance the Orthodox experience by offering items that aid in the development and awareness of our faith: books, icons, cards, and items for the home altar. Sophia Schier-Hanson ♦ (210) 557-8528 ♦ sschierh@gmail.com

Bite of Greece Festival Ministry*

Annual celebration of our faith and heritage and our largest community outreach ministry. Kristina Mehas ♦ (206) 390-7233 ♦ kmmehas@gmail.com

Society of St. John the Almsgiver Ministry

On the first two Thursdays of each month, this group prepares dinner for homeless men aged 55+ at the Seattle St. Martin de Porres shelter. Laurie Skandalis ♦ (206) 941-3805 ♦ laurieskandalis@yahoo.com

Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Ministry*

Collaborates with and supports missionaries and their families around the world. Ron Delarose ♦ (206) 920-7692 ♦ rwd348@gmail.com

THESE MINISTRIES ARE INCLUDED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN



DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

International Orthodox Christian Charities (I.O.C.C.) Ministry

Collaborates to offer emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide. Ethel Barbas ♦ (360) 387-7245 ♦
eabcamano@wavecable.com

Philoptochos Ministry

Provides assistance to those in need in the church community, the Capitol Hill community, the USA, and internationally. Women and men of our parish are invited to join. Diamando Bekris ♦ (206) 354-3753 ♦
mbekris7@gmail.com

Ambassador Ministry

Engaging our parishioners within our church community. Gus Mehas ♦ (206) 321-9875 ♦
gmehas@mac.com

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES MINISTRY

Parish Council Ministry

Elected body that works together with Fr. Dean to fulfill the mission and vision of our community. Kristina Mehas ♦ (206) 390-7233 ♦
kmmehas@gmail.com

FINANCE & REGULATIONS MINISTRY *

Planned Giving Ministry*

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. Thom Dimitriou ♦ (206) 931-5670 ♦
tdimitriou@comcast.net

Audit Ministry

Assist our community in taking account of the material blessings God has granted us. Justin Franklin ♦ (206) 734-6971 ♦
justinfranklin@franklinpacific.net

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY *

Webmaster Ministry

Assist our parish in the use of technology to communicate, educate and inform. Jillian Chandler ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦
parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

Electronic Newsletter Ministry

Assist our parish with electronic communications. Jillian Chandler ♦ (206) 323-8557 ♦
parishoffice@assumptionseattle.org

Information Technology Ministry

Provides system management, administration, and support to ensure our parish can continue to focus on outreach and evangelism. Gus Mehas ♦ (206) 321-9875 ♦
gmehas@mac.com

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

Building Maintenance Ministry*

Assist our parish in the maintenance and care of the facilities God has given us. George Peppes ♦ (206) 229-9485 ♦
facilitiesmanager@assumptionseattle.org

Grounds Maintenance Ministry

Assists our parish in the maintenance and care of the grounds God has given us. George Peppes ♦ (206) 229-9485 ♦
gxp4658@gmail.com

Renovation Ministry

Assist in planning for the continuing renovation of our church. Rachael Pamboukas ♦ (425) 432-2786 ♦
rachaelpamboukas@hotmail.com

Parish Security Ministry*

Working to provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of parishioners and guests. Niko Pamboukas ♦ (425) 235-9786 ♦
pamboukas@hotmail.com

THESE MINISTRIES ARE INCLUDED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP ON THE GIVING PATH

Extravagant Giver

Give beyond the tithe, called an offering (10%+ of income)

Tither

Begin to give a tithe (10%)

Growing Giver

Increase the percentage you give toward a tithe (10%)

Intentional Giver

Plan what part of your income to give for a year

First-Time Giver

Start here!
Take your very first step in giving

TIME

Offering Our Lives to Christ Our God

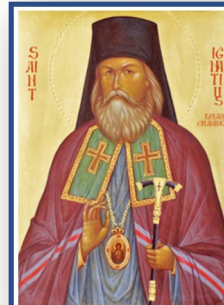
Prayer and participation in sacraments are the foundation of stewardship. This is how we lovingly prepare to offer ourselves in service to Christ and others.

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 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
- ✝ Participate in church ministry
- ✝ Read about the Saints



"It is only necessary to seek one thing: To be with Jesus."

- St. Ignatius

INFORMATION

YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

YOUR MOBILE PHONE

YOUR HOME PHONE

YOUR DATE OF BIRTH

YOUR OCCUPATION

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH

SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION

SPOUSE'S MOBILE PHONE

SPOUSE'S EMAIL ADDRESS

DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S NAMES & BIRTHDATES:

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.

To help keep expenses down, I/we don't wish to receive a paper copy of the monthly bulletin.

Please send me updates via text message

Please send my spouse updates via text message

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 our 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 Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talents and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese 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?

Please keep in mind your financial commitment is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.

The benefits of Stewardship:

1.) Provides the foundation for the successful implementation of our Strategic Plan. 2.) As a member in good standing, you are eligible to participate as a godparent/sponsor for sacraments. 3.) Establishes your voting privileges at Parish Assemblies for participation in the Church's business/administration. 4.) Allows you to participate in leadership positions at the Assumption Church.

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