



# St. Sophia

## SS. Faith, Hope & Agape

### Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge



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Rev. Ekonomos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos

#### **2019 Stewardship Program: "All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ"**

"Stewardship is the offering to God as children of faith rather than as hired servants. Children of God make offerings to God as expression of authentic love, whereas, hired servants simply fulfill legalistic duty. Christian stewardship is a manifestation of our love for God through the holistic offering of time, talent, and treasure to Him, through Christ's Holy Church. By this offering of love to our Father in heaven, He further extends the healing experience of His Church to His children, through Her ministry." Fr. Luke Palumbis, St Basil the Great Church, Houston, TX

This past year we built on many ministry programs in the areas of Youth, Seniors and Outreach including supporting food kitchens to feed the hungry. We also made significant repairs to our Cultural Center (new roof), completed additional beautification in our church proper, and supported our national ministries and the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas shrine. It was a very busy year all around!

In 2019, through your Stewardship giving of your Time, Talent and Treasure, we will continue to grow our ministries to support our Orthodox faithful as well as the community at large. We cannot sustain and grow our parish and ministries without all three of these gifts. Ways you can make sure to start the New Year on the right track include:

- 1. Think about where you are now as an Orthodox Christian.** Checking in with Fr. Peter is a great way to begin! He would love to speak to you.
- 2. Attend Sunday worship on a regular basis and participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church (for example, receive Holy Communion regularly and come for confession at least twice a year.)**
- 3. Participate in our various ministries:** Philoptochos, PTO, Parish Council, Festival Committee, GOYA, Choir, Senior Parea, Grounds keeping, Baking and other programs. There are lots of opportunity for involvement!
- 4. Have your children participate, too:** Sunday School, Children's Choir, Altar Service, GOYA, Hope, Joy, Greek School, etc. All children are invited and encouraged to participate. We rely on the next generation to continue our faith!
- 5. Submit your 2019 Stewardship Commitment.** (Remember, if you are 18 and over, you are an adult!)  
God loves a cheerful giver! Did you know that it costs over \$1,200 EVERY DAY, 365 days a year to run our parish? Only half of our parish's operating expenses are covered by our stewardship pledges. In recognition of the many gifts with which we all have been blessed, it is the hope of the Parish that her stewards consider increasing their pledges if they are able. Doing so would help us to make the necessary repairs to the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center and the rear parking lot. Having a revitalized Cultural Center would allow us to offer an attractive, updated venue for our own activities as well as future rental income, which in years past brought in as much as \$15,000 in a given year.

Before completing the enclosed Commitment form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making of your Time, Talent and Treasure. Giving is truly an expression of your commitment to God and thanks for your many blessings in life.

God bless you for your support of our parish. We look forward to seeing you in church!

*Rev. Fr. Peter Thornberg and the Stewardship Committee*