



*Christ the Sower sows the word of God*

### **CHRIST THE SOWER**

The parable of the Sower, speaks of spreading the word of God to all types of people. The good ground on which the seed falls is receptive to the Lord and multiplies a hundredfold. Our heart is the ground and the center of our being and our spiritual life. Saint Paul writes that "the word of God is living and powerful...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

### **BEARING FRUIT**

#### **WITNESS AND SERVICE**

The 2006 Stewardship Ministry theme for this year is "Bearing Fruit: Witness and Service." As Orthodox Christians we all want our Church to bear fruit through witnessing and serving Christ. You have the privilege to become a sower, together with Christ, by assisting in sowing God's word through your 2006 Stewardship Commitment or pledge. The seed you help sow can multiply a hundredfold for the glory of God and our Church.

### **SCRIPTURE ON STEWARDSHIP**

### **Return to God His Own Gifts**

"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, God has bestowed on you." (Deut. 16:10, 16-17)

### **Proportionate Giving**

The Old Testament laid down the standard of the tithe or 10% of one's income. This provides us with the principle that giving should be in proportion with our income. Stewardship is returning to God a fair proportion of the resources He has given to us.

The more we are given, the more is expected of us. "Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required." (Lk. 12:48) Stewards determine what percentage of their income will be committed to Christ and the Church for 2006.



### **Giving Regularly**

St. Paul tells us: "On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income." (1 Cor. 16:2) Every Sunday we should be prepared to make our Stewardship contribution to the Church in accordance with the Lord's generosity to us personally. Supporting the Church should be a priority for every Orthodox Christian and performed on a regular and consistent basis.

Consider how your expenditures on personal entertainment compare with your Stewardship pledge. Is your Stewardship simply a token donation? Or is your Stew-

ardship pledge a meaningful partnership with Jesus, the "Sower, who went out to sow His seed," to all people?

### **MONEY ENABLES MINISTRY**

Money is a necessary tool for ministry. The Church's mission of salvation and evangelism depends directly on your generosity, which supports your Parish, Metropolis and Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan National Ministries develop programs which are an indispensable means of reaching all people for Christ "with the word of God."

### **MINISTRY RESOURCES BUDGET**

The St. Nicholas operating budget for the calendar year 2006 will be \$ 600K Our Stewardship giving supports of (\$300K) or 50% all the Parish Ministries and the entire operating budget.

We should not depend on special affairs to meet our budget. The growth of our Faith and its dissemination is our own personal responsibility. Stewardship places the responsibility where it belongs, directly upon us.

Your Stewardship is vital to our Church to:

- Keep in Touch With You
- Maintain our Buildings
- Provide for Those Who Serve Us
- Worship and Educate
- Support the National Church

### **YOUR 2006 STEWARDSHIP**

In making a decision, you should keep in mind that the expenses of our Parish and



the Church increase every year. In order to meet our expenses and grow in ministry, Stewards should strive to increase their commitment annually.

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Stewardship Commitment is kept in confidence. Jesus taught us that giving should be done quietly, generously and out of the sight of others. If you wish to revise your commitment during the year for any reason, you may notify the Church Office indicating your intention.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP GIVING**

You may remit your commitment in the manner that suits you best. Since small regular contributions are easier to manage, it is suggested that your contribution be calculated on a weekly basis.

**STEWARDS ARE PARISHIONERS  
IN GOOD STANDING**

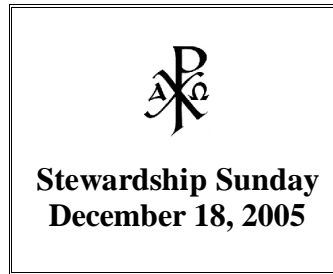
The Stewardship Commitment or pledge qualifies husband and wife for married couples and single adults as Stewards. Family members over 18 years of age, who are employed, should make their own Stewardship Commitment.

Stewards are considered parishioners in good standing with the Parish and may vote and seek elective office in the administration of the Parish as provided in the Archdiocesan Regulations.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

The Stewardship Commitment Cards will be collected after the Divine Liturgy on

December 18, 2005 or they can be mailed to the Church Office.



**NEW STEWARDS**

Orthodox Christians, who wish to become parishioners in good standing in our Parish, may become Stewards of [Name of Parish] by calling the Church Office for information and making a Stewardship Commitment or pledge for the current year.



**GREEK ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

**CHRISTIAN  
STEWARDSHIP**

**PROGRAM**

**2006**



*Christ the Sower*

**BEARING FRUIT  
WITNESS AND SERVICE**

St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church  
520 S. Ponca Street  
Baltimore MD, 21224

Telephone 410.633.5020  
Fax 410.633.4352