



Արժ. Տէր Ստեփան Բիւյ. Պալճեան
Հովիւ

Rev. Father Stephan Baljian
Pastor

Stewardship, A Way of Life

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

1 Peter 4:10

May 10, 2023

Dear Saint Gregory Members and Parishioners,

With all that has happened over the last few years - a global pandemic, economic turmoil, and changes in the way we have gathered, we can't help but feel deep gratitude that God continues to lead us through often turbulent times. We are a congregation with deep roots founded by a generation that believed that our Armenian Christian faith and heritage should be paramount in our lives. They have passed the torch to us to see their strong faith realized over the last 50+ years. We could not have journeyed thus far without the faith and support of all of our members and parishioners over the years who have provided us with their time, talent, and treasure. When we gave in faith, God always provided for us.

To that end, we are writing to introduce to you a new program - **Stewardship, A Way of Life** - a program that we hope will secure the financial stability of our beloved Saint Gregory and ensure that our Christian mission remains bright and viable. Unlike donation appeals and requests of the past, the unique part of Stewardship is that it allows for individuals and families to provide their pledged donation over time - quarterly, monthly or weekly. In doing so, ***our giving through faith becomes a way of life.***

In order for us to embark on this new program, it is important that we share our most recent financial picture. The Saint Gregory 2023 operating budget is \$193,100.00 (approximately \$16,100.00 per month). As of the end of 2022, we had 105 dues paying members. We also continue to have many supporters who are not dues paying members. In addition to membership dues, various fundraising events and other donations, we must depend, in substantial part, on the generosity of our members and parishioners to meet these obligations and continue our Christian mission.

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To help facilitate the understanding and adoption of Church Stewardship, each parishioner will be contacted in the near future to discuss a Stewardship pledge that works best for you. We realize that circumstances may change, and in the event that you need to adjust your Stewardship pledge for any reason whatsoever, simply reach out to Der Hayr or any Board of Trustees member. Please be assured that all Stewardship pledges are highly confidential and such information shall remain strictly within the Board of Trustees. There are several payment mechanisms available such as Vanco (our online giving platform for credit card payments), cash or check.

Our goals in enacting a Stewardship program are to be able to meet our financial obligations, bring significantly more predictability to our cash flow, allow us to budget more efficiently our capital improvements, repairs, and maintenance, as well as manage unforeseen expenses that inevitably arise from time to time. Most importantly, a Stewardship program will allow us to engage in the more critical spiritual goals of uniting our community, church growth, and outreach to charitable organizations. Some examples of new initiatives may include: a vacation bible school for our youth during the summer, field trips for our parishioners to religious and cultural events, and outreach programs to charitable organizations close to home. So many organizations outside of our church also need our help, and it would be wonderful to be able to do so.

We invite our entire church community to prayerfully consider the place of Stewardship in each and every one of our lives. This year's Stewardship program sign ups will begin now and donations will continue until the end of 2023. Included with this letter are a 2023 Stewardship Brochure which includes a Stewardship Pledge card and Stewardship Pledge guidelines to help you decide what makes the most sense for you and your family. In late 2023, we will begin asking for a Stewardship pledge for 2024 and will continue the program each year there on with a renewed commitment from our parishioners.

If you have any questions about this new program, or request more detail regarding our operating budget and financial picture, please do not hesitate to reach out to Der Hayr or any Board of Trustees member and we will be happy to discuss any concern or question you may have. Please remember that this is your church, that each and every one of you are critical to its operation, and it is a place that we all should consider our second home. We firmly believe that through your generosity, God will continue to bless our church and give back to you in more ways you can imagine!

With your commitment and continued support, Saint Gregory will be able to continue its Christian mission and provide its parishioners with a vibrant church community and spiritual home as it has since its inception in 1970. We deeply appreciate each of you and thank you for being part of our Saint Gregory family.

Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Stephan Baljian, Pastor and Board of Trustees

Stewardship Pledge Guidelines (Individual and/or Family)

Weekly Amount (\$)	Monthly Amount (\$)	Quarterly Amount (\$)	Annual Pledge (\$)
100	433	1,300	5,200
90	390	1,170	4,680
80	347	1,040	4,160
70	303	910	3,640
60	260	780	3,120
50	217	650	2,600
40	173	520	2,080
35	152	455	1,820
25	108	325	1,300
20	87	260	1,040
10	43	130	520
OTHER	_____	_____	_____