

Additional Family Members

SPOUSE _____

EMAIL _____

CHILD _____ AGE _____

CHILD _____ AGE _____

CHILD _____ AGE _____

CHILD _____ AGE _____

ANNIVERSARY _____

A Family Unit is defined as all immediate members of the family, including a husband and wife; a father, mother, and children under 21 years of age living at the same address or away at college.

DETACH CARD HERE

RECORD YOUR PLEDGE

Stewardship Pledge
for 2020 is
\$ _____, given

weekly
 monthly
 quarterly
 annually

Giving arrangements – place in offering plate, mail to the church or donate online at stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/giving



St. John Armenian Church

2020 Stewardship Program

Stewardship is not about calculations or portions or percentages. It can't be reduced to a number of hours of service or dollars offered. Stewardship is a way of life.



St. John Armenian Church

22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075
248.569.3405

St. John Armenian Church is blessed to announce that we have been selected to implement the Diocesan Dues to Stewardship Program to our parishioners who make their annual offerings to God and the Church. By replacing the normal dues statements, our new Stewardship Pledge card will allow our parishioners to choose the amount they can give that comes from their heart. Making an annual stewardship pledge without an imposed amount helps instill the Christian practice in our lives that everything we have, both monetary and non-monetary, is a gift from God.

A Stewardship Pledge is derived from one's heart and soul. It is a choice and promise to make a financial gift. No particular monetary value will be assigned to a stewardship pledge as a precondition. We truly believe that the Church is here for everyone's spiritual well being and an individual's yearly offering should not be determined by anyone but one's own heart.

In a stewardship pledge based system, giving is governed by a person's means and proportionate to his/her capacity to give, rather than specified by an external source.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGED GIFT

As you fill out your pledge card, look into your heart and know that our Church does so much for all needs with gifts offered by its community. Many may not know that these gifts do not need to be presented all at the same time, the Church understands that gifts overtime may be easier for some to be able to give the amount they truly want to present. Weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual gifts are equally accepted and appreciated.

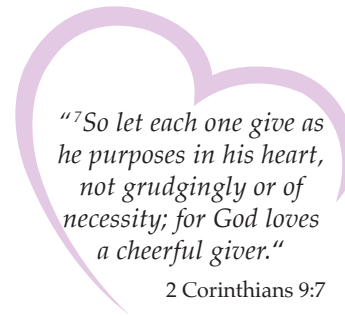
Example Family Unit Pledged Gift of \$600:

One-time annual gift of \$600, quarterly (4) gifts of \$150, monthly (12) gifts of \$50 or a weekly (50) gifts of \$12

"⁴²Then one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amounted to a small fraction of a denarius. ⁴³Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more than all the others into the treasury...'"

Holy Gospel of Mark 12:42

Stewardship is about giving from your heart and allowing you to present the gift that is right for you. You always have the option to give more than your pledge if the opportunity arises to show God and Church increased support.



The Church is here to welcome all no matter the size of their pledge. We want to welcome all to be an active part of our community and give from their hearts.

May the Lord Remember All Your Offerings

Stewardship Pledge Card

In prayerful consideration of my stewardship of God's resources and my commitment to St. John's mission and programs:

My/Our Stewardship Pledge for 2020 is \$ _____, given
 weekly monthly
 quarterly annually

I/We will give Pledged Gift online

I/We wish to support St. John with time and talent in these areas:

NAME _____
PLEASE FILL ADDITIONAL FAMILY NAMES ON BACK

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

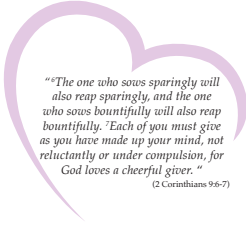
DATE _____

Please mail this Stewardship Pledge Card to the Church office or drop it in the offering plate. No gift is needed to accompany this form. We ask that your pledged gift be given by the end of the pledge year (2020).

Giving arrangements remain the same – in the offering plate, by mail or online at stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/giving

New Stewardship Pledge Pilot Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

1. How long will the Pilot Program run?

The Pilot Program will run three years.

2. Why is the Diocese looking to change from the current Membership Dues System to a Stewardship Pledge System?

For many years, parishes in the Eastern Diocese have operated under a Dues Membership System. As with secular institutions, which require paying dues to "belong", parishioners pay a pre-determined amount to be a member of the parish with certain privileges such as being able to vote at parish assemblies. The dues system does not take into consideration that God has blessed each of us differently, and while placing a burden on some, more often underestimates a person's ability to support their parish. A Stewardship Pledge System is a Christian system based on the three "legs" of stewardship – Time, Talent, and Treasure. Each parishioner is asked to give of their Time, Talent and Treasure freely from their hearts with no minimums, fostering a more inclusive environment in the parish.

3. Will there be a minimum stewardship pledge amount required to be considered a Stewardship Donor of Record?

No – Each parishioner is encouraged to give proportionate to their means.

4. Define Stewardship Donor of Record?

Stewardship Donor of Record is defined as a single parishioner or a member of a pledge unit who makes a formal stewardship pledge of any amount.

5. Define Pledge Unit?

Pledge Unit is defined as all immediate members of a family in the same household, including children ages 18 to 21 years of age.

6. What happens to the Diocesan Bylaws during the Pilot Program?

For purposes of the Pilot Program participating parishes only, Stewardship Donor of Record will replace the wording Dues Paying Member in the present Bylaws.

7. What is the criteria to be able to vote under the Pilot Program guidelines?

Stewardship Donors of Record, who are 18 years of age or over, may participate in the Assemblies of their Parish and may vote, provided that at least six months have elapsed since the individual or pledge unit have established themselves as a Stewardship Donor of Record and they have honored their pledge by December 31st in the prior year.


8. What about being eligible for office?

Stewardship Donors of Record, who are 21 years of age or over, may be eligible to run for office during a Parish Assembly, provided that at least one year has elapsed since the individual or pledge unit have established themselves as a Stewardship Donor of Record and they have honored their pledge by December 31st in the prior year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

9. Can a person be a Stewardship Donor of Record and a voting member in more than one parish?

No – Diocesan Bylaw #9 currently states – “No one may be a voting member in more than one Parish at the same time.” That bylaw will remain the same during the Pilot Program.



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(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

10. What happens to the participating parish’s Diocesan Assessment during the Pilot Program?

It will be frozen at the level paid for 2020. The parish will be responsible to maintain the Assessment as it is, prior to participating in the Pilot Program.

11. What happens to the number of parish delegates during the Pilot Program?

The number of Delegates will remain the same for the participating Pilot parish as it was prior to the start of the Pilot Program.

12. Is it fair if one person pays less than another and both have the same right to vote, run for office, etc.?

Stewardship is not about calculations or percentages or the right to vote or run for office. It cannot be reduced to number of hours of service or dollars offered. Stewardship is a way of life. We are all encouraged to give our time, talent and treasure according to what God has blessed us with. “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:7)

13. What is expected from the Pilot Program?

The ongoing program evaluation efforts will assess factors that include the proportion of parishioners who make a pledge, and the effects of this initiative on encouraging involvement in the church’s operations. Ultimately, the goal is for every parishioner to participate with a pledge, regardless of the amount, and in proportion with each individual’s means, as the Holy Bible instructs. Albeit important, measures of success reach far beyond monetary measures.

14. Do any other Christian denominations utilize a stewardship pledge based system?

Most other Christian denominations utilize a stewardship pledge based system including the:

- Antiochian Orthodox Church
- Catholic Church
- Coptic Orthodox Church
- Greek Orthodox Church (In transition to Pledge Based System and close to completion.)
- Episcopal Church
- Orthodox Church of America
- Syriac Orthodox Church

15. When the Pilot Program time-period is completed, what happens to our Parish Assessment and the Diocesan Bylaws assuming the Dues to Stewardship transition is successful?

The Diocesan Bylaws will need to be updated to accommodate the new Stewardship Program for all parishes, and must be passed at two consecutive Diocesan Assemblies before a formal change can be made. A new parish assessment will also need to be formulated and passed at a Diocesan Assembly before a change can take effect. Until those changes have been made, everything will remain frozen for parishes who are participating in the pilot program.