

**St. John the Merciful Orthodox Church**  
 2220 East Irlo Bronson Mem Hwy Unit #1 Kissimmee, FL 34744  
<https://southorlandoorthodox.org/> 407-636-0166

## 2024 Stewardship Pledge Form



Name/Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday/Namesday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday/Namesday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child #1 Name/Birthday/Namesday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child #2 Name/Birthday/Namesday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child #3 Name/Birthday/Namesday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

### Time and Talent List

We need help in the following areas. Please consider checking a box to offer assistance. You will be contacted by the appropriate person:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Singer    | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading at Services     | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Hour Team Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Arrangements for Feasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Council  | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Ministry       | <input type="checkbox"/> Myrrh Bearers Burial Society   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters        | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Planning            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____    |  |   |

In addition to my (our) pledge of time and talent in the areas checked above, my (our) financial pledge for the calendar year 2024 is:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per week per month per year for support of St. John's and its ministries (circle one)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per week per month per year for our Building Fund to find a more permanent home (circle one)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Proportional Giving

**The following is a guide to help you visualize what a particular percentage of income equals in dollar amounts in determining your monthly pledge.**

Monthly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	20%
<b>\$2000.00</b>	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$120.00	\$160.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
<b>\$3000.00</b>	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$180.00	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
<b>\$4000.00</b>	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$240.00	\$320.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
<b>\$5000.00</b>	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$1000.00
<b>\$6000.00</b>	\$120.00	\$240.00	\$360.00	\$480.00	\$600.00	\$1200.00
<b>\$7000.00</b>	\$140.00	\$280.00	\$420.00	\$560.00	\$700.00	\$1400.00
<b>\$8000.00</b>	\$160.00	\$320.00	\$480.00	\$640.00	\$800.00	\$1600.00
<b>\$9000.00</b>	\$180.00	\$360.00	\$540.00	\$720.00	\$900.00	\$1800.00

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 26, 2023. This information is confidential and will be used only for parish record keeping. The pledge form itself will only be seen by the Rector and the Treasurer. The contact information will never be distributed to anyone without your express permission.

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign Commitment

We renew our Stewardship commitment at the close of each year, so before asking for your support, we'd like to share a quick update and invite you to set some donation goals which will enable our budgetary planning for next year.

**Progress:** At the start of 2023, the Mission had an average of 25 people at alternating liturgies and Typica services while awaiting the assignment of a full-time priest. Following Fr. David's assignment as priest-in-charge of the Mission on June 1st, we have seen steady growth in not only attendance and finances, but also in number of liturgical services and fellowship events in the community. Now we are averaging a Sunday attendance of just under 50 worshippers and have received several new families, a catechumen, and inquirers. We are starting to fill out our rented space and have been looking at options for us to have **A More Permanent Home** in southern Orlando. Please pray for God's will to be done at our beloved mission!

**Financial Future:** Last year, our financial goal was to grow the church's income to demonstrate an increasing capacity to purchase physical property. We have made important steps in this direction to the point where the Parish Council has determined that we could service the debt incurred by buying a property in our price range of \$500-950k but we do not yet have the 25-30% downpayment, but only about half of that at this point. Our primary goal for 2024 is to continue to grow the church's income to cover our needs but to also send excess donations to our building fund so we can hit the downpayment amount needed to purchase property. What we are asking all of you to do is to take a sincere and prayerful look at your finances to determine if you help us with this need.

***The Pledge Card** (on the back of this page) is designed to help you reflect on the assets God has given you, so you can bless His Church with your many gifts—with your time, talents, and treasure..*

Pledging can make the relationship between work and the church more personal and liturgical, by connecting the divine purpose of regular giving to your routine labor. The church is entirely funded by the generosity and faithful tithing of our members. Please remember that as Orthodox Christians, we practice a biblical tithe, which is giving 10% of our income to the Church. As you prepare to give, please reflect on the following passages:

**Jacob Offers a Tithe** (Gen 28:20–22) Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house, and of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee.”

**First Fruits** (Prov 3:9-10) “Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce, then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

**The Cheerful Giver** (2 Cor 9:6-7) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We use Pledges as a basis for budgeting our spending for the coming year, so your pledged commitment is essential to our ability to grow and maintain our church.

“Stewardship is not just a matter for parish and diocesan action. **It’s personal**”. +Metropolitan Tikhon