

2025 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: In the past 18 months, we have doubled the size of our mission and we are out of space (a good problem to have!). We will be moving soon to a larger location triple the size of our current home. We have expanded from one church school class to two classes (older and younger children), and have many new people who are being trained as choir directors, readers, and altar servers.

Financial Future: Last year we trusted in God and passed a 20% deficit budget, this means that our projected expenses for 2024 would be 20% higher than the total donations we took in for 2023. As of the end of October, we have met our financial obligations of the 20% deficit budget for the year. Glory to God! Next year will likely continue along the same trajectory—we know that our rent will be doubled in our new space, but we also know that God will continue to send us new members and that our current members will be becoming disciples of Christ who honor God and support the work and ministry of the parish. We will continue to trust in the Lord!

***The Stewardship Form** (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 your own work and your life in the church more personal and liturgical, by connecting the divine purpose of regular giving to your secular job. 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 (Genesis 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 (Proverbs 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 Corinthians 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



2025 Membership Stewardship Form St. John the Merciful Orthodox Church

2220 East Irlo Bronson Mem Hwy Unit #1 Kissimmee, FL 34744

Family/Name (print): _____

St. John the Merciful is supported entirely through the generosity of its members, friends, and benefactors with their time, their talent, and their treasure. All of us find ways to contribute to the needs of the church in our shared life in Christ together. We have many ministries that need volunteers, and hope that you consider choosing one or more to participate. You'll find a full list on the back of this page.

Your annual pledge covers everything—facilities, utilities, clergy, supplies. In turn, each parish of the OCA Diocese of the South supports the Diocese with a 10% tithe of our General Fund income to support the work of the Diocese (administration, seminary, camp programs, etc.)

Tithing (giving 10% of household income) is encouraged by the Orthodox Church in America as the normal way to support the life of our churches and continue offering a full parish life of services, classes, and fellowship opportunities. The chart below helps to estimate for a full tithe (10%), half tithe (5%) and a third tithe (3%).

Pre-Tax Annual Family Income	Weekly Tithe 10% (52 weeks)	Annual Total Tithe 10%	Weekly Tithe 5% (52 Weeks)	Annual Total Tithe 5%	Weekly Tithe 3% (52 Weeks)	Annual Total Tithe 3%
\$ 5,000.00	\$ 9.61	\$ 500.00	\$4.80	\$ 250.00	\$ 2.88	\$ 150.00
\$10,000.00	\$ 19.23	\$ 1,000.00	\$9.62	\$ 500.00	\$ 5.77	\$ 300.00
\$15,000.00	\$ 28.84	\$ 1,500.00	\$14.42	\$ 750.00	\$ 8.65	\$ 450.00
\$20,000.00	\$ 38.46	\$ 2,000.00	\$19.23	\$1,000.00	\$11.54	\$ 600.00
\$25,000.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$24.04	\$1,250.00	\$14.42	\$ 750.00
\$30,000.00	\$ 57.69	\$ 3,000.00	\$28.85	\$1,500.00	\$17.31	\$ 900.00
\$40,000.00	\$ 76.92	\$ 4,000.00	\$38.46	\$2,000.00	\$23.08	\$1,200.00
\$50,000.00	\$ 96.15	\$ 5,000.00	\$48.08	\$2,500.00	\$28.85	\$1,500.00
\$60,000.00	\$ 115.38	\$ 6,000.00	\$57.69	\$3,000.00	\$34.62	\$1,800.00
\$70,000.00	\$ 134.61	\$ 7,000.00	\$67.31	\$3,500.00	\$40.38	\$2,100.00
\$80,000.00	\$ 153.84	\$ 8,000.00	\$76.92	\$4,000.00	\$46.15	\$2,400.00
\$90,000.00	\$ 173.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$86.54	\$4,500.00	\$51.92	\$2,700.00
\$100,000.00	\$ 192.30	\$10,000.00	\$96.15	\$5,000.00	\$57.69	\$3,000.00

I/We pledge \$ _____ for the year 2025.

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Gifts to Offer to the Church in 2025:

- I am interested in learning more about planned giving to the parish as part of my estate
- I am interested in learning how to donate part of my stock earnings to the parish
- I am interested in donating a requested icon print to the parish (\$25-150)
- I am interested in donating vestments/coverings/server robes to the parish (\$150-\$500)
- I am interested in donating a commissioned hand-painted icon for the parish (\$500-2000)

Please return your completed form by December 26, 2024.

SJTM Ministries in Need of Time and Talent

As we grow into our new space, our church will need help in the following areas. Please consider checking a box to offer assistance. You will be contacted by the appropriate person.

Liturgical Ministries

- Altar Server** - I or my sons are interested in serving the altar. **Name:** _____
- Choir Experienced** - I have sung in a choir before and can read music. **Name:** _____
- Choir New** - I cannot read music and have no experience but would like to learn. **Name:** _____
- Reader** - I am interesting in receiving training and learning how to read at services. **Name:** _____

Educational Ministries

- Bible Study Leader - Experienced** **Name:** _____
- Bible Study Leader - New** and would like training **Name:** _____
- Church School Teacher - Experienced** **Name:** _____
- Church School Teacher - New** and would like training **Name:** _____
- Becoming a Sponsor to a Catechumen** **Name:** _____
- Church Librarian** process new books, send return emails **Name:** _____
- Bookstore Clerk** help people buy items and stock shelves **Name:** _____

Hospitality

- Baking Prospora** (The Lord's hospitality) **Name:** _____
- Coffee Hour Team Leader** **Name:** _____
- Special Events Dinners** (fundraisers) **Name:** _____

Facilities and Maintenance

- Building Repairs and Handyman** **Name:** _____
- Cleaning Crew Leader** **Name:** _____
- Cleaning Crew Participant** (1x month) **Name:** _____
- Painting Crew Participant** **Name:** _____

Outreach and Fellowship Ministries

- Greeters** - Help welcome our visitors and members **Name:** _____
- Welcome Team** - Visitor followup and New Member Care **Name:** _____
- Visit sick and shut-in members and friends** **Name:** _____
- Homeless Ministry** help rekindle this ministry **Name:** _____
- Ministry of Mercy** - helping out members and friends who need a hand **Name:** _____
- Men's/Women's/Retired Group Coordinator** (circle which one) **Name:** _____
- Youth Group Leader** - help plan youth activities **Name:** _____
- Monthly Board Game Night Organizer** **Name:** _____

Communications and Administration Ministries

- Church Directory Coordinator** **Name:** _____
- Social Media and Website Content** **Name:** _____
- Weekly Email and Bulletin Creation** **Name:** _____

Altar Beautification

- Church Adornments** (flowers, decorating for feasts and events) **Name:** _____
- Vestment and Table Cover Repair** help mend and replace **Name:** _____
- Holy Day Special Items** (holy supper on Christmas Eve, St. Basil's bread on New Year's, Wine and Figs for Holy Saturday, Bread and Salt for bishop visit) **Name:** _____

SJTM Parish Directory Information

Name: (print) _____

Birthday: _____

Namesday: (if known) _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Spouse Birthday: _____

Spouse Namesday: (if known) _____

Spouse Cell Phone: _____

Spouse Email Address: _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

Child #1 Name: _____

Child #1 Birthday: _____

Child #1 Namesday: (if known) _____

Child #2 Name: _____

Child #2 Birthday: _____

Child #2 Namesday: (if known) _____

Child #3 Name: _____

Child #3 Birthday: _____

Child #3 Namesday: (if known) _____

(Write any additional children's names/etc below)

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Please return your completed membership form by December 26, 2024.