



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

1. PURPOSE & VISION

- Stewardship is a spiritual discipline, not a financial program
- Rooted in Scripture, the Fathers, and Orthodox tradition
- Calls the faithful to offer time, talent, and treasure back to God
- **Goal:** cultivate a transformational culture of generosity across the parish

KEY OUTCOME:

- Increased spiritual engagement
- Stronger parish vitality
- Expanded ministry impact

2. THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is:

- A response to God's blessings
- An act of worship and obedience
- A path toward spiritual growth

Generosity:

- Must be taught and modeled
- Does not happen passively
- Is reinforced through community culture

Scriptural and Patristic grounding:

- Old & New Testament support tithing
- Church Fathers affirm sacrificial giving
- Archdiocese guidelines recommend 10% stewardship

3. KEY PRINCIPLE: CULTURE DRIVES RESULTS

A thriving parish creates:

- A culture of generosity
- Visible examples of faith in action
- Opportunities for participation at every level

Parishioners give when they:

- Feel connected
- See impact
- Understand the mission

4. CORE ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Leadership & Structure

- Leadership alignment (Priest + Parish Council + Ministry Leaders)
- Clear stewardship strategy & ownership
- Active modeling by leadership

Engagement & Community

- Personal connection is essential
- Annual parish-wide engagement efforts
- Ambassador/visitation programs
- Strong welcoming ministry

Spiritual & Financial Practices

- Tithing as the long-term goal (10%)
- Emphasis on percentage giving
- "Time First" principle – engagement drives giving

Communication & Messaging

- Focus on mission, not money
- Use storytelling, testimonials, and impact reporting
- Consistent multi-channel communication

Sustainability & Growth

- Annual stewardship campaigns
- Planned giving programs
- Transparency and accountability
- Youth stewardship formation

Stewardship & Generosity

5. TITHING STRATEGY (PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION)

Encourage gradual adoption:

- Identify current giving %
- Increase by 1% annually
- Normalize percentage-based giving

Key insights:

- Average giving is 0.5%–0.8% of income
- Small increases can fully fund parish budgets
- Full tithing could multiply impact 10–20x

6. ENGAGEMENT MODEL

Personal outreach is essential:

- Annual contact with every family
- Ambassador ministry approach

Encourage participation in:

- Worship
- Ministries
- Volunteer opportunities

Principle:

"When people give their time, they will also give more treasure."

7. BUILDING A STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Dedicated roles:

- Stewardship chair
- Communications lead
- Youth stewardship
- Planned giving
- Data/analytics
- Thanking ministry

Best practice:

- Meet monthly
- Maintain consistent communication with parish

8. COMMUNICATION & MESSAGING STRATEGY

SHIFT THE NARRATIVE

Avoid:

- "We need money"
- "Pay the bills"
- Scarcity mindset

Emphasize:

- Mission and ministry impact
- Faith growth and transformation
- Invitation to participate in God's work

Best Practices

- Quarterly stewardship homilies
- Monthly communications
- Testimonials and storytelling
- Visual impact reports ("Because of You...")

9. CULTURE OF GRATITUDE

Thanking is a core ministry, not an afterthought

Must be:

- Personal
- Timely
- Consistent
- Public and private

Thank for:

- Giving
- Service
- Participation
- Presence

10. LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Establish:

- Annual stewardship rhythm
- Planned giving program
- Youth formation pipeline

Focus on:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Ongoing engagement



HAVE A QUESTION?

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