

**PROTECTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD ORTHODOX CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM**

NAME(S): _____ APPLY TO YEAR: _____

NAME OF CHILDREN AGE 17 AND UNDER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMAIL 2: _____ (E-mails will be added/updated to our Constant Contact list serve)

TIME: ___ I/WE SUPPORT THE CHURCH THROUGH MY TIME AND PRAYERS BY **ATTENDING SERVICES** AT ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS. I ALSO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MY **PERSONAL PRAYERS** OFFERED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PARISH.

TALENTS: I/WE WOULD LIKE SUPPORT THE CHURCH BY DONATING MY **SERVICE, SKILLS, AND TALENTS** IN THESE AREAS (select all that apply):

Worship: Choir ___ Chanting/Reading ___ Prospora Baker ___ Iconography ___ Other _____

Education: Church School ___ Adult Education ___ Bible Study ___ Retreats/Events ___ Other _____

Hospitality: Greeting ___ Coffee Hour ___ Event Cooking ___ Other _____

Maintenance: Vacuuming/Cleaning ___ Grounds Keeping ___ Building Repair ___ Other _____

Administration: Parish Council ___ Financial Planning ___ Strategic Development ___ Communications/IT ___

Please list any special talents: _____

TREASURES: I/WE SUPPORT THE PARISH THROUGH THE GIFTS WHICH GOD HAS PROVIDED ME AS SPECIFIED BELOW:

___ I/We pledge \$ _____ towards the **operating budget** per: week ___ month ___ year ___ .

___ I/We wish to establish a pledge for the following **special appeals:**

Building Fund: \$ _____ Mortgage Debt Reduction: \$ _____

Humanitarian Aid: \$ _____ Missions/Seminary Appeal: \$ _____

___ I/We do not wish to **specify** a financial pledge at this time **but will support** the Church as I am able and willing. (Parish will estimate your giving based on previous year.)

___ I/We wish this pledge form to **apply to future years** until further notice. I understand that I may update or adjust my pledge at any time.

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM

MEMBERSHIP DEFINITIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

“By virtue of his or her baptism and chrismation, an individual is a member of the Holy Orthodox Church which is the Body of Christ, and as such is called to live in accordance with her teachings, traditions, and religious services, and to regularly support the Church through the local parish.” (Episcopate By-Laws, Art. IX, sec. 13)

At St. Mary’s we recognize different levels of membership. As indicated above, all Orthodox Christians who keep the faith may be considered “members” of the Church as whole. For purposes of good administration on the parish level, however, we must also distinguish between three categories:

Regular Voting Member: *As defined by the By-Laws of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, any and each member of 18 years or older who partakes of the sacraments of confession and communion (at St. Mary’s unless dispensation is received from the Parish Priest); who has fulfilled their financial obligation to the parish; and has been a verified member of at least six months is privileged to be considered a voting member, to vote in the Annual Assembly in accordance with the Episcopate Constitution and By-Laws, which includes the privilege of being nominated for and serving on Parish Council. (Episcopate By-Laws Art. IX, Sec. 14) In defining “financial obligations,” the Parish Assembly of St. Mary’s has established that **there shall be no set “dues” for membership and that members are only obliged to submit a completed pledge form in which they freely determine my level of financial commitment** . The Parish is assessed annually by the Episcopate or each regular member.*

New Member: *Members in their first year of regular membership. New Members who join in the last six months of the year are not eligible to vote in that year’s assembly. New Members are also asked to complete a Parish membership Application form. The Parish is assessed for each new member.*

Supporter: *A non-voting member (perhaps due to a membership in another parish or community) who demonstrates active support of and involvement in parish life. This category also includes non-Orthodox spouses, family members, or friends who are active in parish life and regular donors. The parish is not assessed for supporters.*