



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

January 28, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus gave us the Parable of the Talents to teach us that we are responsible for the way we use all of God's gifts – including the money He has entrusted to us. We are responsible to develop these gifts, to grow them, and then to offer them back to Him. Although we all receive different gifts, we see in this parable that there is no difference in God's reward for what we accomplish with them. If we want to be faithful servants, then we must offer whatever we have been given back to the Lord. It is not about how much we have, *but about what we choose to do with it.*

This past year we introduced our new Stewardship Program to our community and asked you all to join me and the members of the Parish Council in submitting a written Commitment Card for 2023. Some of you did, and we thank you for your faithful support of our parish. Because of your faithful stewardship the financial health of our parish has improved.

Nevertheless, we still have more work to do as we seek to strengthen our parish. We therefore ask you, as well as those who have not yet responded, to join us in making the financial health of our parish a priority in 2024. To do so, we again ask you to support the worthy ministries of our parish with your written pledge. A 2024 stewardship Commitment Card is included with this letter.

Giving to God's Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. We should always remember that *He gave first*. For this reason, the question is not, "What are the dues?" or "what's the minimum I must give?" but "How can I best show my thanks to God for His many blessings?"

As stewards, we see our parish not as it is, but as it can be with our continued and increasing faithfulness. To do this, however, we must see with eyes of faith! We must offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that as members of the Body of Christ each of us, and our parish as a whole, may reach our full potential in Him.

Before completing the enclosed Commitment Card and Information Form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. An offering given to the church is most meaningful when accompanied by your presence, by your willingness to serve, by your prayers, and by your commitment. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment and an expression of thanks for the many blessings in your life.

With Much Love in Christ,

Reverend Fr. Peter Smith, Protopresbyter
Proestamemos / Parish Priest