



Saint Philip Greek Orthodox Church

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Beloved Parishioners:

25 March 2020

In light of the extraordinary times we are facing, we wanted to update you on some significant financial challenges the parish is facing—and what we can all do to help, right now.

One aspect of what we are experiencing is the result of a long-term trend, a disconnect between yearly Stewardship giving and the needs of our budget. To exemplify the point, last year, roughly 246 stewards gave to the church: time talent and treasure. Our “mean” financial gift was roughly \$500+. (You might not be aware of this but, last year, 78 families/individuals gave over \$500 while 168 were at or under that amount for Stewardship giving.) To fully support the church, it would take roughly \$1400 from each of the 246 stewards. We do understand that, in many cases, those levels are not possible. We also recognize each gift as a treasure and appreciate your generosity. Just so we are all aware, our mailing list (again, not our current steward list) is roughly 350 families/individuals. Each of these people have had some connection to the church in the past. We are reaching out to them as well—not only to help us in this serious time of need but to welcome them back to our beloved church.

There are two other major factors have put us in this financial crisis—namely the emergence of the COVID-19 virus and festival preparations. The COVID-19 virus has had a crippling effect on our lives and businesses, as well as parish life. Having this happen during our Great Lent could not be worse. This is further coupled with having spent money to prepare for the festival, which will now have to be postponed until September. (As you know, the festival contributes roughly 30+ % of our budget.) Each year as it is, the period between January and May is extremely tight; with our situation, that challenging period is now extended quite significantly.

We have had a “perfect storm” of events lambaste us, and we desperately need your help. While our parish leadership is exploring all appropriate avenues of helping us through this difficult financial period, we simultaneously ask each of our Stewards to prayerfully consider making an offering that will have a significant impact on our current situation. We ask those that may have been on the sidelines to help us as we believe we have done for you in the past. And, during these times, there has never been a more important time for prayer and healing. “We All Stand Together.”

We hope that you will utilize our secure website and the link provided below to make your gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. <http://stphilipnh.org/stewardship/>

In Christ,

Fr. Alex Chetsas

Athanasios Liakos
Parish Council President

Doug Philipon
Stewardship Ministry Chair