

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

100th Anniversary Celebration – October 3 & 4

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 13

Sunday Before the Holy Cross

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

5:30p.m. Vigil of the Holy Cross

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross – Strict Fast Day (One of "the 12 Great Feasts of the Year")

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00p.m. 40th Day Memorial for Peter Laverne Mickel

WEDNESDAY/SEPTEMBER 16

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to St. Paisios of Athos

THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 17

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 19

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confession

10:30a.m. General Church Clean-Up

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday After the Holy Cross

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Church School and Teen Class

Coffee Hour



The Elevation of the Cross

Offerings Week of September 13

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia and Anastasia; in memory of Vaschen, Emilia and Valentina; in memory of John Zedak; for the health of Jaosn (birthday); in memory of Joséph, Loretta and John; for the health of Mattei (birthday).

Wine: for the health of Wendy.

Flowers: in thanksgiving and for the health and protection of Daniel and Maria (anniversary).

Litya Breads: for the health of Katherine.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Sept. 14- 40th Day for Peter LaVerne Mickel

Sept. 27 40th Day for Helen Perry

Sept. 14, 1978 Stephen Keselchak

Sept. 15, 1966 Theodore Mivonuk

Sept. 16, 1980 Mary Lukasik

Sept. 17, 1960 Katherine Sedorkewicz

Sept. 17, 1988 Raymond Koslosky

Sept. 17, 2003 Mila Seidal

Sept. 18, 1974 Stephen Zydiak

Sept. 18, 1993 Johana Godleski

Sept. 19, 1964 Olga Dutka

Sept. 20, 1940 Peter Chapan

Sept. 20, 1976 Sophie Demjanow

Sept. 20 2006 Eugenia Fetchko

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sept. 13 Dunaenko, Wypych, Chirnoaga,
Moldoveanu & Nemes

Sept. 20 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei & Erkman

Sept. 27 Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri

Usher Schedule

Sept. 13 Jerry S. & Adrian M.

Sept. 20 Dennis F. & Peter B.

Sept. 27 Edward S. & Khaka K.

Counters

Sept. 13 Lisa K. & Daniel T.

Sept. 20 Inga G. & Peter B.

Sept. 27 Ekaterini M. & Ciprian C.

Names Day Greetings

St. Cornelius/Sept. 15: Ciprian Chirnoaga

Many Blessed Years!

2015 Equal Sacrifice Model is in Effect

Each of our 70 parishioners (100%) is asked to make an extra offering over the amount of your usual offering of \$2.87 to \$8.62 per week to cover this year's deficit. This is based on 12 months. The average increase for the last 8 months was a base of only \$1.61. This is far short of the need.

The 100th Anniversary Banquet Invitations

The Invitations have been mailed out. **RSVP are now due.** If you did not receive the invitation or wish to have an invitation sent to someone not on our mailing list, please see Pam Stone or Katherine Mantzafos.

On Members of the Church – by St. Paisios of Athos (+1993)

Everyone is useful in the Church. Everyone has something to offer; there's plenty of room for everybody, for those of a mild character and for those that are strict and demanding. The Body of the Church resembles the human body. Just as we need both sweet and sour foods, even bitter herbs, because each food has something to contribute in substance and vitamins, so too, the Body of Christ needs everyone on us. Each person complements the character of the other, and we are all obliged to tolerate not only the spiritual temperament of others, but also their human weaknesses. Now unfortunately, there are those who have irrational expectations of others.

Fall Adult Study Classes – 7-8:30p.m.

October 7, 14, 21, 28, (Wednesdays). November 12 (Thursday) December 10 (Thursday). All invited. Topic announcement forth-coming in the bulletin and on the website.

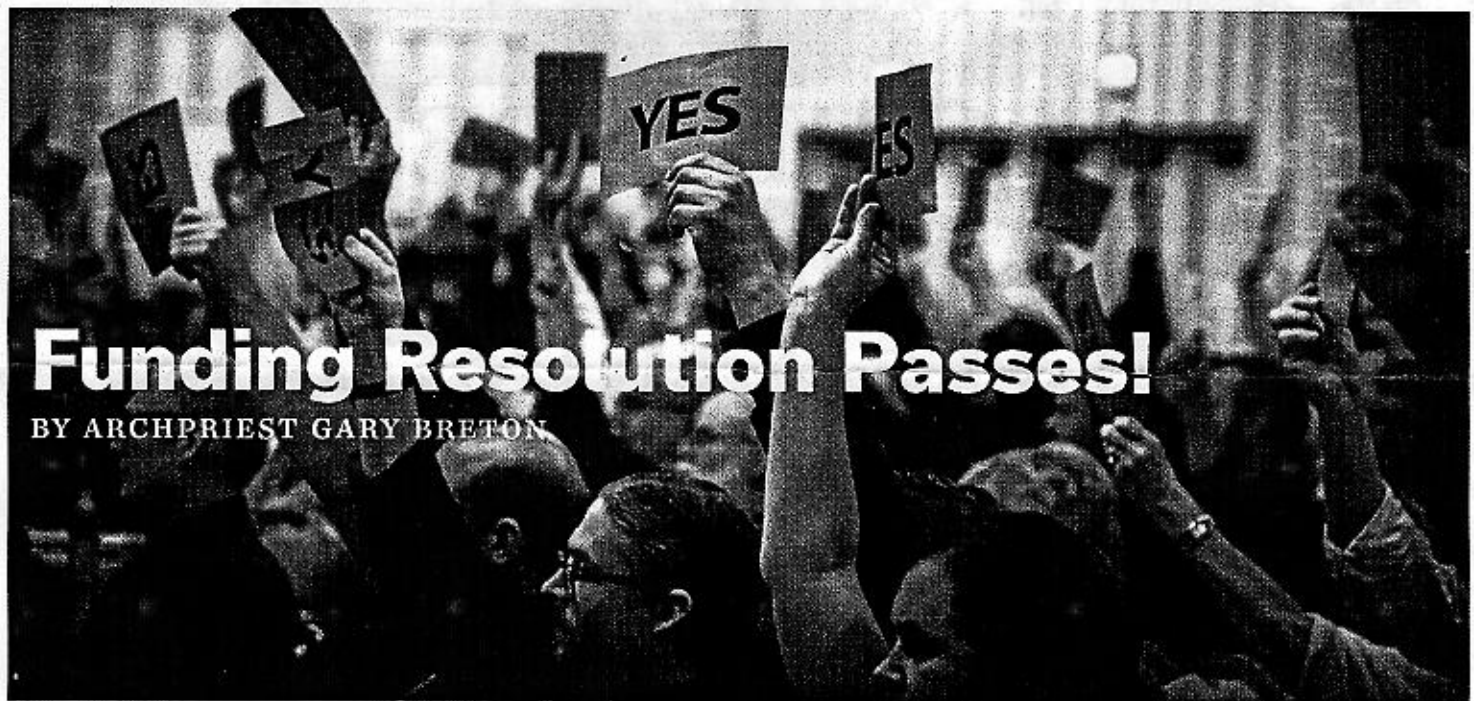
Question & Answer Periods

At Coffee Hour, Sundays, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29 and Dec. 20.

St. George Gazebo

Enjoy the gazebo but refrain from eating there during Coffee Hour. Our foods, drinks and fellowship are with one another in the hall.

First Fruits



Funding Resolution Passes!

BY ARCHPRIEST GARY BRETON

The 18th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) was held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 20–24, 2015. One of the major points of business brought before the council was the proposed Funding Resolution of the Central Church Administration. The resolution was crafted by the Financial Committee of the OCA and blessed by the Holy Synod of Bishops. During the third plenary session of the council, the resolution was presented, discussed, and passed by a large margin of delegates' votes.

The adoption of the resolution radically shifts the way in which the Central Church Administration will be funded in the future. The shift is away from the "head tax" based on the aggregate total of parishioners populating a diocese's parishes and institutions, and toward a percentage of a diocese's unrestricted income.

This new method of funding will impact our diocese and her faithful in the following ways:

1. It will initially reduce the amount of money currently being sent from the diocese to the Central Church Administration of the OCA. The current assessment

system has our diocese remitting \$288,720 to the OCA in 2015. This represents 62% of the diocese's projected Unrestricted Income (excluding DDB and other restricted monies). Under the new system, the diocese will remit \$232,000 to the OCA in 2016. This represents 50% of the 2015 Unrestricted Income.

2. It will encourage diocesan parishioners to free themselves of the concept of dues and assessments, and focus on offering a percentage of their annual income to their parish.

3. It will encourage diocesan parishes to consider remitting to the diocese a percentage of their annual income instead of an assessed amount based on their census.

4. Assuming that parish remittances to the diocese based on percentage giving match or exceed those based on the per-capita assessment system, there will be more money that will stay in the diocese to support diocesan ministries and activities.

Certainly more benefits will present themselves as the new system is implemented, and we hope to explore these in coming issues of this newsletter.

About This Publication

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, has initiated a goal of presenting bulletin inserts to diocesan parishes for distribution to the faithful. Each month will feature two inserts that will be in the form of newsletters; one will be on the topic of Stewardship, the other on the subject of Parish Growth and Evangelism. These printable and downloadable documents will be electronically distributed to each parish, and will be available at our diocesan website.

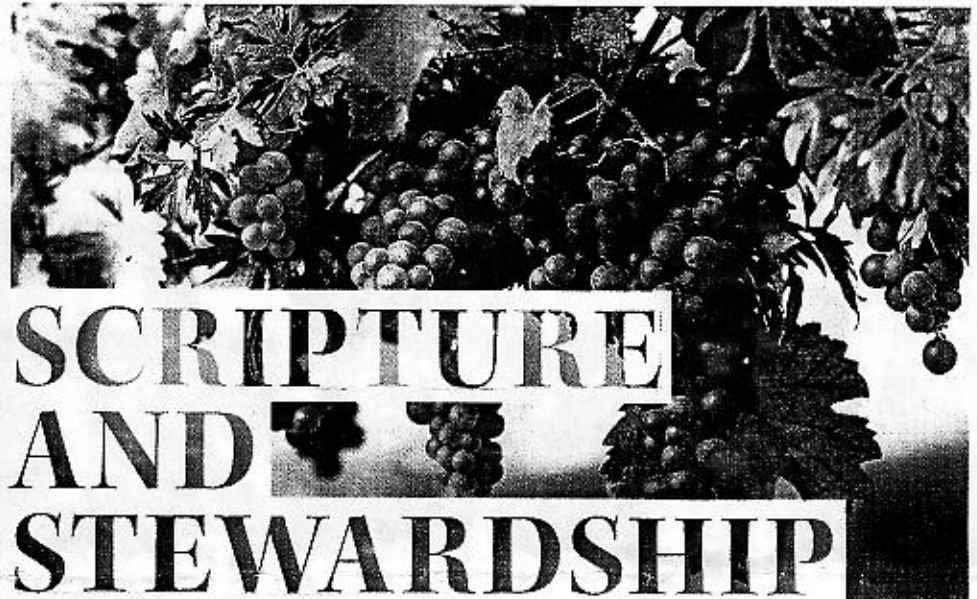
This publication is the first of the bulletin inserts on the subject of Stewardship. Please feel free to send comments and suggestions for future articles to Archpriest Gary Breton at gjbretton@gmail.com.

Mission Statement

First Fruits is written to encourage everyone in our Diocese to be good stewards of all that God has given them.

Watershed Moment

Above: Delegates at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, GA approve a historic resolution to fund the central administration via proportional giving. (Photo by Archpriest Gregory Safchuk)



SCRIPTURE AND STEWARDSHIP

Defining Stewardship

Can we formulate a definition for stewardship? How might we describe "stewardship in action?" The following list, adapted from Ron Nicola's article in The Word, suggests that we understand stewardship as:

OUR ACTIVE COMMITMENT to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

CARING for the needs of others.

OFFERING ONE'S SELF TO GOD as He offered Himself to us.

WHAT A PERSON DOES after saying "I Believe...", as proof of that belief.

LEARNING how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

DEVOTION AND SERVICE TO GOD and His Church as persons, as families, as deaneries, as a diocese, as a national Church, and as the Church universal.

[Ron Nicola, "Stewardship - A Set of Basic Principles," *The Word*, Nov. 1982, p. 4]

Proverbs

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. (3:9-10)

I Corinthians

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (4:7)

II Corinthians

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. (9:6-8)

FREEDOM AND GIVING

NO GIFT IS TRULY A GIFT unless it is given freely without reservation or condition. The gifts of God are given to us in just such an unconditional manner and we are called to model our giving after God's.

Stewardship Giving doesn't buy anything. It doesn't buy happiness or love or a tenfold return on our investment. The motive for giving the gift to God is not the expectation of getting something back.

We are able to give what we give because God has already given to us. Stewardship Giving is really a response, then, to the generosity of God. We acknowledge that we are not the starting point for the giving, but we are simply passing on a portion of what we have received.

The way in which we give our gift is as important as the gift itself. A sacrificial gift has no strings. It is given as freely as God has given to us, because the motive for the giving is grateful response rather than expected return.

This does not mean that the parish to which we give is not to be accountable for the gifts given. It does mean that our decision to give is not contingent on the particular use of the gift.