

Dear St. Nicholas family,

As we begin the Nativity Fast and prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth, it is once again time for us, as a community, to consider how to be good stewards of what the Lord has given us. To be stewards means to remember that all we have is "from above." The Lord calls us to use what He has given us to serve Him and His Body. This includes the resources of our time and our abilities, as well as our financial resources. These three kinds of blessings—our time, our talents, and our treasure—are the sacrificial gifts we offer our Lord, like gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Biblical standard for giving is the tithe: 10% of what we receive. Of course, the tithe really represents all that we have and all that we are—our whole selves offered up to God. How we tithe our time and talents may not be as obvious to us as how we tithe our treasure. To help us consider ways to contribute to the life of St. Nicholas, there is a ministry list enclosed, with jobs that need to be done in a healthy, vibrant parish.

As we consider our stewardship commitment, it is good to remember that "God loves a cheerful giver." Whatever we give, let it be the "widow's mite" that comes from a grateful heart, full of child-like delight in pleasing the Heavenly Father. May the gifts of our time, talents, and treasure be joined with the sacrifice that God most desires: a heart that is humble and dedicated to Him.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
9100 Youree Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71115

## *St. Nicholas* *Orthodox Christian Church*



## **2021** *Stewardship* *Form*

## Time & Talent

In addition to contributions of “treasure,” our tithe involves contributions of “time” and “talents.” Please use this list to indicate the ways in which you would like to be involved in the life of the parish. Each ministry and task is important for “building up the body of Christ.” Indicate whether you’d like to continue a task, or begin a new one. Families, please use initials to mark boxes for each member.

| MINISTRIES                      | SPECIFIC TASKS                                   | CONTINUE | INTERESTED |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|------------|
| Worship & Temple Beautification | Altar server (men & boys)                        |          |            |
|                                 | Choir/Reading                                    |          |            |
|                                 | Baking prosthora                                 |          |            |
|                                 | Flower arrangement                               |          |            |
|                                 | Caring for items in church (clean, iron, etc.)   |          |            |
|                                 | Seamstress work (repairs, covers, etc.)          |          |            |
| Building & Grounds              | Building Committee (plan future construction)    |          |            |
|                                 | Building maintenance & cleaning                  |          |            |
|                                 | Gardening & landscaping                          |          |            |
|                                 | Clean-up after services & events                 |          |            |
| Education & Learning            | Teaching Sunday school (or substituting)         |          |            |
|                                 | Maintaining bookstore and/or library             |          |            |
| Youth Ministry                  | Hosting or coordinating youth activities         |          |            |
| Childcare                       | Providing child care for events                  |          |            |
| Hospitality                     | Greeting visitors on Sundays                     |          |            |
|                                 | Refreshments for coffee hour & special events    |          |            |
|                                 | Hosting or coordinating parish social gatherings |          |            |
| Pastoral Care & “In-reach”      | Burial Society                                   |          |            |
|                                 | Visiting sick, shut-ins                          |          |            |
|                                 | Providing meals, rides, other special needs      |          |            |
|                                 | Phone calls & correspondence                     |          |            |
| Outreach                        | Coordinating community outreach activities       |          |            |
|                                 | Participating in community outreach activities   |          |            |
| Administrative                  | General office assistance                        |          |            |
|                                 | Website/PR                                       |          |            |
| Other (specify):                |  |          |            |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) (all participating family members)

## Treasure

Your annual pledge enables us to budget for our parish’s financial needs. The Operating Fund covers general operations and ministries of the parish. For 2020, budgeted expenses totaled \$133,041. At the beginning of 2020 we burned out mortgage; thus everything contributed to our building fund now goes towards our planned future construction, which simply awaits the raising of sufficient funds.

I pledge the following amount for 2021:

### Tithe/General Pledge

\$

*This is the amount that will go towards the general Operating Fund for 2021*

*In addition to your Tithe/General Pledge, you might consider a pledge to the Building Fund for one or more years:*

### Building Fund Pledge

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2021 only

-or-

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for

2 years

4 years

3 years

5 years

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s)