

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*



## **2025** *Stewardship* *Form*

## Time & Talent

In addition to contributions of “treasure,” our tithes involve 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 proshpora		
	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		
	Coffee hour teams		
	Hosting or coordinating parish social gatherings		
Pastoral Care & “In-reach”	Visiting sick, shut-ins		
	Providing meals, rides, other special needs		
	Burial Society		
	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 2024, budgeted expenses for general operations totaled \$172,668. All funds given to the Building Fund go towards our new temple & parish hall. As of October, 2024, we have collected \$613,734 of an estimated \$1,500,000 needed to begin construction, and \$2,500,000 to complete the project.

I pledge the following amount for 2025:

### Tithe/General Pledge

\$

*This is the amount that will go towards the general Operating Fund for 2025*

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

### New Building Fund Pledge

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2025 only

-or-

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

2 years

4 years

3 years

5 years

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

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