



St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church
5555 S. Yosemite
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111



STEWARDSHIP 2007 ***The Miracle of the Loaves and the Fish***

November 22, 2006

Dear Beloved Parishioners of Saint Catherine:

I greet you on behalf of the Stewardship Committee and pray that you are well. The Thanksgiving season is a meaningful time to be thinking about Stewardship. Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit and through the sharing of your time, talents and treasures, Saint Catherine Parish continues to expand programs and has something for everyone. She has become a vibrant and wonderful home for our families in Christ, and is truly a place inviting everyone to experience the love of our Lord. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for at our Parish.

The spirit of Christian Stewardship is proportionate giving based on our abilities, and returning to God a portion of the blessings He has provided to us. This is explained in Scripture along with the history of the tithe: "And all the tithes of the land, whether of seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's..." Leviticus 27:30,32. The tithe, or ten percent, is the scriptural benchmark set for us.

In our Spring General Assembly, members overwhelmingly approved a renewed commitment to Stewardship as the means of taking care of our Church, our Parish and its needs. We have had tremendous support from our Stewards, and truly thank all who stepped up to this responsibility for our Parish. With your support and God's blessings, we are working through the immediate financial crisis affecting St. Catherine this year. However, we believe it very important to continue this focus to strengthen our Church for the future. This will allow us to continue to support our ministries, our National Church and her ministries, pay down our present debt, fund the services we need, and to avoid relying on crisis management. As in the building of a house, this requires long-term commitment.

The approved 2007 Stewardship budget is \$791,000, a 25% increase over 2006 pledges. Thanks to God, in 2006 our average annual donation increased to \$2,137. We are blessed that this is amongst the top in our Greek Orthodox parishes, however, it is significantly lower than the Tithe benchmark. Along with the Stewardship Committee and the Parish Council, we encourage you to join with us as we continue to take steps towards increasing our pledges each year as we are able, and helping us achieve the Tithe by 2010. If you are giving proportionately more now, we thank you and encourage you to continue to do so. Your church community has blossomed into the beautiful place it is today through our Lord's blessings and your faithful offerings. Imagine what it could be if we uphold the Lord's standard of the tithe.

As part of our Stewardship 2007 Campaign, we will have an opportunity to remember how far we have come as a Parish, and to look ahead to where we are going.

We have planned a number of events to celebrate this process: this includes:

- November 26 - Stewardship Kick-off
- December 2 - Stewardship Packets and Pledge Cards sent to Parishioners (please return cards by Dec 17)
- December 10 - Stewardship Religious Education
- December 17 - Stewardship Sunday Celebration; collection and blessing of Pledge Cards

With the Blessings of our Lord,

Fr. Lou

Rev. Louis J. Christopoulos