



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
900 Alameda ❖ BELMONT CA 94002-1604
650-591-4447 ❖ office@goholycross.org

Stewardship 2012

Dear Stewards of Holy Cross,

We learn from Saint Paul, in the twelfth chapter of his letter to the Corinthians, that “there are a diversity of gifts but the same Spirit . . . differences of ministries, but the same Lord . . . diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

From this we learn that God has blessed each of us with gifts and abilities. Whether it is our physical beauty, or our intellect, our athletic or emotional strengths to bear the burdens of others, each of us is blessed. We may have talent as administrators or in sales, theatrically or musically, in finance and money management. Each of us, as a recipient of God’s grace through His love, is unique.

Stewardship is the offering of this, our God-given time, our God-given talent, and our God-given treasure to our Lord’s Church, for the building up of the Body of Christ and the spiritual strengthening of its faithful. This recognition of the reality that who we are and all that we have is a gift from God is the first step to offering true stewardship. Using these gifts and talents to give glory to God is the next logical and spiritual expression, and fulfills our nature to give.

We have much for which to be grateful as a parish community. Your sacrificial pledge of time, talent, and treasure, strengthens our ability to minister to the community at large and meet the challenges before us.

I ask that you pray and reflect upon your many gifts and determine your sacrificial commitment to our Lord and His Church of the Holy Cross. The Lord sacrificed for us His very own life. His saints also have done the same. It is incumbent upon us who bear His name to also offer sacrificially. In this way we make His teaching our own and fulfill our potential as a true steward in His Vineyard.

Faithfully yours,

Father Peter G. Salmas

❖ Church of the Holy Cross ❖
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America - Metropolis of San Francisco

Helping Others to Connect

Our task as branches of the True Vine is to see Stewardship as a way of life, and to help others to better understand its true meaning. We all have influence over others in our life. Everything we say or do has an effect – it either helps or it hurts.

When we help others to strengthen their connection to the True Vine, we help them to bridge the gap between liturgy and life, between the love of Jesus on the cross and our daily lives, between our beautiful theology and the practical stewardship to which we are called.

Jesus Christ took on human flesh in order to reunify us to Him and to each other. Our true nature is “we” *not* “I.” We are parts of a far greater whole. This is why we were created. This is why Jesus came into the world. This is why we unite ourselves to each other in the Church. This is why we give ourselves to Christ and to each other through the Eucharist. This is “who we are” – “We” are the branches of the True Vine.



"I am the Vine; You are the branches."

Christian Stewardship Is...

...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.

...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.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as parish, as metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

From Oriented Leadership by Williams & McKibben

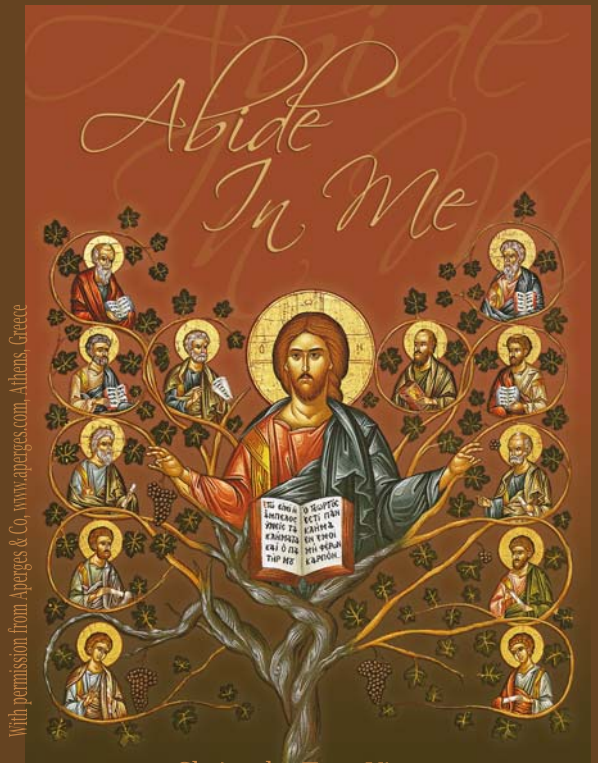


Stewardship Committee

Church of the Holy Cross

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

900 Alameda de las Pulgas • Belmont, CA 94002-1604
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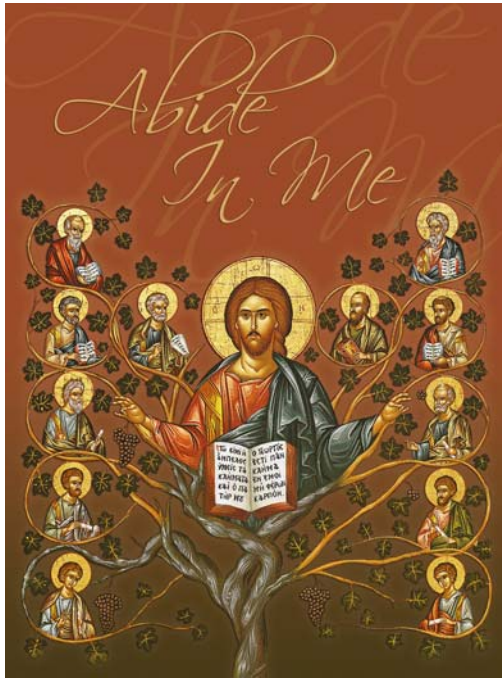
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Christ the True Vine

**"By this My Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit."**

John 15:8

**Church of the
Holy Cross
Stewardship**



We are Called to Bear Fruit

At the Last Supper, as we read in Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructed His disciples, “I Am the Vine; you are the branches.” He was telling us that the purpose of our abiding in Him is that we may bear fruit for God in the world. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...” (John 15:8). Just as the vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us. We are the members of His Body. We are the branches through which the True Vine must bear fruit. We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church.

from No Man Ever Spoke as this Man: The Great I Am's of Jesus
by A. Coniaris www.light-n-life.com

How Do We Abide in Jesus?

We abide in Jesus Christ when follow His example and love, serve and support the Church which is His Body. When we abide in Christ, we express this through generosity and devotion, especially in our financial stewardship and acts of personal generosity. Bearing fruit in the world is the visible result of our abiding in Christ.

Are You Connected to the True Vine?

As branches of the vine, we keep ourselves spiritually healthy by maintaining our connection to the True Vine which is Jesus Christ. We do this through prayer, fasting, worship, participation in the sacraments, good works, as well as by avoiding destructive behavior, divisiveness and gossip. When we connect ourselves to Jesus, His life will flow through us and we will bear good fruit.

Are You Bearing Fruit?

We all know the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand in the wilderness – there was no food, except for one boy who had five loaves and two fish – not much when you consider 5000 men. But Jesus blessed the loaves, multiplied them and used them to feed the 5000.

That boy did his best with what he had. And Jesus used it to perform a beautiful miracle.

Just like the boy who offered his five loaves and two fish, we offer what we have – however great or small our gift. If we do this prayerfully and in humility, God will take our gifts and multiply them in order to feed His people.

The Local Body of Christ

In the Divine Liturgy, the bishop prays that the Lord will visit and confirm the vineyard which is the parish, the local Body of Christ, which the Lord planted with His own right hand (Ps 79:15-16).

He Provides that We May Bear Fruit

Saint John Chrysostom emphasized Christ's continual presence with us – the True Vine that is always connected to the branches giving them life. Christ shows His great love for us by "remaining continually with those who shall bring forth fruit; for it is needful to enjoy His aid and so to bear fruit" (Homily 77 on the Gospel of Saint John). Christ, in His great love for us, has joined Himself to us and offers us all that we need to bear good fruit that will lead us and others to salvation.

The Vine also Needs the Branches



The branches need the Vine for life but the Vine also needs the branches in order to bear fruit in the world. We are His hands, His feet, His mouth.



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*Please return
this card to the
church office by
Oct. 28, 2011*

***“Strengthening Our Relationship with God :
Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God”***

I/We commit to Christ and His Church through this pledge;	
I/We expect to give the following amount for the Stewardship year 2012 :	\$ _____ <i>(the average pledge in the year 2011 was \$950)</i>
This amount will be divided and paid : <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/> quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> semi-annually	<u>OR</u> This amount will be paid : <input type="checkbox"/> once
_____	_____
<i>signature</i>	<i>printed name</i>

Every Sunday let each of you put aside your offering for the work of the Lord – 1 Corinthians 16:2

If you are interested
in paying by
VISA/MasterCard,
Please write your
DAYTIME
phone number here



(_____) _____

and we will call you for the information to make the charge.

----- for office use only -----

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____ xp _____ / _____ ; \$ _____ per _____ Total= _____



Family Information Form
 CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
 900 Alameda
 BELMONT CA 94002-1604
 650-591-4447 / office@goholycross.org

Please help us
 update
 our parish
 database!

Last Name _____

Residence Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

You

Your Spouse

First Name _____

Baptized or Chrismated
 Orthodox Christian? yes no yes no

Name Day (or Baptismal Name) _____

Birthday (month/day/year) ____ / ____ / ____

Wedding Anniversary ____ / ____ / ____

Home Phone Number (____) _____

Cell Phone Number (____) _____

e-mail address _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Work Phone Number (____) _____

do you wish to receive general
 church mail at this e-mail address? yes no yes no
 (Cross Currents, for example)

do you wish to receive Father's
 "Daily Study" at this e-mail address? yes no yes no

New Members : _____
 which church (Name of Church)
 did you attend _____
 before coming (City/State)
 to Holy Cross? _____
 (City/State)

Family Information Form (continued)

Dependent Children (please use additional sheets if so blessed) :

	<u>Eldest</u>	<u>Child #2</u>	<u>Child #3</u>
First Name	_____	_____	_____
Baptized or Chrismated Orthodox Christian?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Name Day (or Baptismal Name)	_____	_____	_____
Birthday	___ / ___ / ____	___ / ___ / ____	___ / ___ / ____
Cell Phone Number	(___) _____	(___) _____	(___) _____

e-mail address	_____	_____	_____
	@ _____	@ _____	@ _____

PARENTS :

Okay to send church e-mail to this child? (Sunday School news, for example)	_____	_____	_____
	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>
Okay to send Father's "Daily Study" to this child?	_____	_____	_____
	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>	<i>(please initial if okay)</i>

School	_____	_____	_____
Grade	_____	_____	_____
Sunday School Grade (if different)	_____	_____	_____