



**SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Stewardship 2025

Showing your Gratitude to God

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)*

January 2025

Beloved in Christ,

As we enter the New Year, we eagerly embrace the ongoing mission of St. Andrew Church in the year ahead. Each of us has been entrusted with gifts from God, the first and most precious being life itself. Along with this gift comes the time, talents, and resources God has graciously granted us. How we choose to use these blessings—our time, talents, finances, and possessions—reflects what we hold dear. As believers, we share in the gift of physical life, but we are also called to a higher purpose: to trust in the Lord and dedicate our lives to Him. In doing so, we fulfill the call to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt 6:33).

During the Divine Liturgy, the priest raises the Holy Gifts above the Altar Table and declares, “Thine Own of Thine Own we offer unto Thee, in behalf of all and for all.” This profound statement reminds us that everything we offer—our time, talents, and treasures—is a gift we have first received from God. We give not what originates with us but what comes from Him.

In anticipation of the New Year, let us consider how we might contribute to the ministry of our Church. Together, as a family of faith, we strive to glorify God’s Kingdom through our communal worship, Bible studies, outreach ministries, and acts of mercy and generosity. By doing so, we live out the words of our Lord: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

Our Church Sanctuary is at the heart of our communal life. It serves as the sacred space where we gather weekly for Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy. It is also where we celebrate the Twelve Great Feasts, Holy Pascha, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and more. These gatherings—so essential to our faith and fellowship—are made possible by the financial support of generous donors and benefactors. These contributions help us meet our monthly operating costs and address unexpected expenses that arise.

Just as we use our resources to care for our homes, may we come together to support and maintain our church ministry to our community. Through our worship and good works we point to the Kingdom of God, as we proclaim at the start of every Liturgy: “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!”

As we step into this New Year, may we do so with gratitude, faith, and a renewed commitment to the mission of St. Andrew Church.

May God bless us as we work together to serve the Lord with our time, talent, and treasure!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Herman Acker

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