



**SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

REV. FATHER HERMAN ACKER, PASTOR

33384 Mackenzie Way Lewes DE 19958

302-645-5791

frherman1@gmail.com
orthodoxdelmar.org

Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship 2026

So that you will be altogether joyful

You shall keep the Feast ... to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you. ... because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

(Deuteronomy 16:1, 15)

November 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The theme for our 2026 Stewardship year comes from Deuteronomy (16:10, 15):

“You shall keep the Feast to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you... because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.”

The command to give and the promise of joy are inseparable. In the rhythm of Israel’s life, every offering of grain, oil, or first-fruits was not a loss but an act of thanksgiving that opened the heart to joy. So too in our life at St. Andrew Church, stewardship is not merely about meeting a budget; it is about joining together in gratitude so that *we will be altogether joyful*.

Each of us has been entrusted with blessings of time, talent, and treasure. When we return a portion of these to God, we confess that everything we have first belongs to Him. At every Divine Liturgy the priest lifts the Holy Gifts and proclaims, *“Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee, in behalf of all and for all.”* Our stewardship pledge is simply our way of living out that same act of thanksgiving.

Your faithful giving allows St. Andrew’s to continue its sacred ministry—celebrating the Divine Services, teaching the faith to our children, caring for those in need, and keeping open the doors through which all may encounter Christ. As in our own homes, the light and warmth of this spiritual house depend upon our shared commitment.

Enclosed you will find your 2026 pledge form. I ask you to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you, and how you might respond freely and joyfully. May your offering be not reluctant or compelled, but given “cheerfully” as St. Paul teaches, and may the Lord bless you in all your work *so that you will be altogether joyful*.

With gratitude for your love, prayers, and support,

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Herman

Fr. Herman