

## SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Meriden, Connecticut

**Mission:** "SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church is a local Christian community of the OCA in Meriden, Connecticut and serving the surrounding area. We offer the love of Christ to all, both in words and in actions. Grateful for God's gifts, we work to expand the mission of Christ."

September 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the year, we have worshipped together and have given thanks to God the Father, his only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit for our many blessings. Devoted to our mission "...we offer the love of Christ to all, both in words and in actions..." And, we thank God for each person in our community of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church.

In this past year, we have worked to offer the love of Christ in key areas. Our worship has grown as a result of the devotion and talents of our choir, servers, and faithful, and we are celebrating more services with higher standards. We have welcomed a host of new members, catechumens and inquirers, and offer many new learning and fellowship opportunities. We continue to provide an encouraging environment for our children to grow in faith, and we enthusiastically supported participation at Diocesan Youth Rally. We have taken responsibility for the beautiful temple entrusted to us, notably restoring the stained glass windows this year.

We ask you to support these worthy ministries. Giving to His Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?" We are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

May God bless you as you review your circumstances and prayerfully and faithfully consider what you wish to offer to Him in the upcoming year. We welcome not merely your financial support of our parish budget, but your engaged presence, your willingness to serve, your prayers, and your commitment. Your stewardship offering will not only help us to meet but exceed our mission and our goals.

Enclosures are provided for you to ponder as you offer your time, talent, and treasure "to expand the mission of Christ."

In Christ,

*Fr. Joshua Mosher & Donna Leonowich*  
for the Parish Council

Enclosures

# **SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Meriden, Connecticut**

## **Stewardship Pledge Information 2024**

*Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. —The Apostle Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians (9:6)*

**In preparing your Stewardship Pledge for 2024, please consider the time and talent you have to offer to God and parish life.**

### ***What gifts do you have?***

Each year, the mission of our parish, goals, objectives, and projects are achieved by the hard work of parish volunteers as yourself. Consider how you might dedicate time to a weekly, monthly, or annual special event or activity—send a card or special message to another; help a parishioner in need of a friendly visit; provide a shoulder for a neighbor to lean on; assist in a cleanup or repair project; do landscaping around the exterior; join a committee, the choir, or the Brotherhood of SS. Peter & Paul; host a coffee hour; provide a fun activity for children; sponsor a special activity for the parish. Perhaps you have an idea of your own to contribute.

### ***What can you do to build the Body of Christ?***

Please feel free to speak with Father Joshua, Donna, or any parish leader as to how you and your family can be more involved in Stewardship in our parish.

**In preparing your Stewardship Pledge for 2024, please consider the treasure you have to offer to God and Parish Life.**

In preparing our financial budget for 2024, we prayerfully considered stewardship endeavors in our parish and neighboring community, and the care of our temple which we inherited from faithful predecessors. This budget provides for Parish Ministries, operating expenses, and growth opportunities. The goal is to prepare a balanced budget that enables us to do the Lord's work and maintain healthy parish life while being mindful of current challenges.

### ***What can you do to assist financially?***

Prayerfully, review your financial situation and your family budget. Faithfully, determine what you will generously pledge to God in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received.

## How to Offer My Time and Talents in Service to Christ's Church?

First and most fundamentally, actively participate: attend the services and be attentive, give thanks to the Lord, and partake of the Holy Mysteries. By participating in this way in our heavenly Father's house, by the power of the Holy Spirit we are made the Body of Christ.

As members of his Body, Jesus Christ calls us to build each other up in love, learning, and service. Each one of us has different gifts, and we are meant to use those gifts to serve all. Here are some different ways you could offer your own gifts this year:

### **Liturgical Life**

Altar Servers                  Choir                  Readers                  Greeters

Caring for the Church before, during, or after services (especially attending to candles)

Maintaining church linens and other liturgical necessities

Baking bread for the services (prosphora)

### **Education & Youth Ministry**

Children's Sessions: teach or assist older or younger children

Volunteer for Diocesan Youth Rally in August

Participate in Adult Learning—Bible Study, Questions after Coffee Hour, and other offerings

Offer a special presentation in an area of particular knowledge

### **Building & Grounds**

Garden & Landscape    Repairs and Improvements    Safety

Cleaning                  Painting

### **Administration**

The Parish Council oversees several committees which administer different aspects of parish life. See posted committees with descriptions, all of which welcome your engagement.

### **Ministries & Programs**

Stewardship    Growth & Outreach    Hospitality & Fellowship Activities

Visitation of Sick and Shut-Ins                  Letters of Encouragement

Brotherhood of SS. Peter & Paul                  City Park Neighborhood Association

# What does my financial contribution support?

The following financial information is presented to enable you to understand the needs of our parish and to help you determine how you might pledge your treasure.

The 2024 Budget Draft will be distributed for review on November 19 for our Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2023, after the Divine Liturgy. The Budget provides for the needs and goals for the coming year in these broad categories: Fair Share of Diocesan Expenses, Compensation & Payroll, Necessities of Parish Life, Physical Necessities, Maintenance & Improvements, Church Growth & Development, Wider Church Life, and Contingencies. These items enable our parish not to just keep the doors open, but to flourish and accomplish great things, like those highlighted in the opening letter.

The Parish Council, in preparing the 2024 Budget, has identified several physical projects needing priority in the next year: investigate dome for possible leakage; restore the mosaic above the front doors and install a canopy over it; repair downstairs foyer; upgrade kitchen; and refresh bathrooms.

<b>Projected 2024 Parish Expenses:</b>	
Rector Compensation	\$87,773
Other Salary/Compensation	16,525
OCA/Diocesan Assessment	15,500
Church Operating Expenses	60,950
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>8,200</u>
<b>TOTAL Projected Expenses</b>	<b>\$188,948</b>

Parish investment income and fundraisers provide an estimated \$19,000. **We rely on the stewardship of members like you to fund an estimated \$170,000 of these necessities of parish life.**

**We welcome whatever you offer in thanksgiving to God and in support of the mission of His Church.**

# My Pledge of Time and Talents to the Lord and His Church for 2024

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I offer to the Lord and His Church my Time and Talents in these areas:

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## 2024 Financial Stewardship Pledge Form

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grateful for God's blessings, I commit to financially support His Church  
in the following amount:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The two portions will be divided on receipt. Your Financial Pledge will be kept confidential, while the Pledge of Time and Talents will be shared with the Parish Council and relevant ministry leaders. We commit to following up with you to put your gifts to good use.

**Thank you for your prayerful consideration and faithful support.**