



METROPOLIS  
OF CHICAGO

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH

DES PLAINES,  
ILLINOIS



November 17, 2024

+ST. GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER

Dear and beloved steward of St. John the Baptist,

With joy and anticipation, we have just begun the Nativity Fast, in eager anticipation of the Greatest Gift we have ever been given: the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What better time to consider all that we have been given by God: our lives, our families, our health, our homes... and countless other gifts we often take for granted!

What is our response to God's outpouring of so much upon us?

St. Paisios encourages us to respond with *philotimo* and *leventia*. *Philotimo*, he says, is "having a heart full of gratitude to God and his fellow man; because of his spiritual sensitivity he tries to repay even the slightest good that others do to him." And he explains *leventia* as "courage, honesty, generosity of heart, directness, bravery and in general the willingness to lay down one's life for others."

So how do we begin to show such gratitude to God? One way is by being a true steward of those gifts and by giving back to Him through His Church.

True Stewardship starts by making a promise to God and holding ourselves to it. The act of filling out and submitting a pledge card solidifies that promise. Please give consideration to the further information enclosed as you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025.

***Please bring your Stewardship Commitment card to the Divine Liturgy on November 24, Stewardship Sunday at St. John the Baptist.*** Whatever you choose to pledge, may it be pleasing to God.

We wish you a blessed and spiritually fruitful Nativity Fast. May we all prepare for the great gift of His birth by stretching our own giving back to Him.

In Christ's abiding Love,

Father John Rallis  
Protopresbyter

Father Dimitri Tobias  
Economos

Kostas Skoulidakis  
President, Parish Council

Jerry Gianakakos  
Stewardship Chair

P.S. Even if you opt to give through automated donations or if you haven't done so in years, we ask you to ***please complete and submit a pledge card***, in order to express to yourself and to the church your plans for giving this year.