

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of our parish.

Eternal Life Begins Now

“The Church is the unity of all worlds, earthly and heavenly, of angels and men, of the living and the dead. We obtain real communion with God and we participate in God’s uncreated energy. God does not stay in heaven, directing history from there. He directs the world with His uncreated governing energies. We do not aim at appeasing God, but to heal ourselves, so that the vision of God becomes light for us and not fire. Furthermore, in the Church we live eternal life starting from now. We do not simply await the life to come, but we experience and enjoy it from the present. The Kingdom of God, according to the Fathers, is not life beyond the grave, but communion with God, above all, the vision of the uncreated Light.”

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos
The Illness and Cure of the Soul in the Orthodox Tradition

St. Sophia
Greek Orthodox Church
510 E. Sunset Dr.
Bellingham, WA 98225
stsophia.bellingham@gmail.com

Well done
good & faithful
servant

Matthew 25:23



STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

COMMITMENT CARD 2024

Information

NAME (INCLUDE CHRISMATED NAME IF APPLICABLE)

NAME OF SPOUSE (CHRISMATED NAME IF APPLICABLE)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

CONTACT PHONE

CONTACT PHONE OF SPOUSE

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE

Dependent Children's Names

May we include your contact information in the parish directory?

yes no *If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:*

May we add you to our parish email list?

yes no



Treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$ _____ each week/ month/ year

Planned Giving

I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan.

We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as the Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

Time and Talent

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (✓).

Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

EDUCATION

- Bible Study
- Adult Religious Education
- Intro to Orthodoxy
- Publications
- Speakers
- Bookstore
- Library

LITURGICAL

- Sanctuary & Altar Care
- Altar boys / Acolytes
- Baking Prosfora
- Choir
- Reader
- Chanter

YOUTH

- Church School Teacher
- Church School Administration
- Youth Leader
- Vacation Church School
- Camp Counselor

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

- Campus Ministry
- Welcome Team
- New Member Events
- Outreach
- Stewardship
- Sunday Fellowship / Coffee
- Visitation – Hospital
- Visitation – Shut-ins
- Feed the Hungry
- Prison Ministry
- Grief Bereavement Group
- Disaster Relief Projects
- Blood Drives
- Project Mexico
- Int'l Orth Christian Charities
- OCMC Mission Center
- Seniors Ministry
- Couples Ministry
- Singles Ministry
- Makaria (funeral lunch)

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Garden & Landscape
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Clean-up
- Interior Repairs
- Exterior Repairs
- Roofing
- Hall Rentals

ADMINISTRATION

- Fiscal Mgt / Review
- By-Laws
- Development / Fundraising
- Office help
- Computer / Technical
- Data Entry

COMMUNICATIONS

- Web site & E-mail
- Bulletin & Newsletter
- Public Relations

Any other talents or information on items listed above:
