



A PARISH OF THE
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH OUTSIDE
OF RUSSIA

Stewardship Commitment

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to explain the Saint Luke the Blessed Surgeon Church Stewardship Commitment and how it will work.

Aim: The aim of the Saint Luke the Blessed Surgeon Church Stewardship Commitment is to provide financial and/or other material support on an ongoing, regular and predictable basis to the parish so that the parish can be properly maintained and made safe so far as is reasonably practicable, and so that the parish can pay its bills on a timely basis.

Basic Outline:

1. Parish members and friends of the parish are asked to make a pledge of regular, fixed amounts of their own choosing
2. To make an online contribution, or to set up a recurring gift, simply go to www.stluketheblessed.com/give-my-tithe/ and follow the instructions
3. Direct deposits can be made to the parish bank account:

Account: 1211909681

Routing Number: 267084199

Name: Saint Luke the Blessed Surgeon Church

Reference: <Your Last Name>

4. The Treasurer is responsible for banking the pledges.
5. Pledges are to be recorded by the Treasurer in a Pledge Register. Additionally, the names of pledgers will be commemorated at each Liturgy during the Proskomedia (Preparatory service). Additionally, once a year, on a specific Sunday after Liturgy, a General Molieben (prayer service) will be held at which the Clergy will raise prayers for the health and salvation of the benefactors making pledges.
6. Monetary pledges will be placed into general revenue, and therefore will be subject to the same transparent accounting procedures and the same rigorous independent auditing and reporting process to which all parish funds are currently subjected.
7. Pledging is open to everyone, whether they are parish members or friends of the parish.
8. The amounts pledged by individuals will be treated confidentially by the Treasurer/Auditor and other office bearers, and when presented to the Annual General Meeting, individuals' names will not be listed next to the pledge amounts in the financial records.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. *Why do we need a pledging system?*

Answer: Because we need to have regular, predictable income for the upkeep of the parish, and because good stewardship of the parish by its members is the right thing to do. It is also spiritually beneficial for us to give sacrifice of a portion of our material possessions for the benefit of others and of the Church.

Q2. *Is pledging mandatory?*

Answer: No it is not. But without it, our parish will close. We invite everyone in the parish and regular attendees to make and follow up on a pledge.

Q3. *Is there a minimum pledge amount?*

Answer: No, there is no minimum amount. Even the smallest regular support is welcomed.

Q4. *What can I expect in return for my pledge donations?*

Answer: Pledges are donations for the proper upkeep, general running, bill paying, missionary activity and maintenance of our Church. You can expect that we will properly account for you donation, and that we will spend the money wisely for purposes that it was intended. You can also expect that we will pray for the health and well-being those who make pledge donations.

Q5. *Why are pledge donations subject to Diocesan Levies?*

Answer: All monetary revenue received by the parish is subject to a nominal, small Diocesan Levy. Just as we parish members are obliged to look after our parish, by the same token it is an obligation on every parish in the Diocese to contribute to the upkeep and well-being of the Diocese. Having a well-tended Diocese brings flow-on benefits to all of the parishes in the Diocese, as it means that they are able to function effectively.

Q6. *What if my circumstances change and I can't afford my pledge?*

Answer: Simply resubmit your pledge at a rate that you can afford.

Q7. *If I pledge, does it entitle me to receive things for free? For example, can I have candles or prosphoras for free?*

Answer: No, pledging does not affect any other existing arrangement in relation to parish property or items provided by the parish for sale or use by the parishioners. It is in addition to the pre-existing arrangement.

Q8. *How can I pledge?*

Answer: Fill out the attached form and either mail it in, drop it in the collection box on Sunday or give it to the Parish Treasurer; then make the necessary arrangements to fulfill your pledge.

Stewardship Commitment Form

(Please return the completed form to the Parish Treasurer)

First Name(s): _____ Last Name: _____

Please pick the kind of pledge(s) you wish to give:

Financial

I/we pledge to give \$_____ per **week/month** via (choose one):

Online Giving (easily canceled, see Page 1 of this form for details)

OR

Direct Deposit to Parish Bank Account (see Page 1 of this form for details)

OR

Cash/Cheque

Material

Labor

I/we pledge to provide my physical assistance to perform maintenance/renewal/cleaning work on a regular basis as agreed with the parish warden manager.

I understand that fulfilling my pledge on a reliable basis is important for stewardship of the parish, and I volunteer to fulfill my pledge faithfully, in the spirit of love for the Lord our God, not for pride or expectation of material returns.

I understand that I can vary my pledge at any time by resubmitting this form.

Signed: _____ **Date:** ____/____/20____