



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

H o u s t o n , T X

2012 Membership Packet

Beloved members of the Church of St. George,

Enclosed is your 2012 Membership Form. Please take time to fill out the membership portion and prayerfully consider your response to the ministry and pledge portions of the Form. This year we ask that all Members submit their 2012 Membership Forms by **January 31, 2012**.

It is important to St. George that every family return a Membership Form, indicate their ministry interests, and, if able, make a pledge offering. Membership, ministry, and pledge information:

- Lets St. George know that you are a part of our Church Family. The Membership Forms and ministry interests show the size and reach of our Church. A submitted Membership Form makes you known to our priests, staff, and Church Family – *this is particularly important as our new priest, Father James, is getting to know the parish.*
- Allows St. George to plan a 2012 Church Budget based on expected pledges. The pledge portion of the Form – **if received in January** – provides St. George information to approximate its 2012 income--information critical for budgeting and decision-making throughout the year.

St. George thrives because the Members of this parish participate in and provide generous financial support for our continuing ministries. Our Church is blessed to have two full time priests, a full time secretary, and a youth director. Our chapels and facilities are second to none. St. George has a full schedule of weekly services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, churchings, memorials, counseling, and confessions. Our list of ministry groups is long and growing.

This—the life of our beloved Church—requires a proposed 2012 budget of \$637,400. *The continued financial commitment of you, the individuals and families of St. George, is needed to meet this budget.* St. George has long had the ambitious, but achievable, goal of meeting our operating budget solely through the pledges of our Members. Let's make this goal a reality. We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2012 pledge with thanks for what God has given you and your family, with love for the people touched by this Church's ministries, and with hope that our Church will see increasingly fruitful ministry in 2012.

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7.

New for this year we will have a Stewardship Sunday on January 22, 2012. Please bring your Membership Form with you to submit on Stewardship Sunday. If mailed, we ask that all Membership Forms be submitted by **January 31, 2012**.

Thank you in advance for your Membership Forms and thank you to the 2012 Pledging Members.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James, Fr. Symeon, and the St. George Stewardship Committee, Anthony Kaim, Chairperson



Excerpts from A Sacrificial Offering: Giving the Biblical Way, by Fr. Paul O'Callahan

What is sacrifice, and what is its importance to contemporary Orthodox Christians? In the Old Covenant and in many religions, a sacrifice involves the slaying and/or burning of an animal or the products of the harvest. It is an act by which the blessings of the earth are offered back to God. It is often specified that the sacrificial offering be “unblemished,” the first-born, or the firstfruits. This is because for the sacrifice to be effective, the offering must be of great value. It must really *cost* the offerer to give it.

Our giving to the support of the Lord’s house operates on the same principle. It is to be a gift of something costly to the Lord, and as such, God receives it as well-pleasing to Him. The Apostle Paul used Old Testament sacrificial language to describe the giving of the Philippians: “I am full, having received the things you sent from Epaphroditus, a sweet smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.” PHIL. 4:18.

Let us give, and give sacrificially “a sweet smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.”

Pledge Guide					
Annual Income	10%	8%	6%	4%	3%
\$25,000	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,000	750
\$35,000	3,000	2,800	2,100	1,400	1,050
\$40,000	4,000	3,200	2,400	1,600	1,200
\$50,000	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,500
\$60,000	6,000	4,000	3,600	2,400	1,800
\$70,000	7,000	5,600	4,200	2,800	2,100
\$80,000	8,000	6,400	4,800	3,200	2,400
\$90,000	9,000	7,200	5,400	3,600	2,700
\$100,000	10,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	3,000
\$120,000	12,000	9,600	7,200	4,800	3,600
\$150,000	15,000	12,000	9,000	6,000	4,500

Membership Forms and Pledge Information 2006-2011

Year	Total # Forms	Total Pledged on Forms	Total Operating Expenses
2006	220	\$338,304	\$544,197
2007	247	\$367,005	\$559,568
2008	245	\$464,635	\$589,414
2009	260	\$449,951	\$607,310
2010	257	\$504,225	\$624,099
2011	242	\$455,524	\$617,950
2012	???	???	\$637,438

Membership Forms

- St. George provides services to over 650 families.
- St. George has never received more than 260 Membership Forms in a single year.
- **We can do better!**
- Let's break a Membership Form record in 2012! Help us on our way to having every family fill out a Form.

Pledges and the 2012 Budget

- The Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2012 is \$637,438.
- That means it takes over \$1,700 per day to keep St. George's doors open and its ministries active and growing.
- Let's take the important step of meeting our operating budget solely through the pledges of our members.
- **Pledge generously today!**

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

2012 Membership Form



(1.) ** Membership Information – PLEASE PRINT **

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Family Members in your household: Name Email

_____ Email

_____ Email

Please use reverse for additional names.

(2.) ** Ministry Information **

Please prayerfully consider offering your time to one of our Church's ministries. Please indicate whether you are already involved in a particular ministry or if you would like to be contacted about participating.

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Name(s) of family member(s)</u>	<u>Already involved</u>	<u>Please contact me</u>
St. George Choir / Sacred Music			
Arabic Choir			
Chanters			
Ladies Altar Society			
JOY Club			
Teen SOYO			
Orthodox Christian Fellowship			
Altar Servers Team			
Church School Team			
Hospitality / Greeter Team			
Library Team			
St. Phillip's Prayer Discipline			
Humanitarian Team			
Ushers Team			
Sick / Shut-In Team			
Healthcare Providers Team			
Other - please indicate _____			

(3.) ** 2012 Pledge Information **

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
X 12	X 4	X 1
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Total pledge for 2012: \$ _____

Archdiocese Tithe add 10%* \$ _____

Total Pledge + Archdiocese Tithe \$ _____

*St. George tithes 10% of all pledges received to the Archdiocese.

Please see next page for credit card option.

Credit Card Payment Option

AUTHORIZATION: Yes, I would like the convenience of automatic billing through _____, 2012. By signing this form I authorize St. George Orthodox Church to charge my account, (CHECK ONE) _____ **Monthly** _____ **Quarterly** _____ **annually**, in the amount of \$ _____ until I provide a written cancellation. Additionally, I would like to make an additional one time donation in the amount of \$ _____ to be charged immediately.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
_____ **American Express** _____ **Discover** _____ **MasterCard** _____ **Visa**

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card billing address: _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date: _____

St. George is also set up to receive payments from the online bill pay services from several major banks.