

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

St. Stanislaus Cathedral



The Saint Stanislaus Stewardship Pledge Program

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The Saint Stanislaus Stewardship Pledge Program

Overview

The Stewardship Pledge Program has been created as a financial model that promotes Christian Stewardship (giving), presents a welcoming impression of our Parish, and updates our giving model to keep in step with today's economic uncertainty and challenges while also maintaining our obligation to the National Church.

Stewardship Pledge Program

All members will be required to complete a Stewardship Pledge Form by the designated date. This pledge will be based upon what you can offer to the church in order for it to maintain parish daily operations, national and diocesan financial requirements, and continue to the mission of the church.

Parish Membership

A member of the Parish is defined as; Any adult, aged 18 and above, who submits a completed pledge form (See **Appendix A – Stewardship Pledge Form**) to the Parish Office, by Dec. 1st, for the following year. In the spirit of Christianity, there will be no minimum pledge. ALL ARE WELCOME BY DESIRE AND REGARDLESS OF WEALTH.

The Parish will provide the deficit of those pledging members whose pledges do not equal the sum of the combined national and diocesan assessments; and the Parish will provide the deficit of those pledging members who have not met their pledge by the end of the year, if the total offerings for the year might be less than the sum of the combined national and diocesan assessments.

In this way every '*believer*', as referred to in the Constitution of the PNCC, will be a *member* of the PNCC through the Parish which has the responsibility to provide the required assessments for all its *members*.

Current Members

The Parish Committee, with the assistance of the business office will be mailing all current members, and a vetted list of former members, a welcoming letter to the new system. For current members, an analysis of previous year's donation and dues will be provided to assist our current members in making a pledge appropriate for them.

For Example:

- A current member offered \$245 (old dues amount) which is \$4.71 a week for 52 weeks.
- The Parish Office would then show the amount given via the current envelopes system. Again for example, if a person who gave \$300 additionally this works out to be \$5.76 a week for 52 weeks.
- Members will be encouraged to increase their offering in the form of a Stewardship Pledge. For this example we use 5%. This would total about .25 cents more each week totaling \$314.

NOTE: This is one example. Some members offer more and some offer less.



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See Appendix B – Sample Stewardship Pledge Letter For Current Members.

New Members

For potential new membership, a welcome letter will be mailed with an open ended pledge amount and an example on how to come about a pledge. ***See Appendix C – Sample Stewardship Pledge Letter for New Members.***

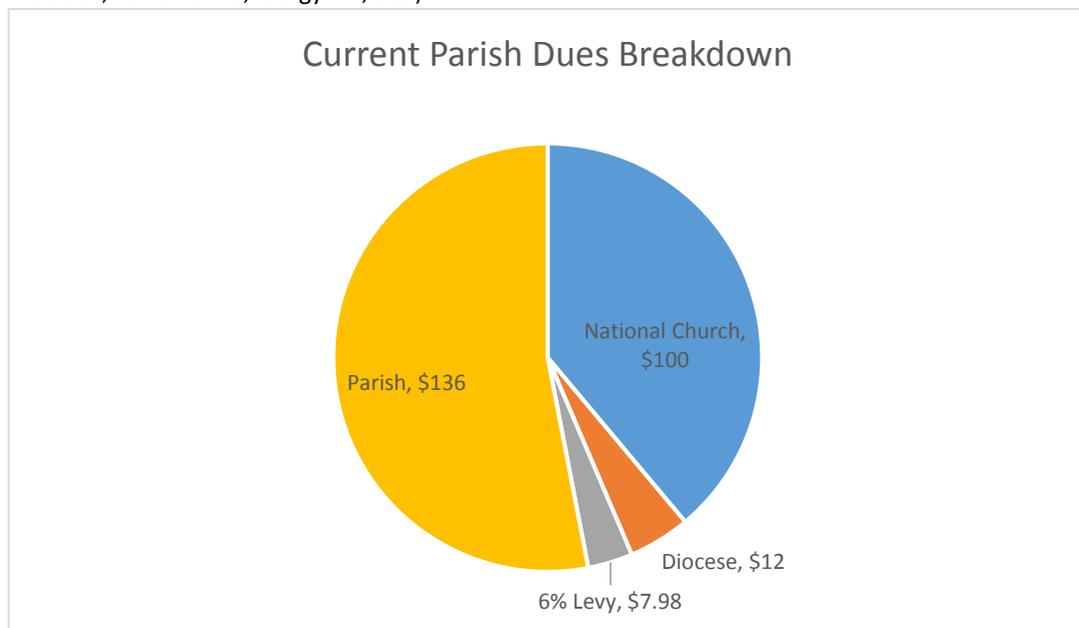
Parish Operations

Saint Stanislaus Cathedral has ongoing expenses to maintain daily operations at the church. These expenses are labelled as cost centers. Details about these cost centers can be inquired through the parish office. A portion of your Stewardship Pledge goes to the funding to cover these expenses. Additionally, the parish is a center for spirituality. Developing a strong spiritual element in our parish also requires funding which will be driven by the member's Stewardship Pledge.

National Church Funds

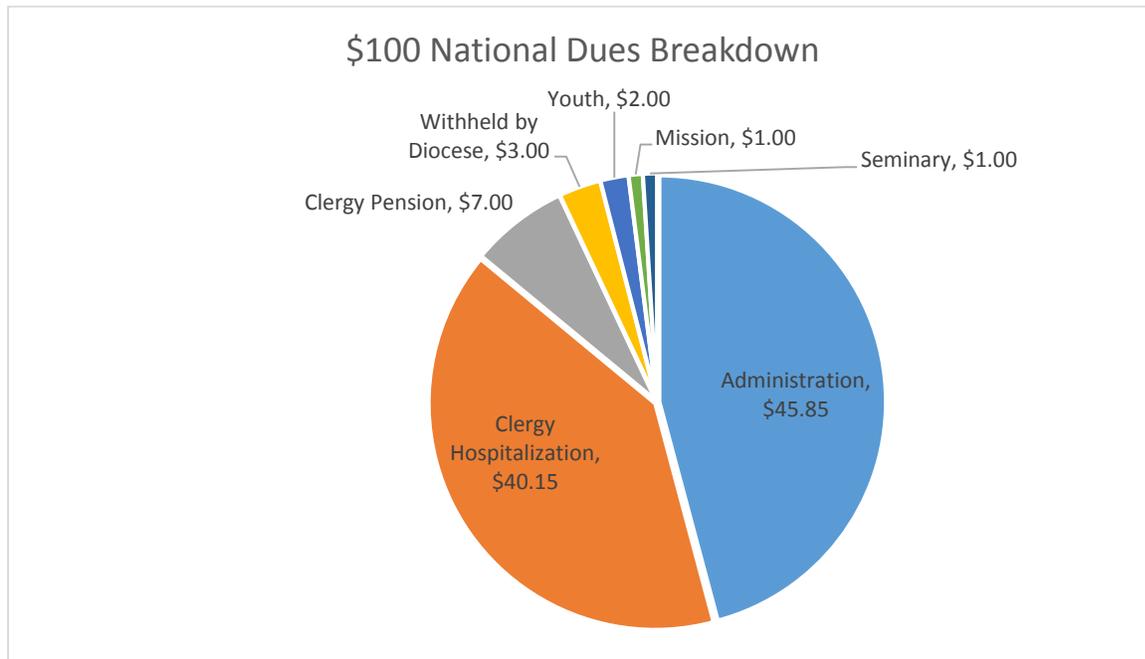
This Church's (PNCC) financial needs are provided for in accordance with Synodal enactments. They include but are not limited to:

1. General Fund Dues - \$100 per adult member
2. 6% levy on regular Sunday and Holy Day collections. Although, "Dues" per se is eliminated in the Stewardship Pledge Program, the amount should be reflected in somewhat larger Sunday offerings on which the Parish sends the 6% levy. (The 6% levy is distributed by the National Church to numerous areas such as SOCL, Parish loans, Clergy aid, etc.)





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Additionally, the PNCC Constitution lists collections for the Mission Fund, Seminary Fund, Youth Fund, Clergy Pension Fund, Spojnia, Inc., Music Scholarships and United Youth Association. We have envelopes in our current system for those contributions which will be forwarded as collected. In line with the Stewardship Pledge Program, we will accommodate the needs of the Parish and of the National Church in this way this year and will provide a modified envelope system for next year.

Cemetery Burial Rights

Members of the Parish are afforded rights to be buried in the St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery which is a private cemetery. The rights are expanded on below:

- a) If an individual is a member of the Parish, as defined by our new Stewardship Pledge Program, then he/she will have the opportunity to be buried at the cemetery at a member cost. The member cost will be: plot or niche + opening and closing fees + any associated burial fees (i.e. foundation for headstone, corner markers etc.)
- b) If an individual WAS a member at any point prior to the new Stewardship Pledge Program taking affect and has purchased a burial plot or niche, they are entitled to interment at member cost x 3. The rationale is, current members make ongoing contributions to the betterment of our Parish and therefore reap the benefits of membership pricing.
- c) If a member was in good standing with the Parish, for no pre-defined amount of time, and for financial reasons beyond their control (i.e. elderly member on a fixed income which makes it a hardship to contribute) are unable to stay current, committal will be at member cost. This will be determined by the Parish Committee after review of the circumstances.
- d) We are a private cemetery. There will be no burials outside of the three (3) scenarios listed above. WHEN AND IF THERE IS A UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE REGARDING BURIAL, THE PARISH COMMITTEE WILL MAKE A DETERMINATION, WITH A VOTE OF A QUOREM, AT THE LEAST.



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Tripp Park Chapel

At this time, Tripp Park Chapel is under the St. Stanislaus EIN. With that being said, they are part of our family and will be treated as such. We will conduct meetings with the members who attend Holy Mass there and introduce them to the Stewardship Pledge Program so that they can work alongside us in furthering the mission of the church.

Exemptions

Over the years various techniques to encourage parish participation through offering exemptions or discounts. These are modified in the following ways:

Elementary School Tuition

At this time with a new program and the current fiscal uncertainty there will be no tuition discounts given to members of our parish who attend the St. Stanislaus Elementary School. Our school is very reasonably priced and currently operations costs are exceeding income.

College Students

Young adults, up to an including 25 years of age who are full time students will not be mandated to make a monetary contribution, but encouraged to contribute in other ways to assist in the furthering of the parish.

Financial Distress

Due to the NO MINIMUM STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE amount, individuals will no longer have to arrange a special meeting with Parish Committee nor Parish Clergy to seek special permission to be absolved from making a pledge offering. All are welcome in our Parish.

Amnesty

All back dues from 2014 and prior will be forgiven. If you were a member who was unable to meet their membership dues requirement in two or more successive years prior to 2016, you will be considered a new member at this time. It will be requested that you pay the balance of your membership under the dues model of 2015. The dues amount for 2015 is \$245 per individual.

At this writing we became all too aware of members who encountered financial challenges that forced them to choose a path away from our Parish simply because they were embarrassed because they could not afford the dues required to be a member at St. Stanislaus. As part of our approach to improving the financial and spiritual posture of our Parish, we will eliminate this barrier under the Stewardship Pledge Program.



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Appendix A – Pledge Form Mailing (Example)

Thank you!!! Thank you for all you do in support of our Parish.

As we move ahead with our new Stewardship Pledge Program there are a few items to keep in mind. Remember, this is new so we are going to help you in this process.

On Sunday, February 7, 2016, our Parish overwhelmingly decided to change the current membership plan from a dues based system to a pledge based system. The **Stewardship Pledge Program** is aimed at welcoming ALL to worship in our Parish and to bring to the forefront your commitment to St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Please note the following during this important transition:

- All dues owed from 2014 and prior will be forgiven.
- Dues for 2015 must still be met.
- **You** will now determine your annual financial commitment to the parish with a pledge.
- All your general contributions to St. Stanislaus (either in lump sum or weekly white envelopes) will be combined to help meet your pledge.
- We will continue to use the envelope system for donations.
- Envelopes designated for the National Church will not count toward your pledge.
- Moving forward, every year will start with a new pledge with no “past dues/monies owed” history to maintain your membership with St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Your next step....

It is easy. Everyone in our Parish family and any NEW Parish family members need to complete and submit the enclosed Stewardship Pledge form indicating the amount you wish to donate in 2016 by **March 13, 2016**.

How much do I pledge?

Below is your 3 year giving history. This should assist you in making a pledge that is not only helpful to the church, but appropriate for you, as well. Remember, your weekly “white” envelopes will count towards your pledge.



Your pledge is the lifeblood of our Church and Parish, to be more specific it pays for:

salaries – utilities – supplies - repairs - maintenance

With your pledge we will continue to support our Diocese and National Church. Also note, the first \$112 for each Parishioner assists the National Church and



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Diocese function. Your contribution above \$112 aids in furthering the mission of St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

Your 3 Year Offering History

Your offering history reflects Dues, Parish Offerings, and Special Offerings for each year noted below:

Year	Dues + Parish Offering	Special Offerings	<p>Your 3 Year Average = XXX.XX</p> <p>Would you consider a</p> <p>pledge of 5% more (XXX.XX) in 2016.</p>
2015	XXX.XX	XXX.XX	
2014	XXX.XX	XXX.XX	
2013	XXX.XX	XXX.XX	

As of this mailing, our 2016 offering records indicate you have contributed XXX.XX towards your pledge.

Returning Your Pledge Form Is Easy

*We would greatly appreciate if you would return your Stewardship Pledge Form no later than **March 13, 2016.***

*You can do so by **mailing it, dropping it off in the parish office** or simply **putting it in the collection basket.***

A Special Note

Even if you choose not to maintain membership at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, we would appreciate you returning the form indicating so, as we are attempting to update our records.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our Lord, Jesus Christ!



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St. Stanislaus Parish Committee



The Saint Stanislaus Stewardship Pledge Program

2016 Stewardship Pledge for St. Stanislaus Cathedral

Name: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:

Thank you again for supporting our Parish! Please complete the following, sign and submit.

Indicate one of the following weekly offerings towards a pledge:

\$10.00 per Week = \$ 520.00

\$13.00 per Week = \$ 676.00

\$15.00 per Week = \$ 780.00

\$20.00 per Week = \$1040.00

\$25.00 per Week = \$1300.00

\$30.00 per Week = \$1560.00

\$50.00 per Week = \$2600.00

OTHER WEEKLY AMOUNT _____

If you have not fulfilled your 2015 Dues please note the following:

Your balance owed for your 2015 Dues is: \$245 - XXX.XX(amt paid) = **XXX.XX**

Your Stewardship Pledge for 2016 will be **XXX.XX** + your indicated pledge amount.

My Stewardship Pledge for 201X will be \$ _____

Continued.....



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Please indicate on the following below, sign and submit.

____ I would like someone to contact me to discuss the new pledge system so I can become a more active member of St. Stanislaus Cathedral. The best way to reach me is (phone, email, other):

____ I do not consider myself a member of St. Stanislaus Cathedral. Please remove me from your records.

Please return this pledge form by March 13, 2016 to the Parish Office, collection basket on Sunday, or mail it to:

St. Stanislaus Cathedral,
Parish Office,
529 E. Locust St.
Scranton PA 18505

Signature