

November 7, 2009

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Enclosed is our 2010 Christian Stewardship Commitment Card. Please consider your commitment carefully and bring the completed card to Stewardship Sunday on November 15. Please be sure to complete the back of the card. We want to make sure that we have up to date information about your entire family. The blank Stewardship Card will also be posted on the web site at <http://www.saintdem.org> and is always available in the narthex of the church.

Remember that this year our goal is to “raise the bar” for stewardship. We would like for stewardship to increase not by five or ten percent, but more like **fifty to seventy-five percent**. The additional funds would go toward new programs and services for the benefit of our parish and community, which would likely attract new stewards as well. A portion of the funds also would be held in reserve for emergencies and unanticipated needs.

This is the part of the message that usually begins with *under the circumstance*. Under the circumstance of challenging economic conditions... Under the circumstance of an impending capital campaign... Under the circumstance of our many other financial commitments... There are many reasons why we can't raise the bar for stewardship. That doesn't mean that it's impossible. It is an ambitious goal, just the kind of challenge that a thriving, growing Orthodox community should pursue.

Please think and pray about this challenge. Each and every pledge, regardless of size, is appreciated. If you are prepared to raise the bar financially, please make it show on the Stewardship Card. If you can't, then consider sharing more of your time and talent. Let's raise the bar together!

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Panesis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Michael Panesis  
Stewardship Chair