

### ***Pledging to Give in Stewardship***

We continue to consider **pledging** (promising) **to give** (to transfer in love for free) **in stewardship** (as those who manage value in trust for the true owner).

#### *Article 6*

### **Tithes and Offerings**

There are two ways to give that are directed by God in the Old and New Testaments and by the Holy Fathers: **tithes and offerings**. This week we'll focus on **tithes** which ordinarily are pledged annually.

Tithing is the regular, proportional giving of 10% of personal income to the parish for the general operating fund, and to support the works of the Church, including charity. Tithing does not take the place of other forms of giving (offerings), nor do the other forms of giving ever take the place of tithing. God calls us to give “tithes AND offerings” not “tithes OR offerings”!

**Ten Percent.** To begin, you need to think about two things; first, how to find 10%. In order to determine ten percent of any amount, move the decimal point one place to the left. For example, a tithe of \$100 looks like this: \$10.0, in other words, \$10. Your tithe can be found by looking at the bottom line of the first page of your IRS Form 1040--move the decimal point one place to the left and you have your annual tithe.

**Getting Started.** If your contribution to the parish has not been anywhere near a tithe, you have two choices, going "cold turkey," or going slow and steady. Going "cold turkey" involves immediate tithing--placing God first in your life and walking in faith, attentive to the steps God wants you to take as he reshapes your finances. Is this “putting God to the test?” Yes. God orders everyone to do this in Scripture--*concerning tithes only* (see Malachi 3:10).

You can also make a plan to slowly and steadily move toward tithing, if you are too nervous to go “cold turkey.” Find 1% of your income by moving the decimal place in your net income two places to the left. Multiply that amount by 2. Pledge 2% of your income this year, adding two percent every year. Grow in trust. Grow into a deeper relationship with God.

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