

St. Cyprian of Carthage Orthodox Church

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF THE SOUTH

September 17, 2019

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM - 2020

“Through the Cross, Joy has come into all the world!”

Dear Faithful in Christ,

We who are gathering together under the patronage of the Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, are responsible to preserve and pass on the Orthodox Christian Faith to others God has given to us according to His Grace and Divine Will. This is part of our mission as a local Orthodox Parish.

The existence of this local gathering is inextricably linked to the whole of which it is a part, encompassing the Diocese of the South and the Orthodox Church in America, as well as the entire Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church that exists in good order and obedience, each in their own place around the world. We support ourselves, however, meaning we do not receive any financial support from our diocese, national church, or the God loving Patriarchs or Bishops (or civil governments) around the world. The funds for regular expenses to operate our parish, or the assets to build real property supporting our mission, are made possible by each one of you who offer the regular monthly tithe or make a contribution to the Building Fund (see **Building Fund Appeal - 2020**).

This letter is an appeal to each person age 18 and older, born anew by water and sealed with the Spirit as an initiate of the Orthodox Church, to offer this annual **personal inventory of your own time, talent, and treasure**. The “Stewardship Pledge Form” that accompanies this letter is an aid for your personal inventory, and the result of your pledge of stewardship is a necessary prerequisite for membership in this local church. Our governing “Uniform Parish Bylaws” state: “Members of the Parish are those persons who (a) have been baptized and chrismated, or otherwise canonically received, into the Church and who consciously uphold and profess the Orthodox Faith; (b) are regular communicants, that is, frequent participants in the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion. Members ideally partake of the Mysteries weekly, but in any case, no one can be a member of the Parish who fails to comply with this obligation at least once a year; (c) fulfill the financial obligations established by the Parish. All members are urged to make a yearly commitment for financial support of the Parish in the form of a pledge, the standard of which is a tithe (one-tenth) of their income; and (d) declare their intention to be members.

Each adult (18+) needs to fill out a pledge form for themselves, but in some cases it will suffice for one to be filled out for a married couple or family. Each person 18+ should sign the form whether it represents a couple or family. This form will serve as the declaration of intention for each person to fulfill all four of the defining acts of membership. Please return the folded form for your privacy to the locked collection box on the candle table, or by USPS post to the church address, or as a scanned *pdf* document sent to treasurer@stcyprianoca.org, or handed to Alex Skirpan, Deacon John, or myself.

Archpriest David Arnold