



ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026

*FINANCIAL
STEWARDSHIP*

PACKET

*"For all these things we give thanks unto thee, and to
thine only-begotten Son and to thy Holy Spirit; for all
things of which we know and of which we know not,
and for all the benefits bestowed upon us, whether
manifest and unseen."*

Anaphora of St John Chrysostom

The Divine Exchange: Our Offering to God

At the elevation of the gifts during the Divine Liturgy, the priest holds up the bread and wine and proclaims:

“Thine own of Thine own, we offer unto Thee, on behalf of all and for all.”

At that moment, a divine mystery takes place. We offer back to God what He has first given us, and in return, He pours out His Holy Spirit upon us and upon our gifts. When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, He dwells within us and gives us a foretaste of eternal life.

This sacred exchange is at the heart of Christian living. We continually offer “ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God,” and in return, we receive His divine grace and mercy.

Dear family and friends of St. Innocent Orthodox Church

The Parish Council and I thank you for your faithfulness—your time, your prayers, your generosity, and your love. May God reward you!

As we enter the new year, we invite you to **prayerfully make a financial commitment** to support the work and mission of our parish. Every gift, large or small, is a seed sown into God’s Kingdom.

Giving is not simply a practical necessity—it is a spiritual act. Through generosity, we manifest our faith and love for God. Earthly giving becomes an eternal investment. In thanksgiving, we offer back a portion of what God has given us, and in return, He pours out His blessings.



Generosity opens and heals the heart.

Please fill out the enclosed Financial Commitment Form and return it to Treasurer David Marble or place it in a sealed envelope labeled Attn: Treasurer and deposit it in the collection box at the church entrance by November 16, 2025.

May God bless you abundantly,
Fr. Theophan

Our Mission and Vision

At St. Innocent Orthodox Church, we seek to make our Lord Jesus Christ the center of everything we do.

We aim to glorify God through the beauty of our worship and to faithfully preserve the practices of the Early Church.

We strive to love and care for one another and for those in our wider community.

We pray that our parish will continue to be a life-giving spring of the Orthodox Christian faith, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Financial Stewardship

Pledging

A pledge is an estimate of giving—a statement of intent. This practice goes back to the people of God in the book of Nehemiah (10:28–39), who made a written promise to give tithes and offerings in the future.

In the New Testament, St. Paul encourages the Corinthians to do the same (2 Corinthians 9:1–5). Pledging allows the Church to plan wisely and steward its resources faithfully.

How much should I pledge?

The amount of your annual pledge is between you and God. Pray about it, and give in proportion to how God has blessed you.

What do the Scriptures say about giving?

- **Give quietly** – “Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” (Matt . 6:3).
- **Give regularly** – “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him.” (I Cor. 16:2)
- **Give generously** – “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (II Cor. 9:6)
- **Give cheerfully** – “Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly, nor under compulsion, for God loves the man that gives cheerfully.” (II Cor. 9:7)

Tithing

Tithing means offering ten percent of one’s income to God. The first recorded tithe was Abraham’s offering to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:21). God reaffirms the importance of tithing in Malachi 3:6–12, and our Lord Himself says not to neglect it (Matthew 23:23).

Tithing is simple: move the decimal point one place to the left on your income. It is a practical and spiritual discipline that helps us order our priorities and express trust in God’s provision.

Proportionate Giving and Offerings

Not everyone can give a full tithe, but all can give in proportion to what they have .

If you cannot give 10%, prayerfully consider giving 5%, 3%, or even 1%. What matters most is that our giving is intentional, regular, and offered with love.

An offering is any gift freely given to God out of gratitude—like the widow’s two mites (Luke 21:1–4). These expressions of faith and love sustain the work of the Church and glorify God.



Other Funds

Beyond tithes and offerings, you may also contribute to the following parish funds:

- **Parish Hall Debt** – Our bank loan is paid off! We are now working on repaying our diocesan loan.
- **Iconography Savings** – Phase two of our temple fresco project is scheduled to begin in Fall 2026.
- **Festal Flowers** – Donations are welcome for Pascha and other feast days.
- **Coffee Hour Supplies** – Help cover the ongoing cost of paper goods and kitchen items.
- **Cemetery Beautification** – Support the development and landscaping of our parish cemetery, making it a beautiful resting place.

"Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze" Exodus 35:5



Easy Giving

- **Kroger Community Rewards:** Fr. Theophan has Kroger card signup forms. If you already have a Kroger card, you can update your Kroger Community Rewards online by visiting your Account Summary page. After selecting Community Rewards, there is a user info page (address & phone #), which then takes you to a lookup page where you can enter the Org number (SJ072) or simply Innocent and select our church.
- **eBay for Charity:** Have unwanted items in your home? Contact David Marble (dandmelbram1@hotmail.com or 478-972-3618) and learn how to dispose of those items, with all proceeds going to St. Innocent Orthodox Church.
- **Credit Card Points:** Check with the Credit Card company and see if you can apply your points to our Parish Hall charity.