

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

Ann Arbor, MI ~ Founded 1981

Very Rev. Fr.
Gregory Joyce,
Rector

June 17/30, 2019
Martyr Manuel

Jack (Alexey)
Mitchell, Starosta

Dear Parish Family of St. Vladimir Church,

Mikhail Fisenkov,
Treasurer

We would like to thank all of you for your spiritual and material support of our St. Vladimir Church! Through your efforts and God's blessing we are able to pay our bills. But both of these things are required – and in this order – for our parish to flourish:

Alexander
Alexandrov,
Secretary

- Our Effort
- God's Blessing

Ksenia Nikulshina,
Head of the Parish
Sisterhood

Konstantin
Poplavsky,
Head of the Parish
Brotherhood

If we expect the Lord to care for us we must make our effort first. We must act while trusting in the Lord that he will bless our labor. Our parish was founded in 1981. For all these 38 years this is how things have worked and the parish has flourished. Thank God!

Marina Edwards,
Trustee

But in order for this all to work we ALL must make our effort – and CONTINUE our effort. Every single adult member of our parish must add their mite to the treasury, just as the widow the Lord praises in the Gospel:

Dmitri Knysh,
Trustee

Igor Obertas,
Trustee

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. (Mark 12:41-44)

Natalia
Veniaminova,
Trustee

We do not ask all your living! But we do ask that you assure the material stability of your parish so that the parish can continue its ministry to our community.



POST
9900 Jackson Rd.
Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE
(734) 475-4590

FAX
(734) 429-9025

EMAIL
info@
stvladimiraami.org

WEB
www.stvladimiraami
.org

TWITTER
@stvladimiraami

At this time of year people often travel. If your practice is only to give if and when you attend St. Vladimir's then the parish suffers during these times of travel – or whenever you are absent. This is why it is SO IMPORTANT that you arrange an automatic recurring donation to our parish – OF ANY AMOUNT. That way the parish does not suffer if you are away – because the parish continues its important work even when you are not present. The lights must be turned on, the heat or air conditioning must work, salaries must be paid – even if you are not there. And even more importantly: funerals must be served, people must have the opportunity to repent of their sins and partake of Holy Communion, and baptisms must be held. None of this happens in a vacuum – these crucial things happen only with your support.

Some have been materially blessed by God greatly. Of course these should return

more to the Lord in their tithe. Others have been less materially blessed by God. Of course these should return less to the Lord in their tithe. This is the beauty of the tithe: no matter how you have been blessed all give the same 10% that the Lord asks of us. Giving is first and foremost a spiritual endeavor. It is crucial that we not forget this and that spiritual rationale drive our giving. We give a small amount back to God of the huge bounty He has given us.

Still – it is good for us to share the financial reality of the situation with you too. We don't expect people to give without understanding what we spend our money on. This is OUR parish – all of us. We need to know what is happening here. And so we include in this mailing our expenses for 2018 and the first half of 2019. As you see there, if every parish member gives about \$30 per week (or if we average that amount from those who give more and those who give less) the parish will easily pay its bills from OARS (Offerings at Regular Services). Of course we receive WIND (What is not Diocesan Taxed), but because very few parishioners have established a regular recurring donation that is \$30 or more we rely on WIND to provide the fuel that drives our parish ship. This is wrong – those WIND funds should be used for special projects – especially to spread the Orthodox Faith in our area and to move us towards our new parish church. And it is not just that few people have established a regular recurring donation to our parish of \$30 or more. Very few of our parishioners have established a regular recurring donation of ANY KIND. In other words – the vast majority of our parishioners only make a donation when they are physically present at the Divine Services. We are very happy to help you set up a recurring donation – please ask any of us or any Parish Council member.

It is crucial for you that the parish church be there for you in your time of need. But the only way that you can guarantee this will be the case is if you support the parish all the time – not just when you need it and not just when you are present. It is understood that not everyone can come to every service at St. Vladimir's. Thus, we strongly urge you to establish a regular recurring donation to your parish – the parish that you have chosen to be a member of and have pledged to support with that membership. The hard part is getting ourselves to first act, and then trust God that He will bless our action. We are certain that once you do that all will be well. You will choose an amount that makes sense to you and the parish will continue to flourish. We have enclosed a flyer here that explains how you can establish such a donation, but if you have questions please contact any of us, or any Parish Council member.

We ask your prayers for YOUR parish!

With Love in Christ,
Your Stewardship Education Team,



Fr. Gregory Joyce
Rector
734-649-5746



Jack (Alexey) Mitchell
Starosta
734-395-5453



Leta (Ksenia) Nikulshina
Head Sister
734-272-3826

P.S. Enclosed here, in addition to the quarterly expense rate for 2018 and 2019 mentioned above is:

- Quarter 1 & 2, 2019 Income & Expense Statement
- A Letter from our Sisterhood Treasurer Explaining her Family's Choice to Support our Parish
- How to Support St. Vladimir's Flyer
- Planned Stewardship at St. Vladimir Church

P.P.S. With this communication we will cease publishing the weekly collection vs. budget document. We feel that this is not a useful report. Rather, we favor the quarterly report, which captures all income and expenses.

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church
Ann Arbor, MI

Income & Expense Statement

	Quarter 1 2019	Q1 2019 Avg/month	Q1 2019 Avg/week*
ACTUAL			
Income			
OARS – Offering at Regular Services	\$35,080.05	\$11,693.35	\$2,698.47
WIND – What is not Diocesan Shared	<u>\$30,563.98</u>	<u>\$10,187.99</u>	<u>\$2,351.08</u>
Total Income	\$65,644.03	\$21,881.34	\$5,049.54
Expenses (COB – Central Operating Bills)			
CORE – Clergy, Outreach, Regulatory, Episcopal	\$36,870.73	\$12,290.24	\$2,836.21
MUD – Maintenance, Utilities, Dwelling	\$6,038.17	\$2,012.72	\$464.47
SNAP – Supplies, 'Nsurance, Administrative, Professional	\$5,531.09	\$1,843.70	\$425.47
FESTIVAL	<u>\$4,682.39</u>	<u>\$1,560.80</u>	<u>\$360.18</u>
Total Expenses	\$53,122.38	\$17,707.46	\$4,086.34
Variance ACTUAL vs. ACTUAL	\$12,521.65	\$4,173.88	\$963.20

BUDGET

Income			
OARS – Offering at Regular Services	\$29,771.69	\$9,923.90	\$2,290.13
WIND – What is not Diocesan Shared	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,333.33</u>	<u>\$1,923.08</u>
Total Income	\$54,771.69	\$18,257.23	\$4,213.21
Variance ACTUAL vs. BUDGET Income	\$10,872.34	\$3,624.11	\$836.33
Expenses (COB – Central Operating Bills)			
CORE – Clergy, Outreach, Regulatory, Episcopal	\$38,899.95	\$12,966.65	\$2,992.30
MUD – Maintenance, Utilities, Dwelling	\$6,683.94	\$2,227.98	\$514.15
SNAP – Supplies, 'Nsurance, Administrative, Professional	<u>\$9,187.80</u>	<u>\$3,062.60</u>	<u>\$706.75</u>
Total Expenses	\$54,771.69	\$18,257.23	\$4,213.21
Variance ACTUAL vs. BUDGET Expense	\$1,649.31	\$549.77	\$126.87

*13 weeks per quarter

Narrative Q1 2018

Actual Income vs. Expense	\$12,521.65	A
Actual Income vs. Budgeted Income	\$10,872.34	B
Actual Expense vs. Budgeted Expense	\$1,649.31	C

A – This was an outstanding quarter, but without WIND we would have been in the black. Our goal is to pay all our bills from OARS, so in this regard we still have work to do!

B – This is the same as 'A' above – really an outstanding quarter, but we need more folks to set up recurring donations to strengthen our CORE!

C – We did well here. Let us thank God for His mercy on us!

Note: Other income and expenses, such as building fund are not reflected in this analysis. Historically this income covers operating shortfalls, although the goal is to increase collections to the point that all operating expenses are covered by these funds, allowing other income to be used for special projects and charity.

Note: it is important to understand that the parish continues to be able to meet its expenses monthly despite the shortfalls noted above. The Stewardship Education Team urges all our parishioners to consider their donations a part of their family budget and to make affirmative, personally challenging, decisions about the tithe that each family provides to the parish. In this vein, please see the educational information attached to this analysis. Questions are welcome and encouraged.

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church
Ann Arbor, MI

Income & Expense Statement

	Quarter 2 2019	Q2 2019 Avg/month	Q2 2019 Avg/week*
<u>ACTUAL</u>			
Income			
OARS – Offering at Regular Services	\$39,914.27	\$13,304.76	\$3,070.33
WIND – What is not Diocesan Shared	<u>\$5,897.22</u>	<u>\$1,965.74</u>	<u>\$453.63</u>
Total Income	\$45,811.49	\$15,270.50	\$3,523.96
Expenses (COB – Central Operating Bills)			
CORE – Clergy, Outreach, Regulatory, Episcopal	\$33,674.70	\$11,224.90	\$2,590.36
MUD – Maintenance, Utilities, Dwelling	\$11,506.84	\$3,835.61	\$885.14
SNAP – Supplies, 'Nsurance, Administrative, Professional	\$4,690.26	\$1,563.42	\$360.79
FESTIVAL	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$49,871.80	\$16,623.93	\$3,836.29
Variance ACTUAL vs. ACTUAL	-\$4,060.31	-\$1,353.44	-\$312.33

<u>BUDGET</u>			
Income			
OARS – Offering at Regular Services	\$29,771.69	\$9,923.90	\$2,290.13
WIND – What is not Diocesan Shared	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,333.33</u>	<u>\$1,923.08</u>
Total Income	\$54,771.69	\$18,257.23	\$4,213.21
Variance ACTUAL vs. BUDGET Income	-\$8,960.20	-\$2,986.73	-\$689.25
Expenses (COB – Central Operating Bills)			
CORE – Clergy, Outreach, Regulatory, Episcopal	\$38,899.95	\$12,966.65	\$2,992.30
MUD – Maintenance, Utilities, Dwelling	\$6,683.94	\$2,227.98	\$514.15
SNAP – Supplies, 'Nsurance, Administrative, Professional	<u>\$9,187.80</u>	<u>\$3,062.60</u>	<u>\$706.75</u>
Total Expenses	\$54,771.69	\$18,257.23	\$4,213.21
Variance ACTUAL vs. BUDGET Expense	\$4,899.89	\$1,633.30	\$376.91

*13 weeks per quarter

Narrative Q2 2019

Actual Income vs. Expense	-\$4,060.31	A
Actual Income vs. Budgeted Income	-\$8,960.20	B
Actual Expense vs. Budgeted Expense	\$4,899.89	C

A – We spent about \$4,000 more this quarter than we took in. If each of our 154 adult members paid an equal amount of this shortfall that would be \$2.03 per member per week. Please arrange a recurring donation of any amount to help us cover this sort of shortfall!

B – We fell short about \$9,000 short of our budgeted income this quarter. If each of our 154 adult members paid an equal amount of this shortfall that would be \$4.48 per member per week. Your recurring donation can help cover these sorts of shortfalls!

C – We did well in keeping our expenses in check this quarter – we spent \$4,900 LESS than we had budgeted this quarter!

Note: Other income and expenses, such as building fund are not reflected in this analysis. Historically this income covers operating shortfalls, although the goal is to increase collections to the point that all operating expenses are covered by these funds, allowing other income to be used for special projects and charity.

Note: it is important to understand that the parish continues to be able to meet its expenses monthly despite the shortfalls noted above. The Stewardship Education Team urges all our parishioners to consider their donations a part of their family budget and to make affirmative, personally challenging, decisions about the tithe that each family provides to the parish. In this vein, please see the educational information attached to this analysis. Questions are welcome and encouraged.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

In this letter I want to share a few of my thoughts about giving to our parish. Giving money to church is a spiritual matter. In what sense? It teaches us to trust God. It is self training with God's help. We have to try to give some. Pray for peace in our hearts regarding this matter, and give. Giving \$25 per week is a good start for some of us. For some a bigger amount is better, for some smaller.

Many of us have a fear about our material needs – what if I give and won't have enough to pay my bills and buy food? If we look honestly at our financial situations, we will see that we still will have enough for mortgages, food, clothes. It might affect some pleasures, which is fine – this teaches us to control our desires.

Probably, the most scary thing is – what if something happens to me and I have to pay medical bills and will have less money because I gave to church? We are willing to pay for insurance or out of pocket money for the health of our bodies and often forget that the health of our souls is more important. The holy fathers say that the Church is a spiritual hospital. For the Church to exist in the form of parish churches requires money – to pay bills, maintain properties, support clergy. If we are willing to pay for doctors, hospitals, clinics to receive cures for our bodies, we should pay even more willingly to receive cures for our souls. Although, we could of course receive cures in the Church for free, if we do not have money to support, but mostly all of us have something to give: more or less.

We should fight with our own selves to get rid of this fear and put our trust in God, and start giving some money, and try to increase the amount with time. Try to make a tithe, as God instructed us.

On American banknotes it says “ In God we trust “. We should give, trusting Him, and we will learn that we are not financially hurt. Let's try!



Marina Edwards
Sisterhood Treasurer
Parish Council Member

~~~~~

Дорогие братья и сестры.

Хотелось бы в этом письме поделиться своими мыслями по поводу того, что мы должны жертвовать деньги для церкви. Эти пожертвования являются духовным шагом. В каком смысле? Это учит нас доверять Богу. Это самотренировка с Божьей помощью. Нам надо попытаться давать хоть сколько-нибудь. Молиться о спокойствии в наших сердцах по этому «вопросу» и жертвовать. Дать 25 долларов в неделю - хорошее начало. Для кого-то большая сумма будет лучшим стартом, для кого-то меньшая.

У многих из нас есть страх за наше материальное обеспечение - что будет если я дам деньги и у меня не будет достаточно для того, чтобы заплатить по счётам и купить продукты? Если мы честно посмотрим на ситуацию, то увидим что у нас всё ещё будет достаточно чтобы заплатить за ссуду, купить еду и одежду. Это может отразиться на каких-нибудь удовольствиях, что и не плохо - учит нас контролировать наши желания.



Наверное самое страшное для нас то, что если что-то случиться и надо будет платить за медицинское обслуживание, у нас не будет достаточно денег, т.к. мы дали в церковь. Мы готовы платить за мед. страхование или «из своего кармана» за телесное здоровье и часто забываем, что наше душевное здоровье гораздо важнее. Святые отцы говорят, что Церковь это духовная больница. Для того, чтобы Церковь существовала в форме приходов нужны деньги - для того, чтобы платить за коммунальные услуги, содержать здания, поддерживать клир. Если мы готовы платить за врачей, больницы, клиники, чтобы получить телесное исцеление, нам надо ещё с большей готовностью платить за исцеление душевное. Конечно, мы можем получить «лечение» в церкви бесплатно, если у нас нет средств для поддержки прихода, но, в основном, у всех из нас есть что дать, больше или меньше.

Нам надо бороться с собой чтобы избавиться от этого страха и, уповая на Бога, начать жертвовать в церковь, стараясь со временем увеличивать сумму пожертвования. Стараться дать десятину, как заповедал нам Бог.

На американских банкнотах написано: «Мы верим в Бога». Нам надо давать доверяясь Ему, и мы увидим что финансово не страдаем. Давайте попробуем!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marina P. Edwards". The ink is dark, and the signature is fluid and connected.

Марина Эдвардс  
Казначей приходского сестричества  
Член приходского совета



# How to Support St. Vladimir's

People often ask us how they can make donations to St. Vladimir's other than by making a donation at church. We work continuously to make this as easy for our parish family and friends as we can, and we appreciate your feedback in this regard.

If it is favorable or more convenient for you to use a [CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD](#), please visit our Network for Good giving page and make a RECURRING gift: <http://tinyurl.com/y5h7dl5l>

~~~~~

If you prefer [PAYPAL](#) you can make a RECURRING gift here: <http://tinyurl.com/y6yb4up4>

Or use this email to transfer via [PAYPAL](#): stewardship@stvladimiraami.org

~~~~~

If you would prefer to make a RECURRING gift by making an [ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER](#) from your bank to ours, you will need some or all of the information below. If you need more information than what is found here, please [EMAIL US AT treasurer@stvladimiraami.org](#)

You need the name of the church bank: Chase Bank

You need the name on the account: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church

You may need the address: 9900 Jackson Rd. Dexter, MI 48130-9426

You'll need the American Banking Association Routing Number: 07 2000326

You'll need the account number: [EMAIL US AT treasurer@stvladimiraami.org](#)

~~~~~

Find all this information and more at our DONATE page:

<http://tinyurl.com/y4ox7qcg>

~~~~~

**\*\*\*We welcome and encourage you to remember the parish in your will or in other estate planning.\*\*\***

~~~~~

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF YOUR PARISH!

Planned Stewardship at St. Vladimir Church

Making a Conscious Choice about Supporting our Parish Family

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church has always, throughout its 35+ year history, been well supported by its parishioners. This is something that we can be proud of and thankful for. However, this is also something that we often do not think very much about. We know that when we are in church on Sunday there will be some sort of collection, but we don't usually think very much about this, either before the collection or afterwards. We see this as just a part of going to church. However, **stewardship, how we use what God has given us, is something that we should consider and something that we should plan.**

The reasons for stewardship are numerous, and no doubt, you have heard many, if not all of them. Sometimes we are told that we should give because the parish needs more money for next year's budget. Other times we are told we should give at least as we pay for a newspaper subscription or our cable bill – as if God's Church is equivalent to other “entertainment” choices we make. Finally, we are sometimes told that we should give because the parish needs something (a new church, vestments for the clergy, a new hall, etc.). None of these reasons are illegitimate, for in many parishes, sometimes including ours, these things are true. However, stewardship is a spiritual question, and not a material one. **We should give to God out of love, and for no other reason.** In the beginning God created man out of love, He gave us our personal existence out of love, He sent His only-begotten Son to us out of love so that we could again gain the paradise that we threw away by the actions of our first forefather Adam. Love is the reason that God created us all, and this is the reason that we should give back to God. “*God loveth a cheerful giver.*” (2 Corinthians 9:7) Thus we see that our reason WHY (love of God) we give helps us to determine HOW MUCH we give, for if God gave us so much, can we not give Him back just a little of the bounty with which He has blessed us? **The purest motive for our stewardship is to give to God because we have been given to by Him.** That is, in gratitude for His great love towards us.

We urge you to make stewardship part of your family budget – to actively plan what you give to St. Vladimir's just as you plan other family expenses. We further urge you to keep in mind that we give to God out of love – and that He asks us to give to His Church just a small amount (some set percentage of our net income: ten percent according to the Old Testament – even more than this according to St. John Chrysostom) of all that He has given us. The Lord, having given us all that we have, generously allows us to keep all the rest! Perhaps starting with ten percent would be impossible. That is understandable – this is a major paradigm shift for most of us. But it is spiritually helpful to set a percentage for ourselves and do our best to stick with that for a year, and then try to increase that the next year. When we tithe the Lord blesses us many times more than the amount we give (see Malachi 3:8-10)!

If you have any questions about stewardship in general at St. Vladimir's, or questions about the best ways to give (recurring donations benefit the parish the most) please contact Fr. Gregory, our Starosta, Jack (Alexey) Mitchell, or the other member of our Parish Council Stewardship Education Team, Leta (Ksenia) Nikulshina.

info@stvladimiraami.org ~ www.stva2.org ~ 734-475-4590

Плановая поддержка Свято-Владимирского храма

Как принять обдуманное решение о поддержке прихода

... ибо где сокровище ваше, там будет и сердце ваше. (Мф. 6:21)

На всем протяжении своей 35+-летней истории храм Святого Владимира всегда щедро поддерживался прихожанами, что дает повод для гордости и благодарности. Тем не менее, есть вещи, о которых мы часто не задумываемся. Мы знаем, что на воскресных службах в церкви собирают пожертвования, однако обычно не уделяем этому особого внимания. Для нас это просто часть посещения храма. Однако **мы должны обдумывать и планировать, как пользоваться дарами, полученными от Бога.**

Есть разные причины для пожертвований, и вам, без сомнения, знакомы многие, если все из них. Иногда мы слышим, что нужны пожертвования для выполнения приходского бюджета на следующий год. Иногда — что пожертвования это как плата за подписку на газеты или кабельное телевидение, как будто Церковь просто один из видов развлечения. Наконец, иногда собираются пожертвования на какие-то конкретные нужды прихода (новый храм, облачения для духовенства, новый зал и т.д.). Все эти причины имеют право на существование, поскольку такова ситуация во многих приходах, не исключая и наш. Тем не менее, пожертвования на храм — это в первую очередь не материальный вопрос, а духовный. **Мы должны жертвовать из любви к Богу, а не по каким-то иным причинам.** Из любви Бог сотворил человека, из любви Он даровал нам жизнь, и из любви послал нам Единородного Сына Своего, чтобы мы могли вернуться в рай, отвергнутый нами в лице нашего праотца Адама. Любовь — вот причина, по которой Бог создал каждого из нас, и по этой же причине мы должны воздавать Богу. “Добротой дающего любит Бог.” (2 Кор. 9:7) Таким образом, ответив на вопрос ПОЧЕМУ мы даем (из любви к Богу) мы сможем ответить и на вопрос СКОЛЬКО давать, ибо если Бог одарил нас столь щедро, как можем мы не воздать Ему малую толику Его даров? Самый чистый мотив для пожертвований — воздавать Богу, потому что все, что мы имеем, получено от Него. То есть, в благодарность за Его великую любовь к нам.

Мы призываем всех включить пожертвования в свой семейный бюджет, то есть запланировать пожертвования на Свято-Владимирский храм, как планируются все остальные семейные расходы. Помните, что мы жертвуем Богу с любовью, и что Он просит нас отдавать Своей Церкви лишь небольшую долю (установленный процент нашего дохода: десятую долю, согласно Ветхому Завету, или даже больше, как учит св. Иоанн Златоуст) от Его даров. Господь, дав нам все, что у нас есть, щедро оставляет нам все остальное! Возможно, начать с десятины окажется невозможным. Это понятно, для большинства из нас это большой шаг. Однако духовно важно поставить себе цель и выполнять ее год, а затем попытаться сделать больше в следующем году. Когда мы даем десятину, Господь вознаграждает нас сторицей (см. Мал. 3:8-10)!

С общими вопросами о поддержке Свято-Владимирского прихода, или вопросами о том, как сделать это наилучшим образом (больше всего пользы приходу приносят регулярные пожертвования), просим обращаться к о. Григорию, нашему старосте, Алексею (Джеку) Митчеллу, или члену образовательной группы приходского совета, Ксении (Лете) Никульшиной.

info@stvladimiraami.org ~ www.stva2.org ~ 734-475-4590