



ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH
Community of Tampa-St. Pete, Florida
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November 1, 2022

Dear St. Hagop Faithful,

As 2022 winds down and preparation for the new year commences, we resume a ritual central to our nonsecular lives: prayerfully renewing our commitment to stewardship and discerning our calling to our Lord's service.

Our communal stewardship facilitates St. Hagop's ability to pursue its mission: To evolve continuously as the bedrock of the Tampa Bay Armenian Christian community, perpetuating our Christian religion and heritage. Thanks to St. Hagop's faithful, our church's outreach has gone well beyond our community – including to our Armenian homeland.

Your 2023 pledge card and list of St. Hagop involvement opportunities, organized by ministry, are enclosed. Beyond your monetary pledge, we request that you also consider committing to St. Hagop's ministries by reviewing these documents and identifying activities in-line with your calling. Stewardship transcends monetary giving: the nonmonetary aspects of stewardship are as important, if not more important, than the monetary aspects.

Pledge Sunday is November 27, 2022, and we invite you to submit your pledge card for a blessing on that day. Alternatively, you can mail your pledge card or pledge online at www.stthagopfl.org/stewardship-pledge-online. We request that you submit your pledge by December 18, 2022; this will enable our parish council to consider its pledged assets in concert with preparation of St. Hagop's 2023 budget.

We are reminded in Luke 6:38:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

While inviting your 2023 pledge to St. Hagop, we very much appreciate the challenges many, if not all parishioners have to some degree experienced this past year – inclusive of turmoil in the financial markets affecting personal assets, inflation, effects of Hurricane Ian and other natural disasters, and the ongoing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. These and other factors adversely affected our church during 2022, causing an increased need for your support.

As during past years, we humbly request that you prayerfully assess your stewardship means and contribute accordingly. Do not cause yourself financial hardship; rather, give proportionate to your means and your Christian calling. This spirit undergirded St. Hagop's initiative to integrate tenants from Holy Scripture in its transition from a dues to pledge system seven years ago, and we encourage you to apply this guidance while contemplating your pledge. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or wish to further discuss stewardship at St. Hagop.

With gratitude and in faith,

Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D.
Stewardship Chairman

Der Hovnan Demerjian
Pastor, St. Hagop Armenian Church

