**Planning Guide for your Stewardship Committee**

* Build a team of dedicated stewards blessed with a variety of gifts, training and experience
* Choose a Christ-centered chair with proven leadership and mentoring skills that lives as a true Orthodox Christian steward
* Create a 12-month parish Stewardship calendar & put it in the church master calendar
* Plan for ongoing communication and personal contact with parishioners
* Schedule and assign tasks, communications, visitations and events
* Recognize that Stewardship is an ongoing ministry – not any single event, program or activity
* Include a variety of messages pertaining to Stewardship in bulletins, e-bulletins, newsletters, bulletin boards, etc.
* Plan a strategy of visitations or small group meetings
* Keep the parish council informed and active in promoting Stewardship.
* Parish council members should lead by example
* Enlist parishioners to offer testimonials
* Offer sermons that apply the theme of the Gospel lessons to aspects of Stewardship
* Get people personally involved in parish ministry
* Welcome new ideas and delegate responsibility
* Listen to and validate the concerns of parishioners
* Create opportunities for people to be heard
* Develop and adhere to Stewardship Best Practices including:
  + Time, Talents and Treasures focus
  + Personal finance training
  + Planned giving education
  + Donor/Steward appreciation
  + Stewardship integration in worship
  + Nurture generosity in children and teenagers
  + Bible studies focusing on Stewardship
  + Leadership/Parish Council education