Stewardship: Back to the Basics
Part II

Stewardship of Treasure

Finally, we speak about the Stewardship of Treasure; people have been saying, “Show me the money!” When money is mentioned ears perk up, attention is given, eyes are focused. Our society is obsessed with money and wealth, as if it is the measure of all things. We speak about money last because it is only a part of the larger whole of our life. Unless we understand stewardship as a way of life, instead of paying dues or merely about money, then we have lost all perspective. Nevertheless, we will speak of money and wealth today, but from God’s perspective. How He wants us to use it.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

Philippians 4:17 Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the fruit which increases to your benefit.

Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by so toil ing one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be proud, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches but on God who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life which is life indeed.

Second, some may say, “Jesus never talked about money. Why is the priest talking about what we should give to the Church?”

The reality is that nearly fifty percent (50%) of Jesus’ teaching emphasized how we are to honor God with our financial resources. This shows the priority he placed on giving. Just as we have tangible evidence of God’s numerous gifts to us, the giving of money is one of the ways we demonstrate our love and commitment to Him. In other words, we must put our money where our mouth is. Stewardship is not Time or Talents or Treasures. Rather, it is Time and Talents and Treasures.

We are going to hear some of Jesus teaching on giving today.

Third, let us examine some guidelines for giving.

A. Tithing (giving a tenth, 10%) is something Jesus apparently considered an as-

(Continued on page 2)
assumed discipline (Mt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul urged Christians to practice “percentage giving.” (1Cor. 16:12). Since all of life is God’s gifts to us, is it not amazing that He builds our faith by asking only a tithe, when He could justly require more?

Genesis 28:20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house; and of all that You give me I will give the tenth to You.”

Leviticus 27:30 “All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD’s; it is holy to the LORD.

Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Give to God first. Many times we look at our budget and see what is leftover for the Church after all other expenses have been paid. However, we should place the highest priority on our giving to God and budget the rest of our life around that.

Exodus 23:19 “The first of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. ”

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;

Matt. 6:25,33 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

1Cor. 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do you. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

We should give to God freely. Not out of compulsion or obligation, but from the generosity of our heart. This is why we did away with the dues system (having a fixed amount for financial membership). Stewardship assigns no minimum gift, neither does it assign a maximum gift.

Deut. 15:10 You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him; because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

Proverbs 11:24 One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

We should give as we are able. If God has blessed us with great wealth, we are called to give more. The widow or unemployed cannot be expected to give as much as someone with a high paying job. However, sometimes this is the case, that those with less give more to the Church.

Deut. 16:16-17 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place which he will choose: at the feast of unleavened bread, at the feast of weeks, and at the feast of booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

Luke 21:1-4 He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had.”

An Example of Giving- the Macedonians

2Cor. 8:1-5 We want you to know, brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Ma-

(Continued on page 6)
**Registry**

**Births**

- September 26, 2012  
  Gweneth Irene, daughter of Rebekah & Doug Moll

**Baptisms**

- September 29, 2012  
  Maria Katherine (Marika), daughter of Fr. George & Pres. Christa Dokos. Godparent is Presvytera Marika (Fr. Jordan) Brown.

**Memorials**

- September 2, 2012  
  John Pitsavas (5 years)
- September 9, 2012  
  Mary Boosalis (40 days)

**Address Changes**

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<td>Niki &amp; Brian Youso</td>
<td>18267 Emerald Trail</td>
<td>Farmington, MN 55024-9298</td>
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<td>Irene &amp; Elefterios Tsengas</td>
<td>1770 S. Dover Pointe Rd.</td>
<td>Richmond, VA 23238-4167</td>
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<td>Paul &amp; Jean Pliakas</td>
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<td>Pawtucket, RI 02860-5113</td>
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**Festal Icons Needed**

Please donate a Festal Icon (11" x 14") in memory of a loved one. The cost is $75.00 per icon. The icons are displayed in the church nave and are put out for veneration on the Feast Day of the Saint or event they represent. To donate an icon, fill out a form (found on the bulletin board by the kitchen) and return it to the office.
Thank you!
After a successful Ahepa/Daughters District Convention the St. Paul Ahepa Chapter donated $500 to St. George Church for general expenses. Thank you to the brother Ahepans for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Philoptochos Update
We will have a special tray collection on Sunday, November 4 for the Patriarchate.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 6 at 1:30 in the Upper Room at Church. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5.

The Philoptochos/Daughters of Penelope Christmas luncheon will be at the Southview Country Club on Saturday, December 1.

Mark your calendar for Vasilopita Day on Sunday, January 12, 2013.

Daughters of Penelope News
We will be on vacation from November to January. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 21, 2013 to celebrate the 78th birthday of Eurydice Chapter 21.

AHEPAns meet Thursday, November 15 at 7 pm. Congratulations! Pericles Chapter 270 is 82 years old.

Thank you to all who made the Autumn Loukountades fundraiser a success. The entire $387 is for scholarships, worthy causes and Greek culture.

Don’t forget the Christmas luncheon on December 1 with the Philoptochos.

Parish Assembly & Elections
The parish council scheduled the Fall Parish Assembly meeting for Sunday November 11th to present and approve the 2013 budget and acceptance of parish council nominations. The parish council elections will be held on Sunday, December 2nd. If interested in running for parish council please contact Fr. Rick.

New Church Directories
All parishioners who participated in the directory can pick up their complimentary copy in the social hall after today’s liturgy. We will also have directories available for sale at $10.00 per copy. For more information about the directories please contact Vicky Paraschou at 763-742-0429.

Budget 2013
The parish council has scheduled a budget committee meeting on Thursday, November 1st at 6pm. The meeting is open to all parishioners. For more info contact George Kanavati or Tom Lampros.

Focus on FOCUS
The food drive to stock our food shelf is starting now and continuing thru the end of this year. Each parish has been assigned two items to donate; our parish has been asked to donate jars of peanut butter and canned soup. Any brand and any size (large jars of peanut butter are NOT necessary). When you shop please keep our food shelf in your thoughts and purchase extra of these two items to donate. Drop them off in the blue bins downstairs. Gently used winter outer wear is also needed. Please bring all items to the church and they will be delivered to FOCUS.

Loaves and Fishes
Thank you to all who helped cook, serve and clean-up on October 8th. We served many adults and children who came in from the cool fall evening for a delicious meal.

Andrea Faches and Eric Chadwick have volunteered to lead this ministry for our parish beginning in 2013.

Thanks to Sandra Thole & Sue Gnetz have served as L&F co-coordinators for four years! Sandy and Sue want to thank all who have supported this ministry over the years.

Bake Sale Coming Soon
Please join us for the annual Philoptochos Bake Sale November 17th 9:30am to 4pm and November 18th 11:30am to 3pm. Let your friends and neighbors know. We hope to have an outstanding sale with your help! Please contact Reva Adkins at 651-337-1118 to help make Diples, setup the social hall and/or work at the bake sale. Lots of helpers will make for little work and a lot of fun!

Greek School has Begun
Greek language classes for kids (ages 6 and older): There are advanced as well as beginning Greek classes. We meet in the lower level classrooms
every Sunday from 11:45 - 12:45. Please contact Stella Hofrenning at hofrenni@augsburg.edu for information. (Note change for start time.)

**IOCC 20th Anniversary Dinner**
The dinner will be held at St. Mary’s GOC on Saturday November 10th. The event begins immediately following a Vespers service at 6pm. Please contact Georgia Andron at greekborba@hotmail.com or 612-978-2793 &/or Demetra Kordopitoulas at demetra@usfamily.net or 612-712-3777.

**2013 Metropolis of Chicago Western Region Basketball Tournament**
The 2013 tourney will be hosted by St. John the Baptist GOC in Omaha NE on February 8-10. Hotel and tournament information can be found on the website www.greekball.org or by contacting tournament chairman, Charlie Tsatsos at ctsatsos@cox.net or www.stjohnsgreekorthodoc.org.

**Metropolis Assembly Meeting**
His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos announces a special session of the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly on Saturday Dec. 8th, 2012 at St. John Baptist Church in Des Plaines, Illinois at 1:30PM. The only item agenda will be the discussion of the request of St. Iakovos Retreat Center to obtain a financial loan of $3.75M for commencement of construction and development of physical structures on the property including new lodge.

**The 18th Annual James W. Cunningham Memorial Lecture**
This year’s topic will be on “The Russian Intervention on Mt. Athos” presented by Bruce Clark, a writer and editor for the Economist. The lecture will be on the University of Minnesota campus at 125 Willey Hall on November 2nd at 7:30pm. Contact(612) 624-4526 or mgsp@umn.edu if you are interested in attending. A reception follows the presentation.

**Philoptochos Phyllo Orders**
FRESH PHYLLO orders are available for pick-up. Please see the Philoptochos ladies in the social hall on November 4 and 11 to pick up your order. Thanks for helping the Philoptochos Fundraiser. Happy baking!!

**John Pitsavas Scholarship**
Miss Kally Fuller has been awarded the scholarship for the 2012-13 school year. Congratulations!

**New Choir Members Wanted**
Do you love to sing? Can you read music? If yes, consider joining our church choir and help enhance the beauty of our services by singing! For information, please contact Barbara Bauman or Denise Smith.

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**Ionian Village announces the dates for its 2013 Summer Programs.**

Ionian Village is the camping ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with campgrounds in Peloponnesian, Greece across from the island of Zakynthos. After 43 years, Ionian Village offers the Orthodox Christian youth of America an unparalleled spiritual and cultural camping experience.

**Ionian Village Summer 2013 Camping Programs**
Each 20-day session is open to young people who have completed grades 8 through 12.

- **Summer Travel Camp (STC): June 23 – July 12, 2013**
- **Byzantine Venture (BV): July 20 – August 8, 2013**

**Ionian Village Spiritual Odyssey Pilgrimage**
Odyssey is open to young adults between the ages of 19-28.

- **Spiritual Odyssey: Cyprus and Crete: May 30 – June 9, 2013**
  While in Cyprus, participants experience our faith and culture first-hand, visiting sites where the Apostles once preached, also learning about the Cypriot struggle and ongoing division of the island. Participants also explore the beautiful beaches, food, and culture of the island of Cyprus. Participants travel to Crete where they will marvel at the ancient ruins in Knossos and experience the island’s rich religious heritage.

Applications to be a part of our summer Staff will be posted on our website on November 5, 2012. For more information visit the website at www.ionianvillage.org.
cedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

Consequences of Withholding From God is Spiritual Death
Acts 5:1-10 But a man named Ananias with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property, and with his wife’s knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Hark, the feet of those that have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

The Benefits of Giving
Proverbs 11:28 He who trusts in his riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

Matt. 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matt. 6:25,33 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

2Cor. 9:6-11¶ The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God;

Galatians 6:7-10 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The Synaxarion tells us that Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Virgin Mary, worked and gave a third of their income to the Temple and a third to the poor and lived on the other third.
Jesus’ Wife?

Reverend Dr. Theodore Stylianopoulos wrote the following brief response to recent media reports concerning a 4th century Coptic Manuscript. Father Stylianopoulos is Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

An announcement about an ancient text in which Jesus is reported to have spoken about “my wife” has received extensive attention in the media. The text comes from a small papyrus fragment about 1x3 inches in size, judged to be of the fourth century AD, which apparently had broken off from a larger page of a document presumed lost. The text is still in the process of linguistic and chemical analysis to determine if it is actually a fragment from a fourth-century manuscript. When the papyrus fragment was discovered, and under what circumstances it has passed from hand to hand until the public announcement, are presently unknown.

Written in ancient Sahidic Coptic script, the text is perhaps a translation of an earlier Greek document. Because the lines on all four sides of the fragment are broken and incomplete, transcription of meaningful sentences is impossible. But the names of Jesus and also Mary, presumably, Mary Magdalene, are reported to occur, and also certain phrases, including Jesus using the expression “my wife.” Mary Magdalene has been portrayed as an intimate disciple of Jesus, but not a wife, in other ancient writings already known to the Fathers of the Church and designated as apocrypha and fraudulent. These works were composed by small circles of heretical teachers concerned to disseminate their own and often bizarre teachings. For example, a few years ago the discovery of “The Gospel of Judas” caused a stir in the media. This document was known to St. Irenaeus in the late second century AD. Among its strange teachings is that Judas was the only disciple who truly understood Jesus and that his treachery was a good thing in itself because it helped Jesus to be crucified; except that by that time the real Christ had (weirdly) departed from Jesus and that only Jesus the man was crucified!

Professor Karen King of Harvard Divinity School who made the announcement about the new text cautioned that its reference to Jesus’ wife is no historical proof that Jesus was actually married but only an indication that Christians in the fourth century debated the issues of marriage and celibacy. The Gospels and most of the other books of the New Testament are extensive documents of the first century AD and provide no hint that Jesus was ever married. There would be no reason to hide such a fact because marriage was viewed as a sacred covenant in Judaism and Christianity. It should be noted that St. Peter the Apostle, as well as other apostles were married (Mark 1:30; 1 Cor 9:5). The Bible and the Orthodox theology confirm that marriage is instituted by God; it is honorable and holy, one of the sacraments of the Church. Just as the Church honors a celibate life dedicated to God, so also it celebrates marriage as a workshop of God’s kingdom—a journey to God.
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

1111 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Phone 651.222.6220
Fax 651.225.9276

www.stgeorgegoc.org

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**WEEKDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

St. John Chrysostom
Divine Liturgy—9:00am
Tuesday, November 13

St. Matthew the Evangelist
Divine Liturgy—9:00am
Friday, November 16

Pan-Orthodox Liturgy
Divine Liturgy—6:00pm
Wednesday, November 21

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**REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES**

Holy Confession: By Appointment

Vespers: (Sept. - May) Saturday 5:00 pm

Orthros: Sunday 9:00 am

Sunday School: (Sept. - May) following Communion

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:30 am
# November 2012

## Coming in December...

- **2** Parish Council Elections
- **6** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- **12** St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
- **22** St. Anastasia Pharmokalytria
- **23** Youth Christmas Program
- **25** Nativity of our Lord
- **27** St. Stephanos the Archdeacon & Protomartyr

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<td>Patriarchate Sunday</td>
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<td>Orthodox Institute at Antiochian Village</td>
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<td>October 2012...</td>
<td>+Rev. Father Richard Demetrius Andrews -- Phone: (651) 222-6220 -- <a href="http://www.stgeorgegoc.org">www.stgeorgegoc.org</a> +</td>
<td>St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105</td>
<td>+ Orthodox Institute at Antiochian Village +</td>
<td>+ Advent Fast +</td>
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PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ATHENA
(CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION)
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

GREEK BAKE SALE

Nov. 17, 9:30am-4:00pm
Nov. 18, 11:30am-3:00pm

GREEK PASTRIES ~
Diples - Baklava - Galaktobouriko
Kourambiethes - Holiday Breads

GREEK MARKET ~

GREEK LUNCH ~
Spanakopita (Spinach Pie)
Tiropta (Feta Cheese Pie)
Pastitsio (Vegetarian Greek Lasagna)

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul
Corner of Lexington & Summit
www.stgeorgegoc.org
651-222-6220
PLEASE JOIN OTHER ST. GEORGE MEMBERS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP

SPONSORED BY THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
HOSTED BY DAWN AND TOM LAMPROS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15TH
6:30PM TO 8:30PM
1551 HOLTON ST
ST. PAUL MN

PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 12TH TO LORI KURTYKA
651-222-6220

*Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the FOCUS food shelf

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
October 20, 2012  
† St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia

Dear Parishioners:

Enclosed please find an Application for Nomination to the Parish Council.

Nomination forms must be received by the Board of Elections before the Parish Assembly meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2012.

The agenda for this meeting includes: 1) review and approval of the 2013 operating budget, and, 2) nomination of candidates for the 2013-14 term of parish council.

The elections to the Parish Council are set to take place on Sunday, December 2, 2012.

If you have any questions concerning the nomination process, please contact one of the Board of Election members below.

Thank you for your consideration,

                 
Mr. Tom Lampros, Parish Council President

                 
Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrios Andrews, Presbyter

Board of Elections:

Stella Hofrenning  
Dina Koutroumanes  
Jim Theros  
Georgia Panoupoulos Bruer  
Georgia Ehrich
APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Qualifications to be a Candidate for the Parish Council

1. Must be spiritually, canonically, and financially in good standing.
   A. Spiritually- Attend divine services regularly and receive the sacraments. Uphold the teachings and traditions of the Church.
   B. Canonically- If married, married in the Orthodox Church. If divorced, have an ecclesiastical divorce. Must live his/her life and activities in accordance with the faith and canons of the Church.
   C. Financially- Must be a member of the Parish for at least one year immediately preceding the date of elections.

2. Must be willing to take the following oath:
   I do solemnly swear that I will uphold the dogma, teachings, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline, and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and that I will fulfill, faithfully and sincerely, the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So help me God.

Additional Responsibilities

1. To participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the parish, to collect the revenue of the Church and to administer the affairs of the parish in such a manner as to aid the Priest in the fulfillment of its aims and purposes.
2. After appropriate discussion, to support and cooperate with all majority decisions of the parish council.

I wish to place my name in nomination for election to the Parish Council of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of St. Paul, Minnesota. As required by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, I hereby declare that I have been a member in good standing for at least one year prior to date of elections, and I understand the duties and responsibilities which are expected of the members of the Parish Council.

PLEASE PRINT: Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City __________ State ____ Zip _______
Phone h) __________ w) __________

Signature _____________________________ Date __________________

Please return this application to Board of Elections
Application must be received by: November 11, 2012
Elections will take place on: December 2, 2012