



ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH
Community of Tampa-St. Pete, Florida
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September 24, 2023

Dear <Insert First Name Field>,

We pray this greeting finds you and yours well and are reaching out both to announce our church's 2024 stewardship campaign and to invite your participation in it. Our scheduled events include the following:

Date	Event
October 1	Stewardship Sermon 1
October 15	Parishioner Testimonial 1
October 29	Parishioner Testimonial 2
November 5	Parishioner Testimonial 3 (TBD)
November 6	2024 Pledge Cards Mailed
November 19	Stewardship Sermon 2
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
November 26	Pledge Sunday
December 17	Deadline to Return Pledge Cards

Your commitment to our pledge system, initiated 8 years ago when St. Hagop converted from its former dues system, has inspired Armenian churches throughout the Eastern Diocese to follow our example. We continue to support and mentor our brethren, emphasizing the faith-based reasons our church undertook this initiative.

During 2023 St. Hagop received 99 pledges, representing several hundred parishioners and friends of our church, totaling \$158,435. Beyond providing the means to offer a place to worship and perpetuate our Armenian Christian faith, these funds enabled us to initiate and support crucial ministries – such as providing medical aid and services to needy people in Armenia, and basic sustenance to Armenians encountering life-threatening conditions in Artsakh.

Of course, like most individuals, families, and entities of all sorts, increased operating costs and other challenges – including maintaining our aging property and vicissitudes in the economy - confront St. Hagop. Monies collected through pledges are the main source of income sustaining our beloved church.

As you experience our 2024 stewardship season and contemplate your 2024 pledge, we encourage you to reflect on the underlying spirit that led St. Hagop to adopt a pledge



system: an appreciation that all we have is a gift from God, and our calling is to give proportionately within our means.

Two verses from 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 provide guidance on making a pledge:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (v.7), and This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God (v. 12).

Of course, the bounds of stewardship go well beyond monetary giving, and we encourage and welcome your service in our many ministries. Please visit our web site and/or contact either of us if you have questions or would like to further discuss stewardship.

Yours in Faith,



Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D.
Stewardship Chairman



Der Hovnan Demerjian
Pastor, St. Hagop Armenian Church

