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## **Pastoral Perspective:**

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His Eminence Archbishop Mark has addressed stewardship and our understanding of it in his remarks recently, most especially at the recent Diocesan Assembly. With that in mind I would like to take some time and some space in the bulletin to discuss the topic of Stewardship over the coming weeks with a series of short commentaries.

Christ was asked:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (MT 22:36-40)

Our Lord does not add this second commandment spuriously, but to show us the relative importance and relationship of two ideas: Stewardship and Almsgiving. Stewardship is what we choose to give to God, returning to Him who has blessed us abundantly a portion of our wealth in thanksgiving. Almsgiving is when we provide a portion of our substance, especially if we have excess, to our neighbor to help provide for them when they are in need. We are called to show our love for God in our acts of stewardship, and love for our neighbor in our acts of almsgiving. These are not same thing, nor are they interchangeable. It is also important to note that neither of them is optional if we are aspiring to live a truly Christian lifestyle.

Stewardship is of first importance as it relates to the first and greatest commandment. During our lenten journey we are reminded that the three pillars of our faith are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving, or charity, is just as important as prayer and fasting and completes our observance of the second great commandment. These two parallel actions, stewardship and almsgiving, fulfill the two greatest commandments.

It is important to understand that both in stewardship and in almsgiving, while the immediate and obvious focus is monetary in nature, that is not the entire focus. Each of us is blessed with Time, Talent and Treasure. That last item being a euphemism for money or financial wealth. Our Time and our Talents ought also to be applied to both the tasks of stewardship and to almsgiving. Just as God, in His goodness, blesses us materially He likewise blesses us with the very minutes of our lives and the talents and abilities that each of us uniquely possess.

Fulfilling these two great commandments of the Lord, on which hang all of the Law and the Prophets is our calling as Christians. Stewardship and Almsgiving are the functional activities we can engage in to directly show our love to God and Neighbor in, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (MT 6:21)

## **Announcements**

Our parish Parish Book Study continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month following Vespers. Our next text will be The Art of Myrrh Bearing. The next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

March Charity will be directed toward Providence Pregnancy Center as part of the OC Life National Baby Shower.

March Parish Council meeting follows coffee hour today.

Gardners Candy fundraiser is now available. In person orders are due in on March 15<sup>th</sup>, online orders are due March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our group ID# 10-1554.

The Deanery has asked St. Nicholas to host the Mission Vespers service on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Deanery Mission Vespers will be held at St. Michael’s in Jermyn on the March the 15th at 4pm.

Our parish will be holding Divine Liturgy for the Memorial Saturday on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please give the names of loved ones you would like commemorated to Fr. Nathan.

Please keep the newly departed Handmaiden of God, Joan, in your prayers for the next five weeks. She is a daughter of our parish and a life long member.

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## **Spiritual Food for Thought:**

“Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen No, no; every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer.”

-St. Gregory Palamas

## Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir  
Archpriest John  
Archpriest Gregory  
Archpriest John  
Archpriest Daniel  
Priest Michael  
Matushka Gloria  
Matushka Myra  
John

James  
Thomas  
Diane  
William  
Oliver  
Timothy  
Joseph  
Agape

## Upcoming Services:

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 6:00pm

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## Contact Information:

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## Second Sunday of Great Lent St. Gregory Palamas March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
His Eminence, Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Rev. Nathan Clausson – Rector  
Very Rev. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached  
Very Rev. John Nightingale – Attached  
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director  
Thomas LaTournous – Parish Council President