

St. George the Great-martyr Orthodox Church, Pharr
Notes for the 2023 Pledge

As you fill out the attached membership pledge, please keep in mind the following:

- Our parish runs entirely on your contributions. We have no source of income other than the generous response of our members to the needs of our parish ministry. If you come from the east, like I do, keep in mind that, unlike in the east, in the US churches close all the time. Unlike churches in Romania, for example, American churches are not built or repaired with government funds, their salaries are not paid by the state, and their diocesan centers are themselves dependent on them for subsistence. In the east a church continues to exist even without donating parish members. Here, once a church doesn't have enough money to cover its expenses, it closes its doors for good and is put up for sale.
- If you are unable to make a financial pledge, please pledge your time. Your help is very valuable.
- Our parish sends the first 10% of our income to the diocese as our fair share to support the diocesan and national church ministries.

Please make all your money donations for your pledge by check or online by card, so that they can be marked toward the pledge. You can drop the checks in the collection plate, hand them to me or a member of the parish council, or mail them to the church.

Let me repeat this from my letter of introduction which you received recently: there is no other way for our parish to endure except through you, the faithful, being more than mere church-goers. You have to be church members. And every member must contribute to the common body of which we are all a part. To be part of the same body means that everyone does something, regardless how seemingly little. I say "seemingly" because just like in a physical body, in the body of the parish every member or organ plays an important and even vital role. Without any one of them the body can only be incomplete and weakened, on its dying breath.

With the pledge, in the same return envelope, please also return the commemoration list also included here. Write legibly, in capital letters, and write only first names, not family names. List first the names of the members of your household who are members of St. George, including your name, and then draw a line underneath the last of these names, to separate them from the rest. Under this line you may continue listing relatives who are not members of St. George, Orthodox of other parishes but also non-Orthodox whom you would like commemorated. After the names of non-Orthodox write an (NO) in parentheses. The names of our parish members I will commemorate at every Divine Liturgy, at the Proskomidi. The other names will be commemorated at the several Saturdays of all souls over the year and at other occasions. Keep in mind, this list does not replace the commemoration lists you turn in at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. The latter serve a different purpose; they are for the litany of fervent supplication of the Divine Liturgy. On these lists, please write only names of Orthodox and continue turning them in on Sundays. If I am in the sanctuary, hand them to one of the readers, Mike or Tom, or to one of the altar servers. The distinction Orthodox—non-Orthodox must be made because the non-Orthodox cannot be commemorated in certain circumstances; for example, they cannot be commemorated at the litany of fervent supplication.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

With joy in Christ's love for us,

Fr. Silviu