



CHRISTIAN GIVING CAMPAIGN – OUR CALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

BUILDING THE FUTURE – HONOURING OUR PAST

A MISSIVE FROM REVEREND FATHER CONSTANTINOS ECONOMOS, PARISH PRIEST

Dear Faithful of Saints Panteleimon, Anna & Paraskevi,

We are living in unprecedented times.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way we live, and the way we interact with our families, our friends, and our Church.

The pandemic is not just impacting our social lives, but our spiritual lives. For the first time, the doors of our Church were closed for Holy Week and services were live streamed to the faithful. This was a difficult reality for all of us.

We have been finding new ways of supporting our members during these difficult times: video-chat blessings, submitting names for prayers and lighting candles by request via the website, online meetings, community bulletin emails and virtual Greek School to name a few.

*Yes, we have made it work, but something has been sorely missing, **YOU!***

What makes us unique is that we are not just a social gathering place, but a Church. We are a community, a spiritual family, which interacts and supports each other and together offers our best to God.

During this difficult time we have done our best to adapt, and to keep you 'close', but more needs to be done. The progress that has taken place now out of necessity is a blessing in that it is pushing us to offer you more once you are back home at Church.

Beloved, we are all blessed to be part of one of the largest Greek Orthodox Communities in North America.

We minister to thousands of people, have a multitude of ministries, and are on track to have a beautiful Church and an amazing, progressive and vibrant spiritual and cultural campus. This pandemic has proven how important the work we do is.

Thousands of families rely on our Community for spiritual, emotional, financial and physical support.

Unfortunately, every year we struggle to make ends meet. This year has, with the closure of our Church due to COVID-19, proven even more challenging. While businesses have seen some support through the government, Churches and Charities have largely been left to find solutions on their own to deal with the heavy toll this pandemic is taking on operations.

Our reality is that as of May 15th, our Church, our spiritual home, will have run out of options. Our ability to pay the regular monthly overhead costs, let alone service our community, has vanished.

Our annual budget is just over \$1 million. That is the amount we need every year to *break even*.

The current model of -- the membership donation fee -- only comprises roughly 1.5 % of our budget. The rest is made up through our festival proceeds, annual gala, collection trays and candles, memorial luncheons, and miscellaneous donations.

While fundraising this year has been healthy thus far, the pandemic has decimated the Church financially with the absence of our candle sales, collections, festival proceeds and other regular revenue streams.

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HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH A CHRISTIAN GIVING CAMPAIGN

As of today, we have only 180 out of the over 3,000 families we service that have signed up as members for 2020.

Even if we were to have only 1,000 to 2,000 of our families signed up as members, and contributing to our a Christian Giving Campaign, we could meet our annual budgetary needs, and further give us the opportunity build our legacy – a vision encompassing a full service organization for seniors, families, youth and children and the ability to fulfill our Christian giving to those in need, of philanthropy.

If we begin with your contribution to your Church membership and commitment to a monthly recurring donation, our goal would be met each and every day, each and every month, each and every year.

This would then create an environment in our Community where eventually collection trays would be a thing of the past, fees for programs would be reduced or eliminated, and sacraments would be free. Our legacy campaigns would begin to roll and be completed in a timely manner.

Above all, it would give us a sense of belonging in that we all contribute to the sacred mission of our Community.

A commitment from you and your family can look like this:

Annual Family Membership		Plus a Giving Campaign of: Monthly		Which translates to total equivalent contribution of:		
				Weekly		Daily
No Membership	+	\$50	=	\$12.50	or	\$1.78
\$200	+	\$25	=	\$9.62	or	\$1.37
\$200	+	\$50	=	\$15.38	or	\$2.20
\$200	+	\$100	=	\$26.92	or	\$3.85
\$200	+	\$200	=	\$50.00	or	\$7.14

Membership plus a \$25 monthly recurring contribution translates to \$9.62 per week. \$1.37 per day.

You could easily spend that much a day on coffee. Or a lunch out weekly.

When you compare what various things cost, to the **value of our church**, you can begin to see we could be doing more for the most important thing we have in our lives: **God, and our faith.**

It's important for us to understand our commitment to God, and to give according to our means—according to the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. I understand that not all families can give very much. There are some families who can give ten times or more, and there are some of more modest means. Simply consider what is right for you. What you would give to be in your Church every week, knowing it will be there for you and your family, in times of happiness, sorrow, need, joy?

Giving to His Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?", "What are the dues?" or "What do I get for my membership?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?", "How can I support my Church?".

And when you do that, God repays you with all kinds of blessings. As Christ told us, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

There is also the added benefit that every donation you make through a recurring format (as opposed to the collection tray which is anonymous) will see you receiving a charitable tax receipt, saving you money on your taxes. At the end of every month we pledge to keep you updated on our progress and inform you of the number of Community members and the monthly donations received for this campaign.



Together with our Community Council President Mr. John Psihos, and our entire board, we are committed to earning and retaining your trust. This is why we have had the Pathway to Prosperity town halls and had been scheduled to have our Annual General Meeting, so that trust, honesty and transparency and synergy would abound.

Join me in our [Christian Giving Campaign](#). My first Sunday here I revealed my vision for this, but now is the time to act. There are three simple steps to this campaign:

Your part in this...

1. *Become a current 2020 member of our Community.*
2. *Set up a recurring monthly donation on our website or by calling the office.*
3. *Begin planning on donating to our legacy campaigns.*

Help us to support **you** by making the best Christian Giving pledge that you can!

The Christian Giving Campaign shows our gratitude to God. *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). God's love is unconditional and selfless. We love God, selflessly, by giving Him our whole life for the life He has given us. This is Christian Giving. By being good stewards, guardians of God's grace, we financially support His mission in the world. We support Saints Panteleimon, Anna & Paraskevi, which brings the grace of God new life to everyone and those around us who are less fortunate.

We are to give, St. Paul says, *"as God has prospered you"* (I Cor. 16:2). He teaches us clearly, *"He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

I offer you my thanks for your dedication to our community and your participation in Christ's work of salvation. Please prayerfully consider all that God has done for you, and join me in Christian Giving Campaign, by putting Christ first, and loving our neighbor!

In Christ's love,

+Rev. Fr. Constantinos Economos

MY VISION FOR US ALL

I want to share with you my vision for Saints Panteleimon, Anna & Paraskevi, the Community I love, am blessed to serve.

I would like for Saints Panteleimon, Anna & Paraskevi to be a model community which has the Church as its heart and a Greek Orthodox Day School, Seniors Centre, Community Centre and park growing all around us.

In order to achieve this our Church needs to be entirely supported by us, the faithful of our community, and not be dependent on one penny from our festival or any fundraiser.

What this would mean is that the entire proceeds from our festival would go to the legacy campaigns of our Community. Once our legacy campaigns are achieved, these funds could go to philanthropy. Imagine our community giving away \$200,000 to \$400,000 each year... think about all the good we could do – for York Region and for the world!

Once we have completed our Greek Orthodox Day School, Seniors Home and Community Centre, we could designate a certain amount to go to building wells in Africa or to support a homeless shelter right here in our own Community.

There are so many possibilities and opportunities. We would be so well known for our philanthropy, that people would want be part of our festival, because of all the good that would come from it. With this in mind, corporations could sponsor us or set up booths, and completely underwrite the cost of the festival, because every dollar was going to a great cause.

This is my dream, and I really believe we can do it.



2020 CHRISTIAN GIVING CAMPAIGN

STEP 1: 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership fee registers your family as a Community member and keeps you connected through our monthly mail outs, membership pricing for sacraments, and is the first step in supporting our community.

Please register your family.

Families: \$ 200 Seniors: \$ 125

STEP 2: RECURRING DONATION

The total annual expenses it takes to keep our Church open and on track to continue our spiritual and cultural missions is \$1,000,000. It is only with your generous support that we can keep the doors open. The added benefit of a recurring donation is that all your donations will result in a tax receipt to save you money on your taxes, which is more beneficial to you than contributing through the collection tray.

Consider making an annual, monthly, or weekly donation to your community!

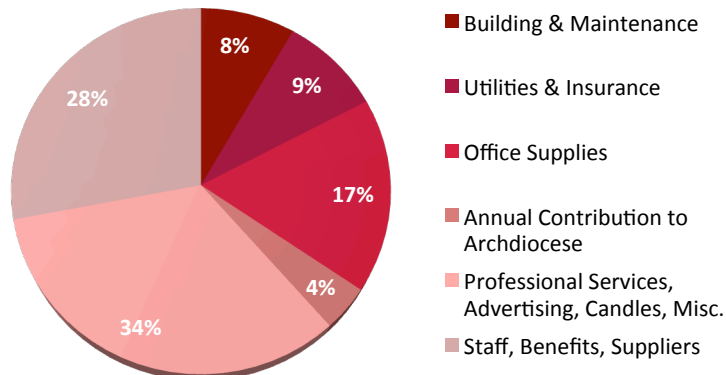
STEP 3: LEGACY CAMPAIGN

It is our dream to complete the Church and continue writing history by building much needed community services centering around our Church. A Greek Orthodox Day School, Seniors Home, Community Centre, and Community amenity spaces are greatly needed to support our rapidly growing Community. Our current campaign is to complete the drywall and our goal is to raise 1000 pieces at a donation of \$1,500 per piece.

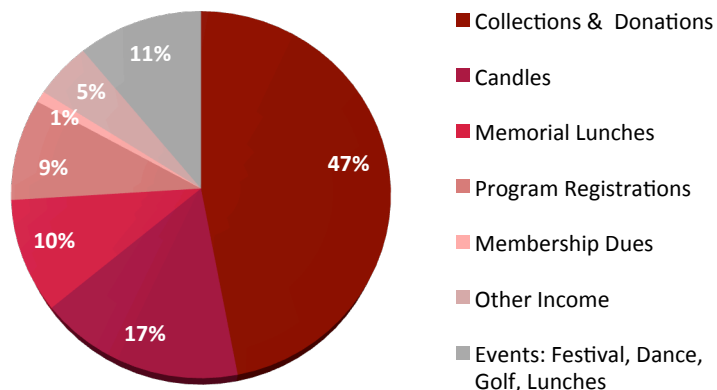
Consider supporting our legacy campaign and donating towards the completion of the Church!

DID YOU KNOW OUR COSTS ARE \$1M ANNUALLY?

To carry out the religious and cultural missions that are integral to operating our Greek Orthodox Church and Community, we incur \$1,000,000 in actual operating costs annually.



OUR REVENUE STREAM THIS YEAR IS LOST DUE TO COVID-19 LOCKDOWN - WE CANNOT LET ANOTHER EVENT SUCH AS THIS COMPROMISE OUR CHURCH



YOUR ACTION TODAY

CALL the Church Office **905.887.7311** to pay your membership and **VISIT** gocmarkham.com/donation to set up your monthly recurring contribution. **Your donations and support are vital to keeping our Community open and operating. Support your Church and Community today!**

TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING OUR FUTURE – THANK YOU