

Stewardship of Faith





Having faith can be difficult. Keeping faith in the face of doubt is the ongoing struggle of every Christian since the earliest days of Christianity. We dedicate the first Sunday after Easter to Thomas the Apostle, forever remembered as “Doubting Thomas” because he doubted the first reports of the Resurrected Christ.

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.



In the Gospel of Mark (9:22 NKJV), we read that when the disciples can't help him, a father brings his epileptic son to Jesus in desperation, saying, "...if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus replies to the father's lack of faith, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." The father's response is a prayer we can pray every day: **"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

“Doubt is not the opposite of faith;
it is one element of faith.”

Paul Tillich

We need to face our doubt honestly and directly.



“...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you....”


(1 Peter 3:15 NKJV).

Stewardship of our faith calls us to protect and strengthen the faith that lies within us. Taking time to learn about our Orthodox Christian Faith, praying to God for understanding and guidance, and worshiping with others as the Body of Christ – all these things protect and strengthen our faith.



Faith is not a big rule book of “dos and don’ts.”
It is about loving and seeing Jesus Christ in others.





“By this all will know that you
are my disciples, if you have
love for one another”

(John 13:35 NKJV).

There is no better way
to share the faith that lies within us
than to see Jesus Christ in others
and to love and care for them.

Research has shown that as Christians we seek three things from our church:
Transcendence, Significance and Fellowship

(Lost in America, Clegg & Bird 2001).

Transcendence is to know God and to experience His presence. This we do through prayerful participation in Liturgy and the sacraments.

Significance is the desire to have a purpose – to do something meaningful – most often in service to our fellow man.

Fellowship is connecting with others through meaningful relationships.

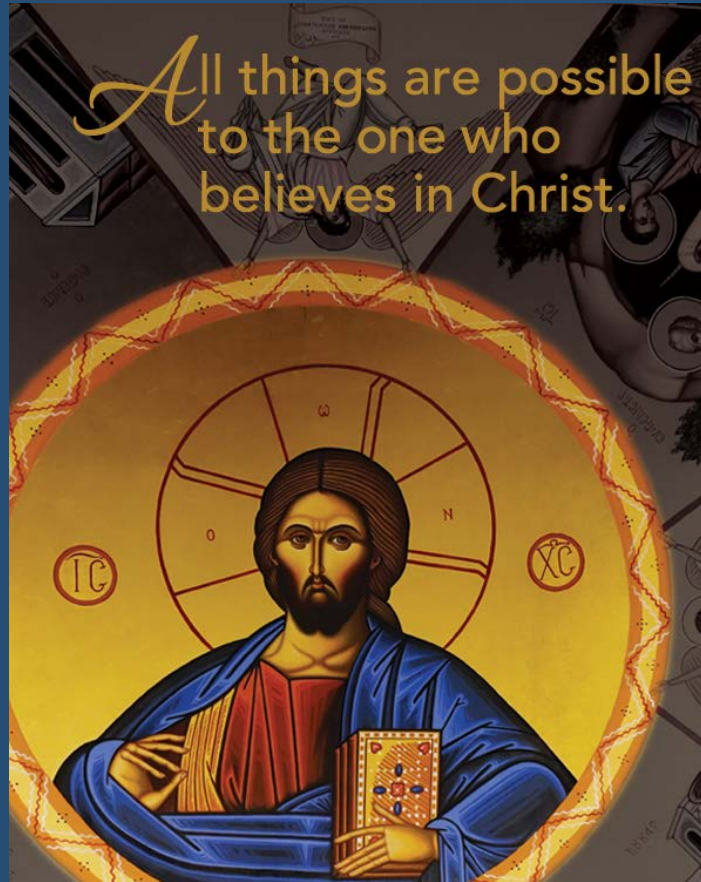
The Church offers opportunities for Transcendence, Significance and Fellowship, and in their pursuit, we also serve and support the Church and fully become members of the Body of Christ.



To be stewards of the faith we are also called
to be stewards of our local church which
nurtures our faith and the faith of others.

Stewardship is an act of faith.

When we believe, stewardship follows.



Stewardship is faith in action;
action motivated by humble gratitude to
God for his blessings in our life.

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