

Stewardship Message
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As the President of GOYA, I have been asked to speak on what Stewardship means to the youth of our community. We understand the definition of Stewardship is giving back to God and His Church our time, talents and treasure, but to the youth of Saint Demetrios, Stewardship is not a mere definition, but rather a calling to action. You see this every Sunday with the youth serving in the altar, singing in the choir, assisting in the Church School, or attending Church School, devoting their time and attention to learning our faith. These are some visible examples of Stewardship.

But Stewardship is present in many other ways in the lives of the youth. In GOYA, one of the foundations of our ministry and programs is service; service to the Church and to the larger community of Saint Demetrios. We support all of the functions of the Church, from working booths at our festival, to serving during the Suburban Players' Productions and appreciation luncheons. We Greek dance at festivals and sing and ring bells at musical performances. This year we will be visiting the elderly during the Christmas Holidays and providing gifts to unfortunate children in Church, through fundraising. We use our culinary talents to cook food we sell at GOYA's kitchen and have bake sales and sub sales to feed the community.

Under the direction and inspiration of many of the talented adults and advisors of the community, we have spotlighted our talents by putting on a Talent Show and this year, for the first time, a musical production.

Whenever called upon, the youth of our community always responds. We feel the same sense of family, comfort, and belonging here at Saint Demetrios as we do in our own homes. We also feel the need to do our share in supporting our Church family and house of God. These activities are not seen as chores, but rather as opportunities to serve. We have been taught that God has given each of us many unique talents. One day He will ask us to account for what we did with the gifts He entrusted to us. We understand that through the use of our talents, we are called upon not only to enrich our own lives, but the lives of our fellow Christians. We desire to be known to God as "good and faithful servants." Like most young people, we have many activities competing for our attention, but we are committed to making service to God and our Church as our first priority.

It is true that leadership is best shown by example. Thirty-five years ago, when our Church was being founded, many of our parents were teenagers, and they too were serving as Stewards of the Church. They were following in the footsteps of their parents, just as we follow in theirs. Stewardship is not a once-a-year commitment, but a way of life and has been for many generations.

We strive to carry out the proud tradition of Stewardship as the youth of Saint Demetrios and hope that we may serve as shining examples and perhaps inspire future generations to give back their time, talent and treasure to god.