



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



2024 Stewardship Appeal: The work at Saint George continues!

March 20, 2024

To the stewards and friends of the St. George community,

Christ is in our midst!

In this early Lenten season, we ask our community to remember its stewardship obligation. For 2024, **we have a goal of reaching 65 stewards of St. George!** With your support, we can achieve it!

In the last few years, as the community has become more active, we have seen a growth in stewardship. In 2021, coming out of the pandemic, we had 41 stewards; 45 in 2022; and 51 in 2023. We believe that both the increase in the number of ministries and participation in these ministries justifies our 2024 stewardship goal.

The growth in the community is mirrored by the improvements in our physical infrastructure. The interior restoration is mostly complete; we hope to complete the exterior restoration by Holy Week.

Here is a brief update on both community growth and our physical infrastructure:

An Active Community: Bible Study occurs twice a month; a Women's Book Club is active; a beautiful chanting program is on display every Sunday—with a monthly chanting class offered by the chanter; a monthly meals program feeds 80 individuals; Sunday School is in session; Philoptochos has restarted; and St. George is a familiar site for "Orthodoxy on Tap" (a regional Bible Study and social event). Finally, we have a weekly catechism class servicing 12 individuals; we will be hosting a city-wide pop-up pantry for 150 individuals; and a prison ministry is in development. Social activities have included an open-air cocktail hour (October) and a wine tasting (March). A lot for a small church!

More important, **St. George is no longer a "Sunday church."** It has an active liturgical weekday schedule including a monthly confession.

The Exterior Restoration: In December, the exterior restoration began with the most foundational of needs: the building of a new steel reinforced sidewalk vault and new sidewalk. While a planned expense, it was costly but needed as the sidewalk could not support the weight of the scaffolding and the sidewalk shed.

Since then, the work on our 1886 building has continued: the repair, replacement, and cleaning of brickwork, refurbished staircases, new railings, exterior lighting, and new signage. Finally, a new stained-glass window of our patron, Saint George, will be installed. In the evening, the church's façade will be illuminated, and the stained glass will be lit from the interior. The church's external façade will be a welcomed sight to the congregation and visitors of St. George - and our neighbors on West 54th Street!

Our goal has always been simple: to make the church welcoming both physically and spiritually. **Now we have a second goal: to leave the church debt-free.** This final push to raise \$70,000 for the Capital Campaign will allow us to achieve this second goal.

Our Stewardship Request: The church is dependent on the faithful for its continuing operation: salaries of its staff, maintenance of the physical infrastructure and, in general, the needs of the community. This year, we ask that you consider four ways to support St. George:

1. The General Operating Fund: Salaries, general maintenance, and programs.
2. The Capital Campaign fund: We are \$70,000 short of our goal!
3. Marilena's Meals: Our monthly outreach feeds approximately 80 people.
4. Specific gifts: The church has some specific needs (outlined on the insert).

Our mission is to build a Christ-centered community of fellowship, prayer, and belonging. Your support to any of the above needs will help us accomplish this mission. No amount is too small; your involvement is key.

Last year, I wrote to you the following:

"Our church is not a museum but a dynamic home of worship and belonging. It is a place where we find calmness in a busy world and fellowship among like-minded individuals. In a world where many feel lonely, or are alone, this sense of fellowship is more critical than ever. It is place where forgiveness is given, union with God experienced, marriages formed, children baptized and clothed in Christ, and other countless blessings and mysteries experienced."


People find calmness and peace in a dynamic home of worship and belonging. There is no contradiction in this statement; rather, it defines our mission.

Our community of Saint George has existed in New York since 1923. We seek to prepare the church for the next 100 years, to set it on a path of increased stewardship and involvement by the faithful. We humbly ask for your support as we continue our mission. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you should have any questions.

In Christian fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophronios". The signature is stylized with a large, vertical stroke on the left and a horizontal stroke on the right.

Reverend Hieromonk Sophronios Vomend
Presiding Priest
FrSophronios@goarch.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew V. George". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Andrew V. George
Parish Council President
andrewvgeorge21@gmail.com

Stewardship by: _____
Name

Option 1 – For the General Operating Budget

My Gift \$ _____

*This fund covers the general expenses associated with the operations of the Church – salaries, maintenance, insurance, cleaning, small repairs, etc. **Annually, it takes \$115,000 to run the operations of St. George.***

Option 2 – For the Capital Campaign (exterior restoration)

My Gift \$ _____

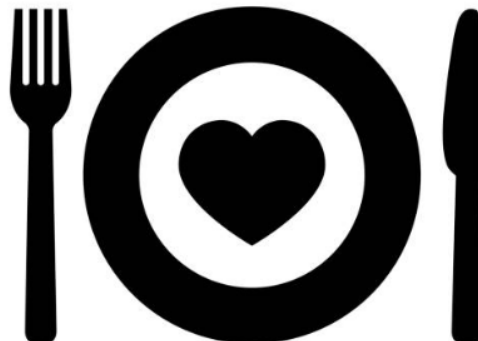
*Improvements include the complete restoration, repointing and cleaning of the façade, restoration of the stairs, new ironwork, sidewalk, railings, lighting and signage. **We are \$70,000 from our Campaign goal; let's finish what we have started!!***



Option 3 – Marilena's Meals – monthly outreach

My Gift \$ _____

*Every month, a team of faithful volunteers assemble and deliver 80 bagged meals to the most vulnerable New Yorkers; those without food or shelter. We operate rain or shine. **It costs \$350 to sponsor one month of the program.***

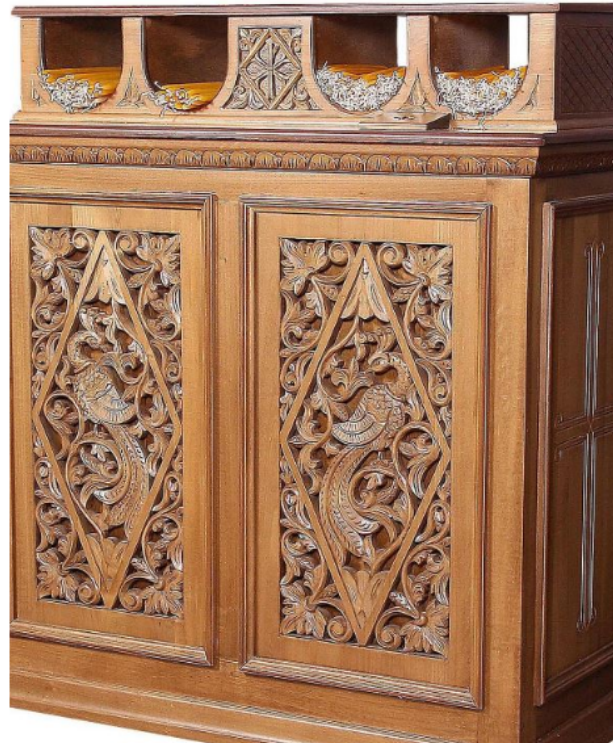


Option 4 – Specific Gifts

My Gift \$ _____

As we refurbish Saint George, the following items have been identified for the church.

		Cost	My Gift
Icon–Jesus Christ with Apostles (below)	Entranceway–west wall	\$8,500	
New candle dispenser (below)	Narthex	\$3,800	
Icon Set for Liturgical Year	Narthex	\$1,000	
Restoration of 80-year-old baptismal font		\$3,000	



How to Contribute? Contributions can be sent to:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
307 West 54th Street
New York, NY 10019

Or by using the below PayPal QR code:



St George Church, tax ID 13-1813822, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt eleemosynary organization.