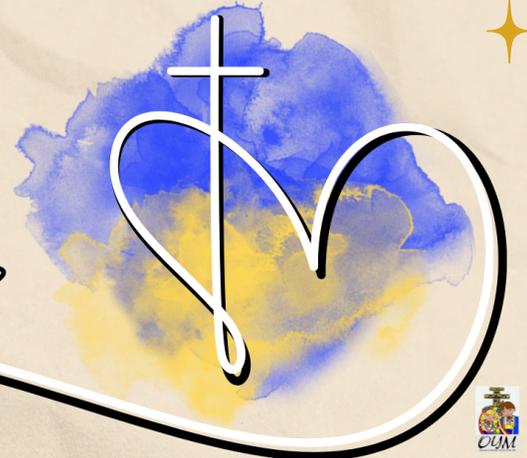




# FIRST OFFERINGS



OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY-UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF USA

## Why is it essential to contribute offerings?

Holy Scripture, in both the Old and New Testament, continually instructs the faithful to act charitably in our day-to-day lifestyle. Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God, and thus, when we help serve others, we also serve Christ directly:

## What is an offering?

In the most straightforward words, an Offering is an act of gratitude to God. Throughout history, offerings have taken many forms, but in the Ukrainian Orthodox Christian tradition, an offering is synonymous with almsgiving.

Almsgiving can also take many different forms, but its modes can primarily be found in: time, talent, and treasure, all of which, are gifts that God himself gives us. He gives us the time to use the unique talents he gave us, along with our treasure (money) to help support charity.



GOD WILL COME TO THOSE WHO ARE

*Generous & Lend  
Freely.*

WHO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS WITH JUSTICE.

PSALM 112:5

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

*Whoever sows  
generously will also  
reap generously.*

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

MATTHEW 19:21

# How can we help harvest our first offerings as a family?

There are great and simple ways we can help harvest our first offerings! Just as in the Parable of the Good Sower, we too can use our time, talent, and treasure to help First, it is good to learn about stewardship with your whole family. Check out Orthodoxabc's "Parable of the Sower" lesson or Be the Bee Episode #39 "The King's Steward" on youtube with the links in the Resources section. Discuss with your family ways we can be stewards of Christ in our day-to-day life.



Icons courtesy of Archangel Icons

A simple way anyone can start is by collecting and saving spare change in your day-to-day life:

1. Collect a cup, mug, or jar
  - The Office of Youth Ministry provides the label for this program! Contact your parish priest or youth ministry team to get one.
2. Place the special label on the jar "First Offerings"
3. Collect and save all spare change throughout a month or season to donate to the church and/or a charity organization of your choosing
4. At the end of each season, donate 10% of the funds to the church, and the remaining funds to a charity or charities of your family's choice!
  - Church donations can help support ministries such as All Saints Camp, Youth Ministry, and St. Sophia Seminary
  - Some great Orthodox charity outreach ministries to donate to are International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), and Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS NA).

## Resources for the Family

- Orthodox ABCs Lesson: <http://www.orthodoxabc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/026-EN-ed03.pdf>
- Be the Bee Episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs2muBCSQI8>

## Resources for Parents

- Doulos Podcat Episode: <https://www.orthodoxservantleaders.com/doulos-podcast/the-stewardship-cycle>
- OCA's article on Almsgiving: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/spirituality/prayer-fasting-and-almsgiving/almsgiving>

