



Ten Questions

about Money and St. Vladimir's

That You Always Wanted to Ask

but Never Did



1. Does _____ (fill in the blank: the Canadian Government / the Province of Nova Scotia / the OCA Bishop / the Patriarch of Moscow / UNESCO / ...) give money to support our church?

No, they do not! St. Vladimir's exists only on our parishioners' and other private people's donations.

2. Well, how can I help then?

You can donate cash or personal cheque by putting it into the "Offering Basket" (circulated after the Gospel reading and/or the sermon at every Divine Liturgy) or into the "Donation Box" by the entrance (any time the church is open).

You can also buy candles or any other products sold at St. Vladimir's as fundraising for our parish.

You can also donate – at any time and from anywhere in the world – via our website: <http://halifaxorthodox.org/campaign.html>.

3. I have heard about a Charitable Donation receipt. What is it?

St. Vladimir's is a Registered Charitable Organization with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). If you donate to St. Vladimir's and provide your full name and address, you will receive a Charitable Donation receipt for the full amount donated in a given year.

Submit it with your annual tax return, and you may receive some of the funds back depending on the amount of your donation, your income, and the province in which you reside (visit the CRA website for more details: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1-eng.html>).

4. What about Donations-in-Kind?

If you buy things for the church, you can put your receipt, identifying yourself as the donor and specifying that it is a Donation-In-Kind (DIK), into the Offering Basket or the Donation Box.

If you wish, this amount will be recorded as a monetary donation for which a Charitable Donation receipt will be issued (see Question 3 above).

Before doing this, however, please verify with the priest, the treasurer, or any member of the Parish Council that St. Vladimir's actually needs the donated items.

5. But why does St. Vladimir's need money anyway? This is a holy place, and at least here we should not worry about money!

Our annual budget consists of the following categories:

- liturgical supplies (candles, oil for lampadas, charcoal, communion wine, incense, etc.);

- the priest's salary and mileage;
- priestly and altar goods (Holy Gospel, priestly vestments, lampadas for the altar, icons, etc.);
- building maintenance expenses (heating, electricity, toilet facility, snow removal, minor repairs, insurance, etc.);
- community expenses (drinking water, tea/coffee);
- library books;
- Sunday School supplies;
- cost of parish events;
- other administrative expenses.

Additionally, St. Vladimir's has been donating money to other charitable causes.

It is a holy place indeed, but these expenses still need to be covered.

6. And what about the St. Vladimir's Capital Campaign? What is that for?

After our parish had to leave our previous place of worship in February 2013, we have been actively raising money towards buying/building our own church in the future. You can see our progress on the "dome chart" by the entrance.

The money donated towards this cause (by cash/cheque/online donation via credit card or PayPal) will be used 100% for the goal to which it was donated – establishing a permanent home for St. Vladimir's.

7. Tithe? What is that?

This is a tradition that comes from the Old Testament – to give 10% of one's income to the Temple of God (Deut. 14:22-26). Many of our parishioners tithe their income to support St. Vladimir's.

In addition, St. Vladimir's itself tithes by giving 10% of all the offerings it receives to the Archdiocese of Canada, to provide support for the governing body of our Church (to support the Bishop and the administration of the Archdiocese, Canadian OCA conferences, various ministries, etc.).

Note: All special offerings and funds (e.g. Capital Campaign) are *not* tithed; they remain at St. Vladimir's in full.

8. How about paying for a baptism, a wedding, a blessing of the vehicle, a memorial service (panikhida) etc.? How is that to be done?

The sacraments are not for sale. Everyone is able to receive a sacrament regardless of one's income or lack thereof.

However, it has been a tradition to provide the priest, the choir (if involved), and the parish with an offering as a sign of appreciation for their service and, in some cases, as a reimbursement for the incurred costs.

Please note: money given directly to the

priest or the choir will *not* be counted towards one's charitable donation, as it would not be entered into the church books.

9. Money, money, money, I do not have any to spare. How can I help otherwise?

It is good to give, and on a regular basis, even if it is the smallest of amounts (remember the Gospel passage about a poor widow's mite: Mark 12:41-44).

However, your presence at the services, and your time and talents are most valuable! Please volunteer to help keep our church clean and beautiful. Consult the bulletin board for a list of tasks to be filled (washing the dishes, mowing the grass, cleaning the church after services, preparing food, baking prosphoras for the liturgy, etc.).

Additionally, your ideas on how we can fundraise inside and outside of our community are crucial.

Consider donating items that are needed by our parish.

10. Well, this is helpful. What if I have more questions, whom do I ask?

You can send an email to council@halifaxorthodox.org, and someone from the Parish Council (most probably, the humble treasurer) will address your question.