

Following the Saints to God

stories and activities to introduce students to tithing and much more!



100%

With all the saints,
let us commend ourselves
and our whole lives
unto Christ our God.



TO TITHE IS TO SHARE • TO TITHE IS TO CARE

Campaign of the Department of Christian Education to restore tithing to Orthodoxy.

The Department gratefully acknowledges the on-going support of The Order of St. Ignatius which helps fund, in part, the programs we offer.



GRADES K-1

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PRAYER

“With all the saints let us commend ourselves and our whole lives unto Christ our God.”

Getting Started

Where have you heard this prayer before?

We hear this prayer at least six times during the Divine Liturgy. This prayer helps us to remember that we are not alone. In this prayer, we remember the saints. We join with them. Together with them we commend—or give—ourselves to God. How much of ourselves? Our whole selves. 100%!

This sounds like a lot until we remember that it's God who has given us everything that we have. Without Him, what would we have?

We also remember that the saints have given all of their lives to God. They show us how we can do the same. We can learn from their lives. In this booklet we will meet some saints. They serve as good examples for us. We want to be like them.

In this booklet, you will find

- stories about saints,
- facts about the saints,
- verses that relate to the themes,
- ideas about how to practice the themes,
- information about where your money goes when you add your tithe (or offering) to the collection, and
- activities to help you remember what you're learning.

With your parents' permission, you can also visit www.antiochian.org/tithe, where you can find other information and activities, such as longer stories, icons to color, posters, and a kit to make a special envelope to keep your money until it's time to give it in the collection at Church.

This booklet introduces tithing (giving 10% back to God). Tithing is one way for us to begin to give our whole selves to God. As we meet and follow the saints, we will become more like them and more like God.

Acknowledgments

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc., except the paraphrase of Psalm 37:23 on page 9. Photo illustrations of children with icons are courtesy of John Ritter and Rich Rogowski. Icons of Saint Joachim and Saint Anna, Saint Innocent, and Saint Emmelia are courtesy of comeandseeicons.com; proceeds from sales support an Orthodox homeless ministry in Philadelphia, Pa. Icon with scenes of Saint Raphael's life is courtesy of The Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org). The other Saint Raphael icon is courtesy of Fr. Paul Albert. Photos of Alaska and Saint Innocent are courtesy of Alaska State Library Historical Collections. Clip art is courtesy of Microsoft Office and stock.xchng. Permission is granted to copy and distribute the materials in this booklet.

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DEFINITIONS

Exemplar

Someone who is worthy of imitation.

Tithe

to give one out of every 10; for example, one dime of every 10 dimes.

Meet the Saints

We're going to meet lots of saints!
They show us how to love God.



Saint Joachim and Saint Anna
were *thankful*.



Saint Raphael of Brooklyn
was *dedicated to God*.



Saint Innocent of Alaska
trusted *God*.

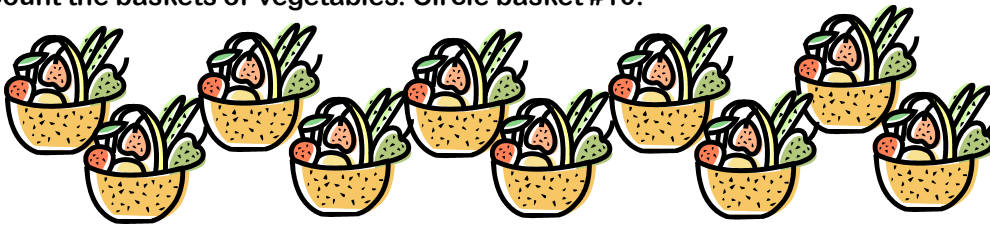


Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil
were *good stewards*.

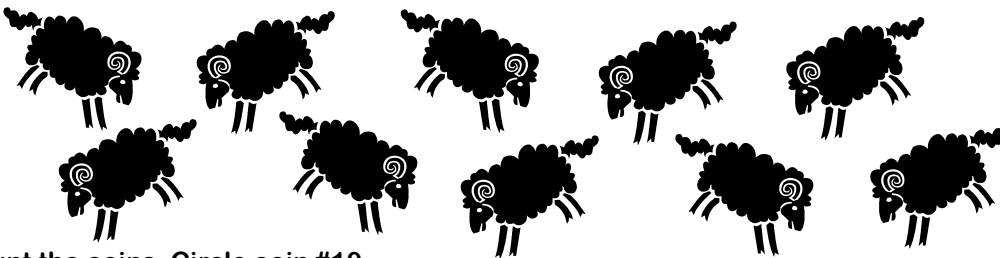
These saints are good examples of how to love God.

Let's Count

Count the baskets of vegetables. Circle basket #10.



Count the sheep. Circle sheep #10.



Count the coins. Circle coin #10.



THEN AND NOW

- In the Old Testament, God asked the Israelites to **tithe**. This means they gave back to God one basket out of every 10 baskets of vegetables they had grown and one sheep out of every 10 sheep from their flock. This went to support the priests and to help the poor.
- The saints show us that we should give all of our lives as an offering to God.
- One way we can offer ourselves to God is by giving money in the collection at Church. **A tithe is one dime of every 10 dimes.**

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of the money goes to your priest and bishop so they can serve God.

What is your priest's name?

What is your bishop's name?

Meet Saint Joachim and Saint Anna

exemplars of
Thankfulness

Let me tell you a story about
Jesus' grandparents.

Joachim and his wife Anna loved God very much. They gave their money to God and to people who were poor. Joachim and Anna didn't have any children. They grew old and still didn't have any children. They promised God that if He would give them a child, in thanksgiving they would give the child back to Him.

One day, Joachim went to the temple to give an offering to God. The priest told him to go away because he and Anna didn't have any children. Joachim and Anna were sad. Joachim went into the desert to pray. Anna went into her garden to pray.

The angel Gabriel came to them as they prayed and told them that they would have a

baby. Joachim and Anna said, "Thank you, thank you, God for hearing our prayers." Nine months later, they had a baby girl! They named her Mary.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna took her to the temple so that she could serve God there, just as they promised. They visited her often, giving thanks to God for hearing their prayers. When Mary grew up, she became the mother of Jesus!

God has given us everything! One way we can thank God is by giving something back to God. What can we give back to God?

Who was thankful?
Joachim and Anna were thankful.

To tithe is to show God we know how to say "Thank you" for what He gives to us.



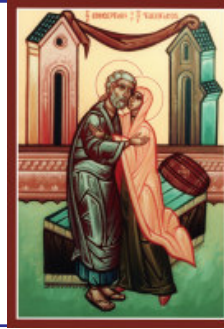
DID YOU KNOW?

- Saint Joachim and Saint Anna are commemorated on September 9.
- The falling asleep of Saint Anna is commemorated on July 25.
- Saint Joachim lived on the earth for 80 years and Saint Anna for 79.

Discover more at
www.antiochian.org/tithe

PRAYER

“Let us sing praises to Joachim and Anna; they have borne the Theotokos for us!”



Which Came First?

The pages fell out of a book about Saint Joachim and Saint Anna. Help put the pages back in order. Write the page numbers, from 1 to 6, in the order that the events happened.

Joachim and Anna asked God for a child.

PAGE #

Gabriel visited Joachim and Anna.

PAGE #

Joachim and Anna gave their child back to God.

PAGE #

God gave Joachim and Anna a child.

PAGE #

Joachim and Anna were thankful to God for their child.

PAGE #

Joachim and Anna got married.

PAGE #

THANKFULNESS IN THE BIBLE

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18
NKJV

PRACTICE THANKFULNESS

- Remember to say “Thank you” to your parents, priest, and teachers for helping you learn about God.
- Make and send a “Thank you” card for someone who has done something for you.
- List six things you are thankful for, with each word beginning with a letter of the word **thanks**.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of your offering goes to pay for the Church building and things like heat, water, and electricity, so that we have a place to worship God.

Meet Saint Raphael of Brooklyn

exemplar of
Dedication to God

Here's a story about a man who was dedicated to God. He did everything he could to serve God and the Church.

Almost 150 years ago, Saint Raphael was a young boy in Damascus, Syria. He was a good student. He liked to learn about God and the Church. When he was 18 years old, he became a monk.

He studied near Constantinople (in Turkey) and in Kiev (in Russia). He became a priest.

One day, Saint Raphael got an invitation from a bishop in the United States of America. The bishop needed someone to help him serve the people there. Saint Raphael loved God and His people, so he said, "Yes, I will go."

Saint Raphael traveled in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He preached, listened to confessions, baptized people, and started 30 new churches. He became the first bishop to be consecrated in America.

I want to serve God and the Church, just like Saint Raphael!



To tithe is to take a step on the path of being dedicated to God.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Saint Raphael could serve the entire Divine Liturgy in perfect Arabic, Greek, Russian, and English.
- Saint Raphael is the founder of *The Word* magazine.
- Saint Raphael is buried at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pa.
- Saint Raphael is commemorated on the first Saturday in November.



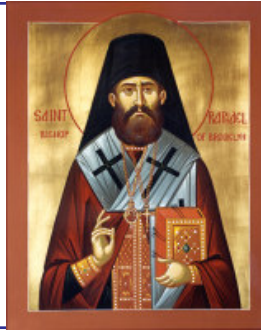
Who was dedicated to God?

Saint Raphael was dedicated to God.

Discover more at
www.antiochian.org/tithe

PRAYER

Rejoice, O Father Raphael.
Intercede with Christ God for
us and for all who honor thee.



DEDICATION TO GOD IN THE BIBLE

I beseech you therefore,
brethren, by the
mercies of God, that
you present your bodies
a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable to God,
which is your
reasonable service.

Romans 12:1 NKJV

PRACTICE DEDICATION TO GOD

- Make a list of the things that are most important to you. Is God at the top of your list?
- Saint Raphael was on time for Church services. What can you do to help your family get to Church services on time?

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of your offering pays for people in your parish to learn. Does your parish have a bookstore or library? How about Sunday Church School classes?

Find the Words

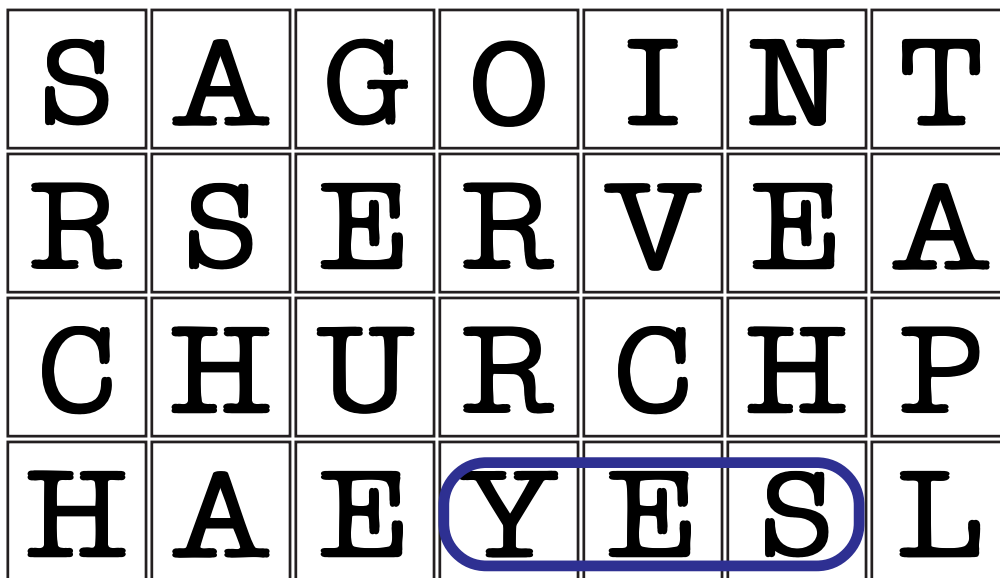
First, cross out the words that are not in the story of Saint Raphael.

SERVE PLAY YES

~~SOCK~~ CAT CHURCH

GO WIND JUMPED

In the word search below, find and circle the words that you did not cross out.



Write the letters that you didn't circle to find out who was dedicated to God.

Meet Saint Innocent of Alaska

exemplar of
Trust

One of America's favorite saints is Saint Innocent. He trusted God to help him and to show him what to do.

A long time ago in Russia, there lived a priest named Father John. He found out about people in faraway Alaska. They wanted someone to teach them about God. He and his family went to Alaska. At that time, Alaska was wild and dangerous. Father John knew this, and trusted God.

In Alaska, he traveled by kayak, dog sled, and reindeer to tell the people about God. He learned the language of

the people, made an alphabet, and wrote books for them. He built churches and schools.

Later he became a bishop, taking the name Innocent.

I want to trust God, just like Saint Innocent!



Monument marking the site of the First Orthodox Church in Sitka, Alaska, built around 1810.



Studio portrait of Saint Innocent.



To tithe is to trust that God will provide for all we truly need.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Saint Innocent was born in 1797 to a poor family in Siberia, Russia.
- His wife's name was Catherine.
- Saint Innocent wrote many books.
- Saint Innocent departed this life in 1879.
- We commemorate Saint Innocent on March 31 and October 6.

Discover more at
www.antiochian.org/tithe

Who trusted God?

Saint Innocent trusted God.

PRAYER

O Holy Father Innocent, you showed us the way. Now help us into the Kingdom of Heaven.



Join Saint Innocent on His Travels

Help St. Innocent find his way from island to island using the words of his favorite verse, "The Lord guides a man safely in the way he should go." (Psalm 37:23)



START

THE	WAY	HE	MAN	A	SAFELY
LORD	GUIDES	GO	HE	IN	GUIDES
THE	A	IN	THE	WAY	THE
WAY	MAN	SAFELY	A	HE	LORD
HE	GO	LORD	GUIDES	SHOULD	GO

END

What is *your* favorite verse?

TRUST IN THE BIBLE

Trust in the Lord and do good.

Psalm 37:3 NKJV

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

Command those who are rich not to trust in riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17 NKJV

PRACTICE TRUST

- What are you most afraid of? Ask God to help you be brave. Ask your parents to pray for you.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of your offering goes to pay for icons, choir books, and candles so we can worship God.

Meet Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil

exemplars of
Stewardship

Let me tell you about two saints of the Church who took good care of the children that God gave to them.

A very long time ago, there was a woman named Emmelia and a man named Basil. They got married. God gave them 10 children! They loved their children very much. They took their children to Church. They taught their children the Scriptures. They showed their children how to love God and be kind to others. They gave money to the Church and to people who were poor. They took good care of their children.

Six of the children became saints. One of them is Saint Basil the Great, who wrote the Divine Liturgy we celebrate during Great Lent. We remember Saint Basil the Great on January 1. Some

people eat Saint Basil's bread (with a coin inside) to remember him. His parents taught him how to love God.

A steward is someone who takes care of something. A good steward is someone who takes good care of what God gives to him or her. Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil were good stewards.

They took good care of their children. They show us how to take good care of what God has given us.



To tithe is to be a good steward of what God has given us.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil lived in Cappadocia, which is now part of the country of Turkey.
- They are commemorated on May 8 or May 30.
- Their other children who became saints are Saint Macrina the Younger, Saint Naucratius, Saint Theosebia, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Saint Peter of Sebaste.

Discover more at
www.antiochian.org/tithe

Who were good stewards?

Emmelia and Basil were good stewards.

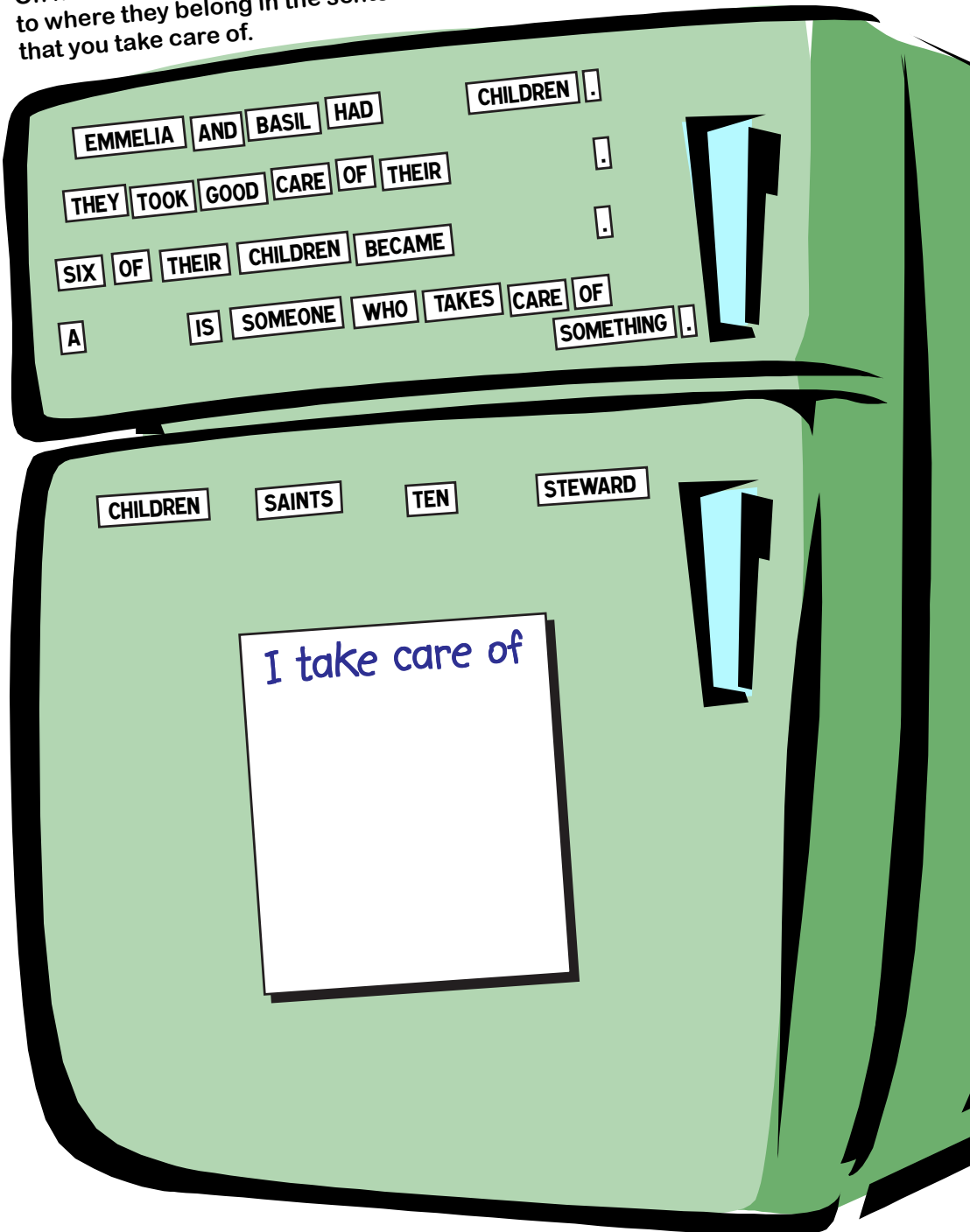
PRAYER

O Mother Emmelia, you followed Christ and taught us. Now your soul rejoices with the angels.



Stick to It!

Oh no! Some of the fridge magnets have fallen! Draw lines from the missing words to where they belong in the sentences. Then draw your own fridge art of something that you take care of.



STEWARDSHIP IN THE BIBLE

Each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP

- Make a list of the things that you help to take care of... maybe a pet, your toys, or a younger brother or sister.
- Think about how you would treat the things in your list if you were a bad steward. How you would treat the things on your list if you were a good steward?

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of your offering goes to missionaries and others who teach people about God. Some goes to help people who don't have enough money for food, clothing, and shelter.

Match It!

Draw a line from each icon to the saints' names, a line from the saints' names to their character traits, and a line from their character traits to the facts about them.



Saint Innocent of Alaska

waited many years to have a child

exemplars of **Stewardship**



Saint Joachim and Saint Anna

started churches in North America

exemplar of **Trust**



Saint Raphael of Brooklyn

traveled to a faraway place to teach people about God

exemplars of **Thanksgiving**



Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil

raised 10 children

exemplar of **Dedication to God**