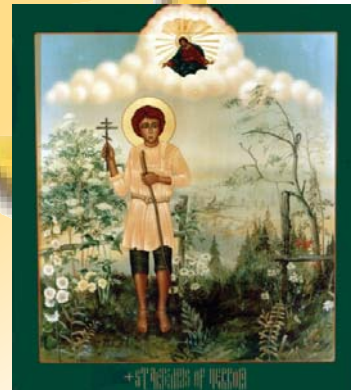


GRADES: 4-5



**Be like the
stars of our
faith-help
care for the
church!
Tithe**



TO TITHE IS TO SHARE
TO TITHE IS TO CARE

Dear Student,

As Orthodox Christians, we care about our faith and our church. One way we do this is by contributing to the weekly collections. We aim to bring in ten percent of what we earn and receive. This is called a "tithe."

These pages are arranged for each month between September and May. They feature four saints who exemplify four traits that help us care for our faith--stewardship, thankfulness, dedication to God, and trust.

We need to care. We need to share.
To tithe is to share. To tithe is to care..

Have a hand in your church!



Acknowledgements

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Saint stories by Catherine Sullivan. Layout consultant, Kyra Buleza.



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Why Tithe?

Since the time of Jesus,

the people of God have tithed. In fact, 18 centuries before Jesus, Abraham tithed, in thankfulness to God who had helped him win a battle. This is recorded early in the book of Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible.

A tithe is $1/10$ of all we earn, or receive as gifts. It isn't difficult to figure out. If you earn \$1, you keep \$.90, and bring \$.10 for the collection. If you earn \$10, you keep \$9 and bring \$1 for the collection.

When you do this, you are being a good steward of what God has provided for you--all we have comes from God and is given to us for our wise management. You also trust God to provide for your needs. Finally, you have taken a step on the road to realizing that your whole life is to be given to God.

What is your allowance?

What would $1/10$ be? That is your tithe.

St. Helen

Exemplar of Stewardship

Part I

October

What do we do with the things God gives

us? Do we share with other people, or do we keep them for ourselves? When we share what God gives us, we are good stewards. A good steward is a person who does good things with what he or she has.

St. Helen went to the Holy Land hoping to find the true cross that Jesus died on. She found it! For this reason, she is shown holding a cross on her icons. She used her money to build a big church where she found the cross. Today we celebrate the finding of the true cross on September 14.

St. Helen really cared about her faith and the church. St. Helen is our example, or exemplar, of Stewardship.



**St. Helen is
an Exemplar of**

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

St. Helen

Exemplar of Stewardship

Part 2

St. Helen was born about 1800 years ago. She was born in the part of the world which we now call Turkey.

When St. Helen was old, she took a trip to the Holy Land. She saw all of the holy places we read about in the Bible, like the place Jesus was born in Bethlehem. And, she found the true cross of Christ. She paid to have many churches built in the Holy Land, notably the Church of the Holy Sepulcher near where Jesus died and was buried.

She did not use her money just on herself, but for the church and to help others. When we use our talents and money for

Find appropriate words to make the acrostic.

GOOD

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This is the St. Helena Chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Photo courtesy of HolyLandPhotos.com

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

Patriarch Jacob

Exemplar of Thankfulness

Part I

Patriarch Jacob lived over three thousand years ago. There are many stories about Jacob in the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

One night, when Patriarch Jacob was traveling, he stopped to sleep. He dreamed of a ladder that was set up between heaven and earth. The Lord stood above the ladder. He promised Jacob that the land on which he had fallen asleep would one day be his and his children's. Jacob had so many descendants that he became known as a "patriarch." Jacob was thankful to God for his generosity.

We remember St. Jacob and all the Patriarchs, on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, which is the Sunday before the Nativity.



**Patriarch Jacob is
an Exemplar of**



This is Beth El, near where Jacob fell asleep. Photo courtesy of HolyLandPhotos.com

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

Patriarch Jacob

Exemplar of Thankfulness

Part 2

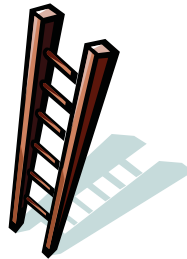
January

In a dream, the lord promised Jacob

that the land he was on would be his and his children's one day. When Jacob awoke, he said, "Surely, the Lord is in this place-it is the gate of heaven. If the Lord keeps me safe and provides for me until I return home. I will give a tenth of all the Lord gives to me" (Genesis 28).

God kept His promise, and so did Jacob.

In returning a tenth to God, Jacob gave thanks to the One who provides for us. We, too, give thanks by giving a tithe to God. It is our tradition.



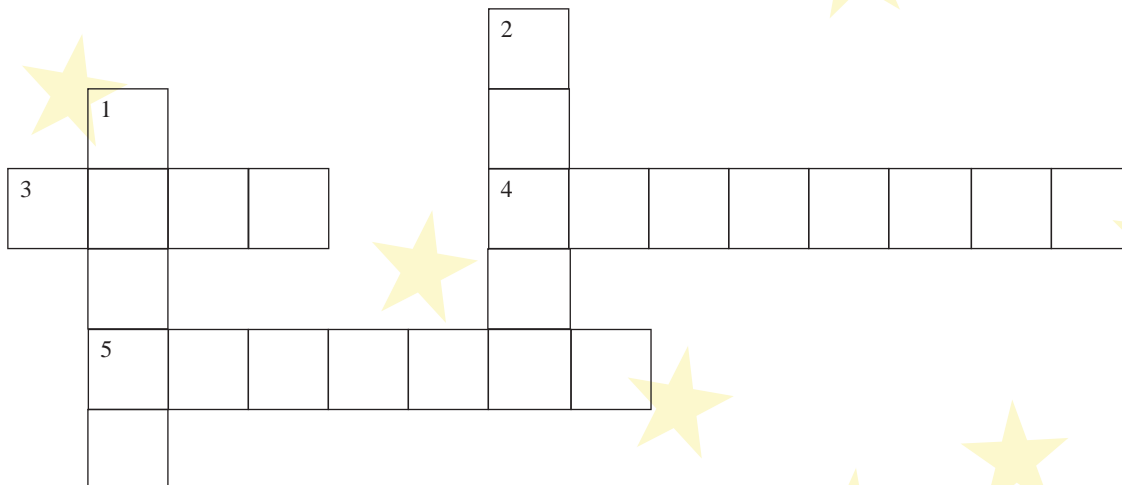
Crossword puzzle clues.

Down

- 1 Our exemplar of thankfulness
- 2 A tenth, or _____, is what Jacob offered the Lord in thanksgiving

Across

- 3 What God promised Jacob
- 4 What Jacob was, in response God
5. Because Jacob was thankful, he _____ God a tithe



Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

St. Artemius

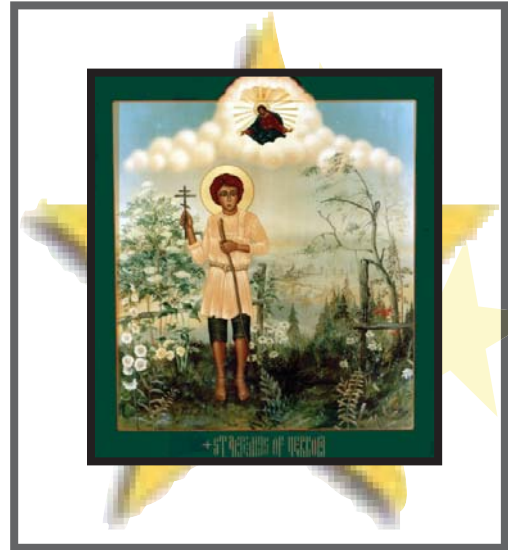
Exemplar of Dedication to God

Part I

February

Most of the time, we think of saints as adults. However, there are children who led holy lives and died while they were still children. St. Artemius is an example of a child saint. He lived in Russia a long time ago. He was poor, and worked on a farm. His parents taught him to be a good Christian. He obeyed his parents. He worked hard with his father. St. Artemius helped his family and he loved God. Everything he did, he did for God.

One day, when he was 12 and working in the fields, a bad storm came up and he was killed. Even though he had died, the people remembered him because of his dedication to God.



**St. Artemius is
an Exemplar of**

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

St. Artemius

Exemplar of Dedication to God

Part 2

March

Many years later, someone found the body of St. Artemius. It had not decayed. This is usually a sign of a saint. Then, many miracles began to happen. One man had a son who was near death. The father got a piece of St. Artemius clothing, and he brought it to his son. His son got well right away! Many others prayed to St. Artemius. They were healed too!

"t

We can still pray to St. Artemus today. We can visit his shrine at Antiochian Village. It is good to be dedicated to God, but it isn't easy. We can ask St. Artemius to show us the way.

Make an acrostic to explain the phrase.

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**TO
GOD.**

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

St. Constantine

Exemplar of Trust in God

Part I



**St. Constantine is
an Exemplar of**

Constantine's mother, Saint Helen, trusted God all of her life. She prayed that her son would too.

One day in the year 312, Constantine was marching into battle. He was not sure if he could win or not, for his enemy was very powerful. As he marched at the head of his troops in the hot Italian sun, Constantine saw a vision in front of him. He saw a cross with the words upon it: "By This Cross You Will Have Victory."

He knew this was a sign from God. He knew this was a sign from God. The next night, Christ came to Constantine in a dream. He told Constantine of the power of the cross. He told him what it meant in his life.

Now, Constantine knew he would have victory. This time all of his trust was in God because Constantine had seen God's power and glory for himself. In the morning when he woke up, he had his troops make a banner. On it was the sign he had been shown: the Holy Cross.

Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.

Saint Constantine

Exemplar of Trust

Part 2

May

After Constantine's vision and dream,

he had his troops make a banner. On it was the sign he had been shown: the Holy Cross. Constantine had each soldier placed a cross upon his shield. Even those soldiers who weren't Christians did this!

With the cross in front, Constantine led his men into battle. With the cross, he won! When he returned home, people cheered him. But, he knew who had really won the battle. He placed that same banner of the cross in the town square, where all could see it. This cross showed how he would reign

over his kingdom: with trust in God, as a Christian.

St. Constantine made a huge difference in the Church. Before Constantine, it was illegal to be a Christian. Worship services were held in secret. That all changed when he legalized Christianity.

Constantine also convened councils to make sure the true faith was being taught. He built many churches. He ruled well for 30 years. What would have happened if Constantine had not trusted God that day in the year 312?

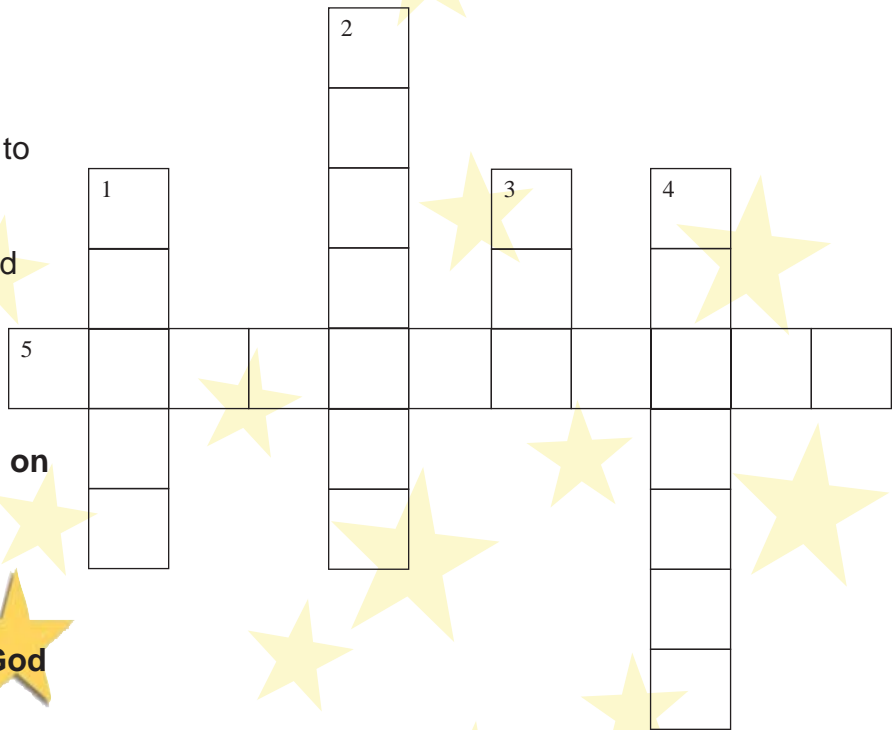
Crossword puzzle clues.

Down

- 1 What God told Constantine to paint on his army's shields
- 2 Constantine _____ in God
- 3 Constantine's army _____ the battle
- 4 The crosses were painted on the army's _____.

Across

- 5. Our exemplar of trust in God



Be like the stars of our faith-help care for the church! Tithe.



**Be like the stars
of our faith-
help care for
the church!**

Tithe