

# 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 2-3**

Following the Saints to God © 2008 AODCE • [www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe)

**2008-09**

## 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](http://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.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Exemplar

Someone who is worthy of imitation.

#### Tithe

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

### Acknowledgments

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc., except the paraphrase of Psalm 37:23 on pages 8-9. 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](http://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](http://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](http://stock.xchng). Permission is granted to copy and distribute the materials in this booklet.

© 2008 Antiochian Orthodox Department of Christian Education. We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Order of St. Ignatius which funds, in part, the programs and services we offer.

# 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.**

# Do the Math

One way we can show God that we love him is to give money in the collection at Church.

This week, Sophia received her \$1 allowance, \$4 from chores, and a \$15 birthday gift from her grandparents. She put \$2 in the collection at Church. Did she tithe?

Do you receive an allowance or money for chores? How much?

How much is a tithe (10%) of your allowance and chore money?

How much do you put in the collection?

## 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 (10%) is one dime of every 10 dimes or one dollar for every 10 dollars.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where does the money go?

Part of the money goes to pay 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 the most famous grandparents who ever lived. They lived a life of thankfulness.

Joachim and his wife Anna loved God very much. They were thankful to God for what they had. They always divided their money into three parts: one part they gave to the temple and one part to people who were poor; they used the third part for their own needs.

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 God.

One day, Joachim went to the temple to give an offering to God. The priest told him to go away. He said that God didn't want Joachim's offering because he and Anna didn't have any children. Joachim and Anna were sad. Joachim went into the desert to pray and fast. Anna went into her garden to pray. She reminded God that even the birds in her garden had families, but that she did not.

The angel Gabriel came to Joachim and Anna 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 kept their promise. They took Mary to the temple so that she could serve God there. They visited her often, giving thanks to God for hearing their prayers and for all that He had done for them. When Mary grew up, she became the mother of Jesus!

**Let's be thankful for what God has given us, just like Joachim and Anna. One way we can thank God is by giving something back to Him. What can we give back to God?**



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

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

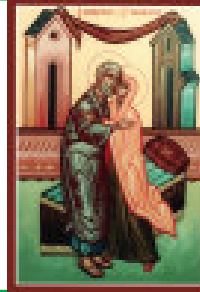
- Saint Joachim and Saint Anna are commemorated on September 9.
- The falling asleep of Saint Anna is commemorated on July 25.
- Saint Joachim lived on the earth for 80 years and Saint Anna for 79.

Discover more at  
[www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe)

Joachim and Anna were \_\_\_\_\_.

## PRAYER

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



## Find the Best Answer

Answer the questions about Joachim and Anna. Place the letter of the correct answers in the spaces below.

- For 50 years, Joachim and Anna had \_\_\_\_\_ children.  
R. three  
S. two  
T. zero
- They promised God that they would give him \_\_\_\_\_.  
H. their child  
I. a lamb  
J. one-third of their money
- The priest at the temple told Joachim to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. go away  
B. to pray more  
C. to bring an offering
- Anna reminded God that \_\_\_\_\_ have families.  
L. their friends  
M. priests  
N. birds
- The archangel Gabriel brought \_\_\_\_\_ to Joachim and Anna.  
J. food  
K. good news  
L. a baby
- Joachim and Anna took Mary to \_\_\_\_\_.  
S. the Temple  
T. Egypt  
U. the desert

GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD.  
1      2      3      4      5      6

## 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 12 things you are thankful for, with each word beginning with a letter of the word **thanksgiving**.

## 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.

Later, he studied near Constantinople (in Turkey) and in Kiev (in Russia), and became a priest.

One day, Saint Raphael received 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

**Saint Raphael was**

Mexico. He preached, listened to confessions, baptized people, and started 30 new churches. He became the first bishop to be consecrated in the Americas.

Saint Raphael is called the Good Shepherd of the Lost Sheep in America. He took care of Christians who needed a priest and still intercedes for us today.

**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?**

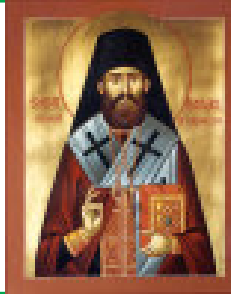
- Saint Raphael could serve the entire Divine Liturgy in perfect Arabic, Greek, Russian, and English.
- Saint Raphael is the founder of *The Word* magazine.
- Saint Raphael is buried at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pa.
- Saint Raphael is commemorated on the first Saturday in November.

Discover more at  
[www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe)

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**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? What about Sunday Church School materials?

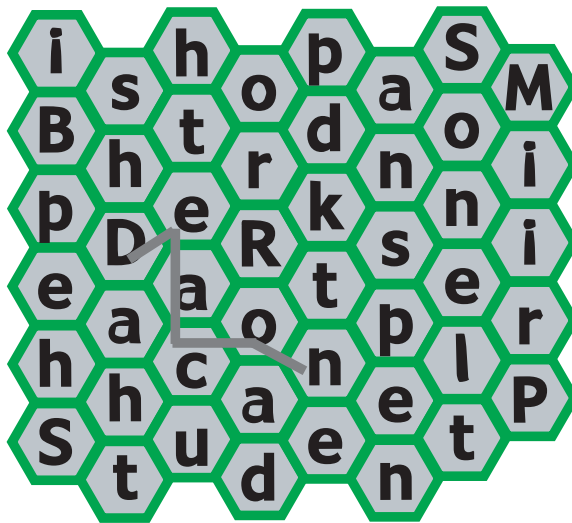
**Busy As A...**

Saint Raphael was busy with many jobs to do. Cross off the job titles that he did not have.

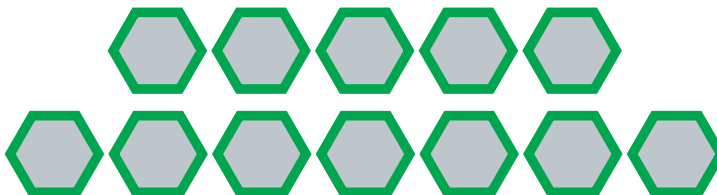
**Student  
Pilot  
Monk  
Baker  
Farmer**

**Priest  
Deacon  
Bishop  
~~Mechanic~~  
Shepherd**

Now find his job titles in the honeycomb chart. "Deacon" is already marked for you. Some letters are used twice.



Unscramble the unused letters to find out the name of someone who was dedicated to God.



# Meet Saint Innocent of Alaska

exemplar of  
**Trust**

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

Let me tell you about a saint who trusted God to help him and to show him what to do.

About 200 years ago in Russia, there lived a priest named Father John. He and his family were happy in their parish. One day, Father John found out about people in faraway Alaska. They wanted someone to come to them to teach them about God. Father John knew God wanted him to go to Alaska.

At that time, Alaska was wild and dangerous, but Father John trusted God. Father John and his family traveled more than 2,000 miles to Alaska. The trip took more than a year and was filled with many problems.

In Alaska, he traveled by kayak, dog sled, and reindeer to tell the people about God. He learned the languages of the people and made an alphabet for them. Using this new alphabet, he translated the Bible and wrote books for them to learn about God. He built churches, orphanages, and

schools. He taught the people how to make furniture, how to build houses, how to grow crops, and how to take care of animals. Best of all, he showed the people the way to God's Kingdom.

Later in his life Father John became a bishop, taking the name Innocent. He continued to travel in Russia and Alaska telling people about God and encouraging others to become missionaries. Saint Innocent had a favorite verse from the Bible. It was, "The Lord guides a man safely in the way he should go."

**Saint Innocent trusted God when he went to Alaska. God did marvelous works through Saint Innocent. God can do marvelous things when we trust him with our lives.**



## 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](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe)



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



Studio portrait of Saint Innocent.

Saint Innocent \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Saint 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)



You may travel North, East, South, and West.

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

Clues: If you get stuck, use these compass directions.

1. S 2. E 3. S 4. S 5. E 6. N 7. E 8. E 9. S 10. S 11. E

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**

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



Did you know that there was a family that had eight saints in it? Let me tell you about the parents of the family. They took good care of the children that God gave to them. They were good stewards of their children.

A very long time ago in what is now the country of Turkey, there was a woman named Emmelia and a man named Basil. They got married and God gave them 10 children! They loved their children very much. They took their children to Church. They taught their children the Bible. 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.

Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil became saints. Six of their children also became saints. One of them is Saint Basil the Great, who wrote the Divine Liturgy we celebrate during Great Lent. Some people eat Saint Basil's bread (with a coin inside) to remember him on January 1. One big reason that he became a saint is that his parents

took good care of him and taught him how to love and serve God. We call the father Saint Basil *the Elder* and the son Saint Basil *the Great*.

**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.**

## 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 Naucratus, Saint Theosebia, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Saint Peter of Sebaste.

Discover more at  
[www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe)

## Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil

were good \_\_\_\_\_.

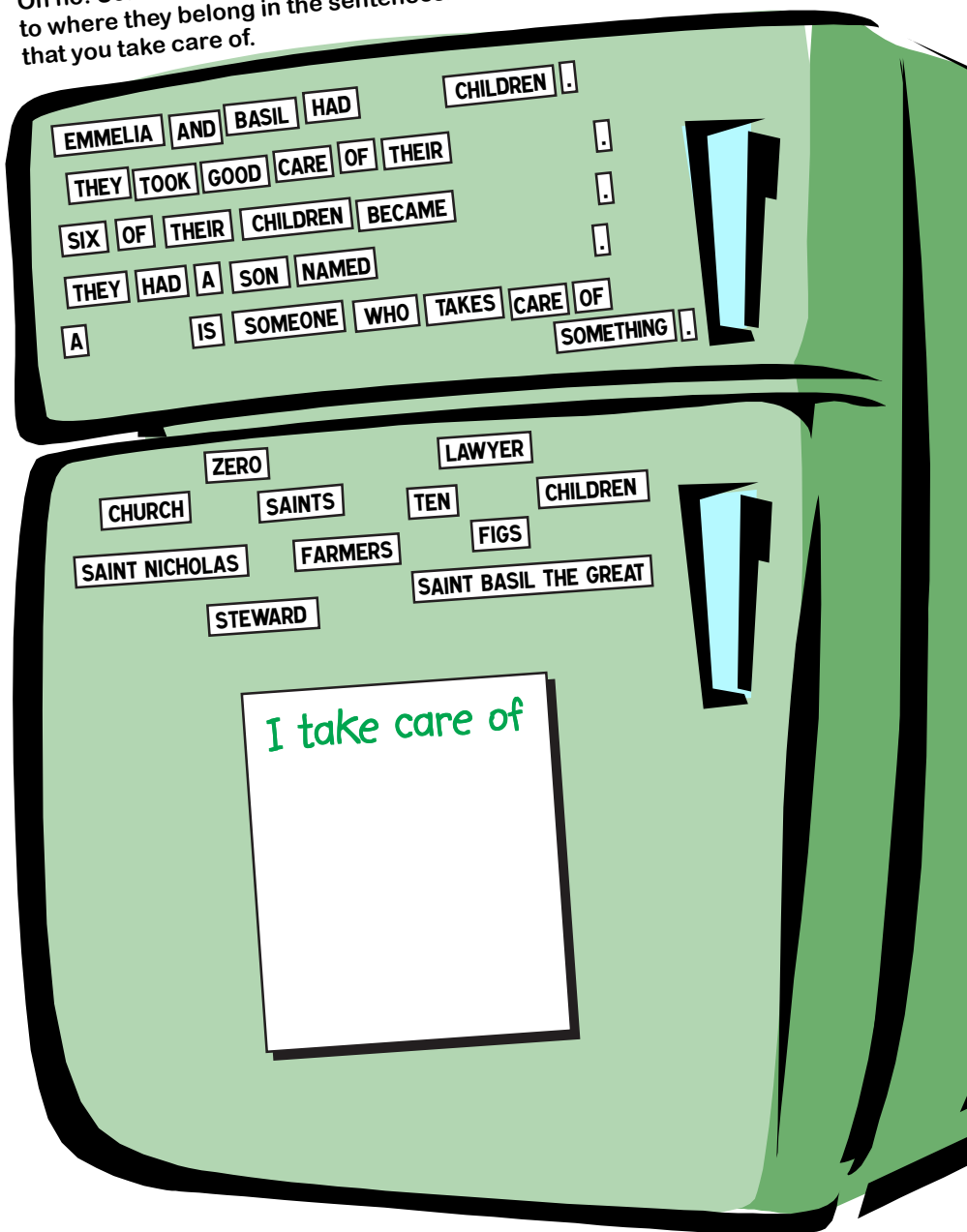
## PRAYER

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 a line from the correct 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?

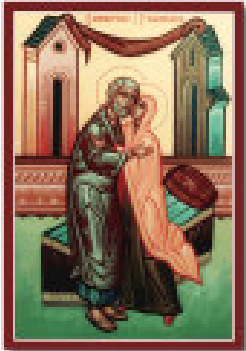
When we tithe, where does the money go?

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!

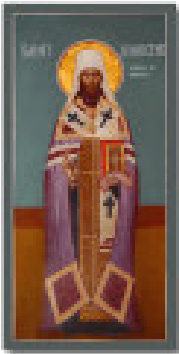
Draw a line from each icon to the saints' names, a line from the saints' names to their character traits, and a line from their character traits to the facts about them.



**Saint Innocent of Alaska**

waited many years to have a child

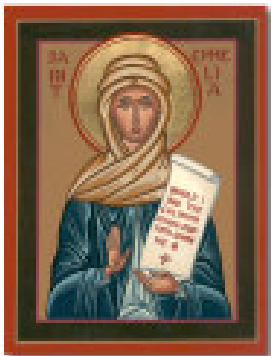
exemplars of **Stewardship**



**Saint Joachim and Saint Anna**

started churches in North America

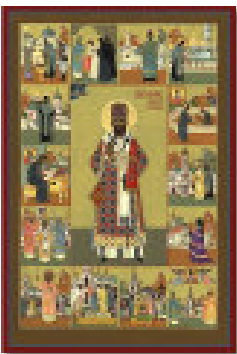
exemplar of **Trust**



**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**