

# 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 4-5**

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**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 who serve as good examples for us.

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, an ideal that serves as a pattern.

#### Tithe

to give 10%; for example, one dollar of every 10 dollars.

### 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.

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# Meet the Saints

Get ready to learn about these saints!



**Saint Joachim and Saint Anna** were *thankful* and gave back their daughter to God.

**Saint Raphael of Brooklyn** showed *dedication* to God by caring for churches in North America.

**Saint Innocent of Alaska** *trusted* God by traveling to difficult places and serving God.

**Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil** were *good stewards* of their family and many of their children became saints.



These saints are good examples of how we can love God with 100% of our time, talents, and belongings.

Along with these saints, "Let us commend ourselves and our whole lives unto Christ our God."



## 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, hold feasts, 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 dollar for every 10 dollars.

## 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 and the Church.

What expenses does your priest have?

What expenses does your bishop have?

## 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 \$2 allowance, plus
- \$5 from chores, and
- a \$20 birthday gift from her grandparents.

She put \$3 in the collection at Church. Did she tithe?

Do you receive:

- an allowance?
- money for chores?
- gifts for your birthday?

How much did you get this week?

How much is a tithe (10%) of that amount?

How much do you put in the collection?

# Meet Saint Joachim and Saint Anna

exemplars of  
**Thankfulness**

Let me tell you a story about the most famous grandparents who ever lived, how they kept praying, and how they gave thanks when God answered their prayers.

In Israel during the first century before Christ, there lived a shepherd named Joachim and his wife Anna. They loved God very much and found ways to thank Him for all the good things He did for them. 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 prayed daily and promised God that if He would give them a child, in thanksgiving they would give the child back to God. But after 50 years of marriage, they still didn't have a child.

Joachim regularly went to the temple to give offerings to God. One day, when Joachim arrived at the temple, 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. The priest thought that God was keeping His blessing of children from Joachim and Anna because God was not pleased with them. Joachim and Anna were sad and hurt. Joachim took his flocks into the wilderness to pray and fast until God heard him. Anna went into her garden to pray. She reminded God that even the

birds in her garden had families, but that she did not.

God heard their prayers and sent the Archangel Gabriel to Joachim and Anna to tell them that they would have a baby. Joachim and Anna thanked God for hearing their prayers. Nine months later, they had a baby girl as Gabriel had promised. They named her Mary.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna kept their promise. In gratitude to God, they took her 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 think about all that God has given us. 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?**

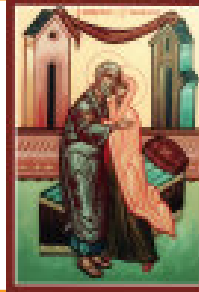
- Saint Joachim and Saint Anna are commemorated on September 9.
- The falling asleep of Saint Anna is commemorated on July 25.
- Saint Joachim lived on the earth for 80 years and Saint Anna for 79.

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



## TROPARION

Let us sing praises to Joachim and Anna, the couple honored by God (and they are His kinsmen). They have borne for us the Maiden who in a manner beyond understanding gave birth to Him Who though fleshless, became the Incarnate to save the world. With her they intercede for our souls.



## 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.

**Top Door Magnets:** FOR 50 YEARS JOACHIM AND ANNA HAD CHILDREN .  
 THEY PROMISED TO GIVE GOD .  
 THE PRIEST TOLD JOACHIM TO .  
 ANNA REMINDED GOD THAT EVEN HAVE FAMILIES .  
 GABRIEL BROUGHT TO JOACHIM AND ANNA .  
 JOACHIM AND ANNA TOOK MARY TO .

**Bottom Door Magnets:** THE DESERT  
 GO AWAY EGYPT THREE  
 THE TEMPLE A LAMB TEN ZERO  
 1/3 OF THEIR MONEY THEIR CHILD  
 PRIESTS FOOD A BABY GOOD NEWS  
 THEIR FRIENDS BIRDS TO PRAY MORE  
 TO BRING AN OFFERING

## 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 facility.

Make a list of all the facility expenses that you can think of. Don't forget electricity, water and sewer, landscaping, and paint for the walls.

# 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 born in Beirut, Lebanon. His family had just escaped from persecution in Damascus, Syria. When it was safe to return, the family went back to their homeland. As a boy, Saint Raphael was a good student. He liked to study and learn about God and the Church. He became a substitute teacher when he was only 16. 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 agreed.

When Saint Raphael arrived in New York, he realized that there were many Orthodox people scattered throughout North America who did not have a priest. To serve them, he traveled, often by train, in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He preached, listened to confessions, performed marriages, and baptized people. He also started 30 new churches in less than 20 years. He also became a bishop, the first one

to be consecrated as a bishop on American soil.

Twice he was offered important positions back in his homeland, but both times he declined. He loved the American people and dedicated his life to serve them.

Saint Raphael departed this life in 1915 at the age of 54. He 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.

**See what good can happen when we dedicate our lives to God? Serving God can help more people than we will ever know!**



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

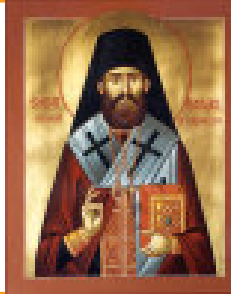
## DID YOU KNOW?

- 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)

### TROPARION

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the Holy Church!  
 Thou art Champion of the true Faith, Seeker of the lost,  
 Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans,  
 and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and Good Shepherd,  
 Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America:  
 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 what is most important to you. Where is God on 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 the educational needs of the parish. Make a list of all the education expenses that you can think of. Don't forget the bookstore, library, and Sunday Church School materials.

## Crossword zelPuz

It looks like the person who typed this had his hands on the wrong keys.

Unscramble Saint Raphael's mixed up job titles, then find where they belong in the crossword puzzle.

koMn

hipsoB

aDneoc

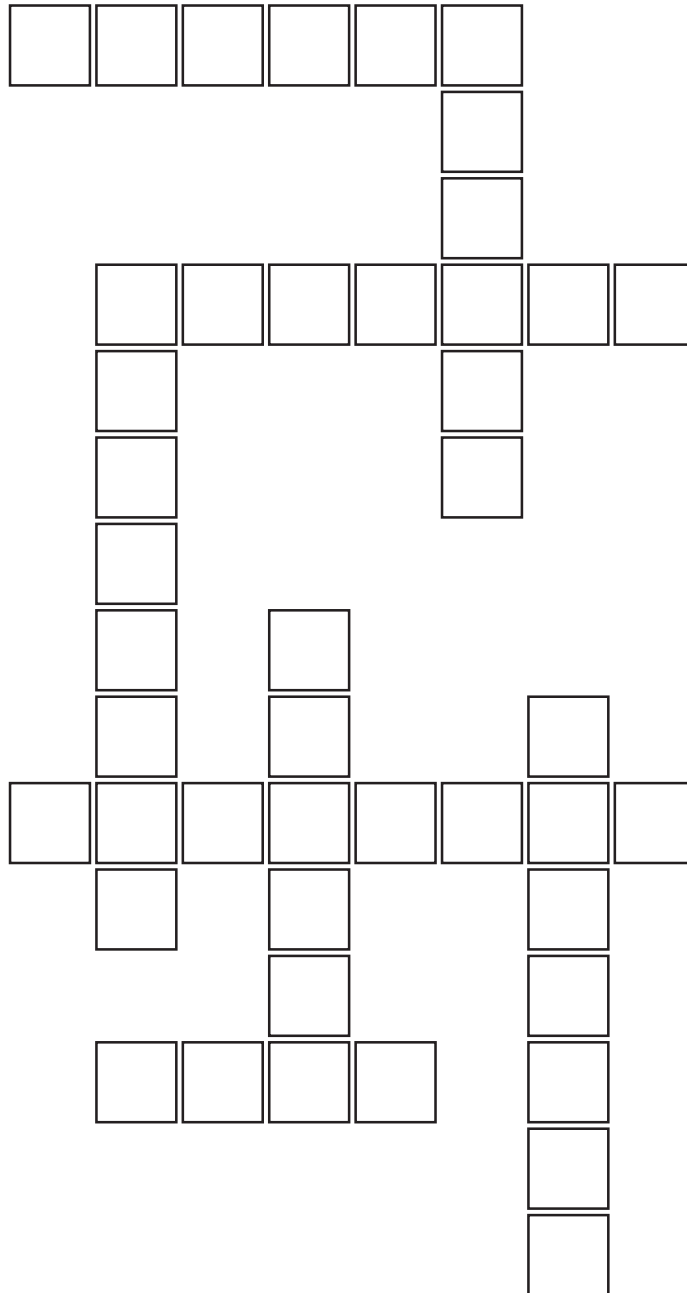
siPter

duneStt

Threace

raPhrece

dreephhS



# Meet Saint Innocent of Alaska

exemplar of  
**Trust**

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

Would you go to a faraway dangerous place if God wanted you to? Let me tell you about a saint who trusted God to help him and to lead him to Alaska.

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 who wanted a priest to come and teach them about God. At that time, Alaska was wild and dangerous. Father John trusted God. Father John, his wife Catherine, his son, his elderly mother, and his brother traveled more than 2,000 miles to Alaska. The difficult trip took more than a year.

In Alaska, Father John and his family built and moved into a dirt hut. He traveled by kayak, dog sled, and even reindeer, often through frigid weather and storms, 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 trusted God and showed the people the way to God's Kingdom.

Many years later, after Catherine died, Father John became a bishop, taking the name Innocent in honor of a saint from his hometown. Saint Innocent was the first bishop to live in Alaska. He eventually became the Metropolitan of Moscow, and continued telling people about God and encouraging others to become missionaries. His favorite verse was "The Lord guides a man safely in the way he should go." (Psalm 37:23)

**Saint Innocent trusted God so much that he went to faraway places to serve God. Imagine what God can do with our lives as we trust Him.**



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



Studio portrait of Saint Innocent.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Saint Innocent was born in 1797 to a poor family in Siberia, Russia.
- 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)



### TROPARION

O Holy Father Innocent, in obedience to the will of God You accepted dangers and tribulations, bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth. You showed us the way. Now by your prayers help lead 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 any of the eight main directions of the compass.



### START

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

END

Clues:  
Use these compass directions if you get lost.

1. SE
2. S
3. SE
4. NE
5. NW
6. E
7. SE
8. SW
9. SW
10. SE
11. E

### TRUST IN THE BIBLE

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 items related to worship.

Make a list of all the worship expenses that you can think of. Don't forget icons, choir books, and candles.

# Meet Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil

exemplars of  
**Stewardship**

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 were good stewards of their children. That means that they took good care of the family that God gave to them.

More than 1600 years ago in what is now the country of Turkey, there was a woman named Emmelia and a man named Basil who was a lawyer and teacher. They were both from Christian families—Emmelia’s parents had been martyred for their faith and Basil’s mother (Saint Macrina the Elder) was a saint. Emmelia and Basil got married and God gave them 10 children.

They loved their children very much and trained them in the ways of God. They took their children to the services of the Church and taught them the Scriptures. They gave generously to the Church and to people who were poor. They lived and demonstrated a godly life and are considered saints of the Church.

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 and special feast days. 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*. Their other children that you may have heard of include their oldest, Macrina the Younger; their youngest, Saint Peter of Sebaste; and Saint Gregory of Nyssa.

**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.**

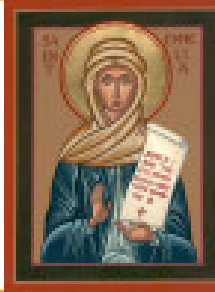
## DID YOU KNOW?

- 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 Naucratus (a monk who died at age 27) and Saint Theosebia (a deaconess).

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

## TROPARION

Through thee the divine likeness was securely preserved, O Mother Emmelia; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.



## You've Got Mail!

How well do you know the family? Use your imagination and check out this collection of letters that members of this family might have written to each other. Draw a line from each note to the correct envelope.

*Welcome to the family!  
I am glad that you are,  
marrying my son. I can't  
imagine having a better  
daughter-in-law.*

Basil (the Elder)

Macrina  
(the Younger)

Dear Grandma,  
I'm glad to be named after  
you. I hope that I grow up to  
be just like you. I love you!

*Macrina (the Elder)*

*Emmelia*

You are doing a great job taking  
care of your brothers and sisters.  
Your mother and I think you are  
turning out to be a fine young  
lady.

Love, Dad

Macrina (the Younger)

Macrina (the Elder)

*Hey, bros,  
I'm learning a lot at college.  
I hope you come and join me  
someday.  
Say hi to everyone from me.*

Macrina, Basil,  
Gregory, and Peter

Basil (the Elder)

Happy Father's day!  
We think you're the best dad. And you're  
not so bad as a lawyer. Thank you for  
teaching us about God and the Church.

*Basil (the Great)*

*Gregory and Peter*

## 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 bedroom, or a younger sibling.
- 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?

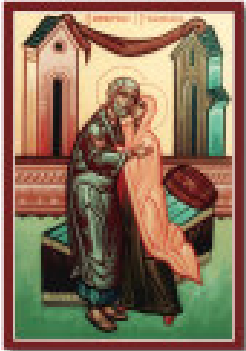
## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR OFFERING?

When we tithe, where  
does the money go?

Part of your offering  
goes to support  
missions and outreach.  
Make a list of all the  
missions and outreach  
expenses you can think  
of. Don't forget  
prison ministries,  
homeless shelters,  
and missionaries.

# Match It!

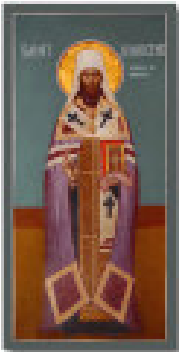
Draw a line from each icon to the saints' names, a line from the saints' names to their character traits, and a line from their character traits to the facts about them.



**Saint Innocent  
of Alaska**

waited many years to  
have a child

exemplars of  
**Stewardship**



**Saint Joachim  
and Saint Anna**

started churches in  
North America

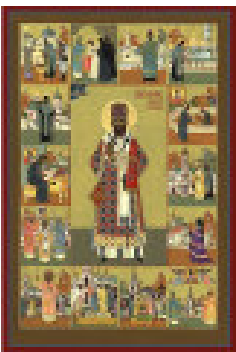
exemplar of  
**Trust**



**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**