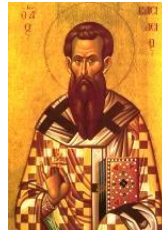


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SUNDAY 4th AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 2020

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday 8:30AM      **Holy Confession:** Every Monday 4-6PM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM      **Vespers:** Every Saturday 3:00PM  
**Matins/Orthos:** Every Sunday 9:00AM      **Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday 10:30AM

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Janett Farewege, Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection Oct 10/11: \$ 743.00**      **Memorial Masses: \$ 70.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 332.25**      **Maintenance Donations: \$ 00.00**

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† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Maryann Astour & Family
† **Edgar Hallak, 2nd Memorial Anniversary**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **George Hallak, 11th Memorial Anniversary**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family

THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Michael & Virginia Lynch
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Joseph & Kristin Slivonik
† **Mary Murad**, By Eddie & Carmela Nassimos

NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Maryann Astour & Family
† **Mary Murad**, By David & Janet George

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family
† **Mary Murad**, By the Community of St. Basil

THE PRACTICE OF TITHING IN THE HOLY BIBLE

Tithing in the Old Testament: The practice of tithing arose at the start of the Israelite nation. When the Israelites occupied the Promised Land, eleven of their twelve tribes were given a portion of the conquered territory. The twelfth tribe, Levi, which was set apart as the nation's priests, received no land. The eleven landed tribes were to give their tithes to the Levites (temple assistants, comparable to our deacons). These mandatory tithes were used to support the priests, manage the temple, and provide relief for foreigners, orphans and widows (see Num 18).

The tithe was seen in the Torah as a recognition that all of creation was God's: *"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD"* (Lev 27: 30-32).

If a person failed to pay the tithe or held back some of it, he was considered to have robbed God. As the nation became more established and prosperous, the temptation to avoid paying the full tithe was not uncommon. The prophet Malachi thundered against this practice, but also promised that those who paid the tithe would be blessed: *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts. "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it..."* (Mal 3: 8-10).

Malachi distinguishes between tithes and offerings. The tithe was the required tenth of one's income which was God's by right. An offering was whatever was freely given over and above the tithe. Sometimes such gifts are called "love offerings," made from personal devotion rather than by law.

Tithing in the New Testament: Tithing was practiced regularly by Jews into New Testament times. In the Gospels, we see that the Lord Jesus criticized the Pharisees for being strict about determining tithes of everything they have received while ignoring more important matters: *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"* (Mt 23:23, 24). He did not condemn tithing, only the mechanical performance of it while ignoring the spirit behind it. Similarly, in His parable of the Publican and the Pharisee (Lk 18:9-14), the Lord Jesus shows the Pharisee taking pride in his fasting and tithing. The Lord does not reproach the Pharisee for doing these things, but for taking pride in them.

That even the poor sometimes gave more than was required was noted – and praised – by Jesus when He visited the temple: *"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood'"* (Mk 12:41-44).

Nowhere in the New Testament is tithing mandated. Generosity and openness in giving are recognized and praised while mean-spiritedness is condemned. In the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), two believers are reproached for pretending to give to the Church whatever they received for selling a piece of land. St Peter discerned the lie and said to Ananias, *"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God"* (vv. 3, 4).

(OctoberLeaflets2020)

