

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 1332

Puyallup, WA 98371

HYMN of the MONTH

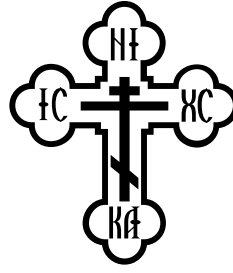
St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, Nov. 12th

Troparion, Tone 8

*By endurance you gained your reward,
venerable Father;
you persevered in prayer unceasingly;
and provided for them in all things.
Blessed John the Merciful,
intercede with Christ God
that our souls may be saved.*

Kontakion, Tone 2

*You distributed your wealth to the poor
and in return obtained wealth
from heaven, John the Merciful.
Therefore, we honor you and celebrate
your memory, O namesake of mercy.*



PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY RESURRECTION
ORTHODOX CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2017

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Orthodox Christian Stewardship

What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers say about Tithing and Giving to God?

“Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.”¹

These words of Jesus have resonated within the hearts of people for two thousand years. What was Jesus talking about? What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers have to say about tithing and giving to God?

The Scriptures have no less than 2,350 verses having to do with money and money management. Jesus speaks about money and money management more than any other topic including heaven, hell, salvation etc. The topic is very important for the Christian life. In an often misquoted verse, St. Paul the Apostle writes,

“the love of money is the root of all evil”.²

St. Paul teaches that our Lord realizes that we have needs to meet in order to live and to carry out His work. God is, however, a jealous God and demands our full commitment with nothing else taking precedence over His Lordship in our lives. That is why the Apostle Paul warns his first century Greek congregation that the love of money is evil.

All that we have is on loan from God. It is all gift.

What we do with our time, talent, and treasures will have to be given account of on the last day. This was the great sin of disobedience by Adam in the Garden of Eden. He abused his gift of stewardship. King Solomon who was the richest and wisest man of all time, expressed his feeling of the emptiness of materialism apart from God when he said, “vanity of vanities, it is all a bubble that bursts”.

In the book of Genesis, the mysterious paradigmatic priest of priests Melchizedek appears to perform one task alone: to collect the tithe from Abraham and to thus confer a blessing upon him on behalf of the Lord.³ This clearly shows that Abraham in his righteousness before God gave of his first fruits (his best fruits) unto the Lord and in turn was blessed. This is precisely what God is calling us to do. We as believers are each called upon to give sacrificially of our best resources first and God will take care of the rest as He did with Father Abraham.



Orthodox Christian Stewardship --- cont'd

As individuals, when we become burdened with a mindset of materialism (i.e. non-stewardship focused giving) we become slaves to our wealth instead of our wealth becoming our servants for the promotion of God's Kingdom. This clearly is not the way that God intended it to be. Inevitably, we squander the gifts of our resources. Then a multitude of other problems emerge namely the bondage of debt. For truly, as the Preacher teaches in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs,

"the borrower is a slave to the lender".⁴

All of these principles not only apply to the individual Christian, but to the life of a congregation as well. Jesus is clear in the New Testament when He says that He would build and grow the Church and that the task at hand for believers is to make disciples who are followers of Jesus amongst the nations. That is what the core culture of a parish and diocese should be all about. That is what the ultimate focus of any and all monetary collections should be about. As the late great Russian theologian Georges Florovsky would write on the matter:

The primary task of the historical Church is the proclamation of another world "to come." The Church bears witness to the New Life, disclosed and revealed in Christ Jesus, the Lord and Saviour. This it does both by word and deed. The true proclamation of the Gospel would be precisely the practice of this New Life: to show faith by deeds (cf. Matt. 5:16). The Church is more than a company of preachers, or a teaching society, or a missionary board. It has not only to invite people, but also to introduce them into this New Life, to which it bears witness.

It is a missionary body indeed, and its mission field is the whole world. But the aim of its missionary activity is not merely to convey to people certain convictions or ideas, not even to impose on them a definite discipline or a rule of life, but first of all to introduce them into the New Reality, to convert them, to bring them through their faith and repentance to Christ Himself, that they

should be born anew in Him and into Him by water and the Spirit. Thus the ministry of the Word is completed in the ministry of the Sacraments.⁵

If you want to know the spiritual state and strength of a church, just look at its stewardship report. Invariably, it tells it all because what people do with their money speaks volumes. We make disciples by giving people Jesus through preaching, teaching, the sacramental life, the liturgical life and outreach ministries. It is to this end that our giving should be focused. If the *ekklesia* will do its job, Jesus has promised to be faithful and do His. Sacrificial giving for the Christian is not an option, but a joyful obligation. St. John Chrysostom in the 4th century speaks of this joyful obligation in his book 'On Wealth and Poverty' when he writes that the Christian owns nothing because God owns everything.⁶

The ecclesial ministry in its essence is not about buildings, budgets, and bodies. The model that we ought to follow is that the Church should be viewed first and foremost as the family of God, not just as another corporation or business. When that happens, the Bible tells us that inevitably God's presence and blessing can be seen manifest in the local eucharistic community because its focus is on Jesus the Author of our salvation. It is then, when we see the fullness of the Faith express itself, not only in the transformation of the elements into the Body and Blood of Christ, but when the celebrant and those worshipers present are transfigured into the Body of Christ as well.

With these things in mind, proper Christian stewardship for individuals and congregations should include the following four principles: 1) the glorification of God should be the focus; 2) giving should be sacrificial; 3) giving should be of the best of the first fruits of one's resources; and 4) debt has no place in this paradigm.

If you would incorporate these four principles of economics into your lives and the life of your congregation, the Lord has promised to do mighty, mighty works in your life and in the lives of all around you. A proper understanding of stewardship is not a luxury in

Orthodox Christian Stewardship --- cont'd

our private life as a Christian and in our collective life as the *Ekklesia*. For us to be truly "called out from the world" as the word *ekklesia* connotes, is to take up the mantle and responsibility of stewardship and all that it entails.

ENDNOTES: (1) Matthew 6:21. (2) 1st Timothy 6:10. (3) Genesis 14:18-20. (4) Proverbs 22:7. (5) Florovsky, Georges, "The Church: Her Nature and Task" appeared in volume 1 of the Universal Church in God's Design (S.C.M. Press, 1948). (6) Chrysostom, Saint John, On Wealth and Poverty [trans.] (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1984).

By John G. Panagiotou, a graduate of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Wheeling Jesuit University.



St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, Nov. 12th

John was born on the island of Cyprus. His father was Prince Epiphanius. John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world

into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity, and love for his fellow men. He said, "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility." All the saints have been distinguished by mercifulness, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24), and he remembered that one of the clergy in that church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached that priest, fell before his feet and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the table of oblation. Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint, and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them, "And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?" He would not leave until he heard the widow's complaint to the end.

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620. After he entered the Immortal Kingdom of his Lord, his miracle-working relics were translated to Constantinople, then to Budapest, and finally to Presburg (now known as Bratislava, Slovakia.)

In Our Parish

Parish Budget Meeting

The 2018 Budget will be presented by the Parish Council for adoption at the Budget meeting scheduled for Nov. 19th following Divine Liturgy at coffee hour in the Parish House. The Parish Council will prepare and approve the proposed budget. Please note that the 2017 financial report will be made at the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Arabic Language Orthodox Mission

The Antiochian Archdiocese is forming an Arabic language Orthodox mission for the greater Seattle area. A priest, Fr. Anastasios Majdalani, has been assigned. They have been meeting in the St. John chapel at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Seattle. They have very little in the way of liturgical items, and our Sisterhood would like to help. A full chalice set has been ordered for them. If you would like to contribute towards the chalice set, or know anyone who would be interested in this Arabic language mission, please speak to Fr. John.

First Sunday Pictures

Walter Jones will be taking photos to update the parish photo board in the St. Joseph Hall on Nov. 5th after Liturgy.

2017 Diocesan Assembly

This year's Diocesan Assembly was hosted by Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in Portland, Oregon October 10th – 12th, 2017. For those new to Orthodoxy, the Diocese is the Church body within a certain geographical region (ours being the West) governed by the Diocesan Bishop with the assistance of the Diocesan Assembly (the annual meeting of the diocese) and the Diocesan Council (the Board of Directors of the diocese). The Diocese of the West includes Washington, Oregon, Montana, California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Hawaii. This was the third opportunity in my 27 years as an Orthodox Christian to be able to witness the assembly of Clergy and delegates from Orthodox Christian Parishes across our diocese. This assembly included 2 Hierarchs, 47 Clergy,

40 Lay Delegates, and 12 Observers. To view Archbishop Benjamin's report to the assembly and our Diocesan Auxiliary Bishop Daniel's addresses, log on to our diocesan website for 2017 Assembly materials: dowoca.org.

Other Highlights included: A presentation, "Learning How to be a Successful Funeral Team" from Annunciation Parish, Milwaukie OR; learning about the continued importance of background checks for all who work with the children in the church; a new diocesan program begun at St. John Monastery, Manton, CA, where teens and young adults learned about monasticism, marriage, and community service as they were hosted for a week of rigorous prayer, education, and work; Fr. Anthony Karbo of Holy Theophany, Colorado Springs, gave a presentation on the building of a traveling chapel and its part in outreach in Colorado; a presentation about OCCIF, the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund, established for loans to parish churches for their building programs (www.occif.org/donate); it was announced that St. Katherine Mission in Kirkland is no longer a Mission, but has achieved parish status as it enters the Pacific Northwest Deanery. Along with learning about what is happening in the Diocese I had a wonderful time networking with Clergy and Delegates from the West and connecting with others who have a love for Christ and the health and continuation of our Orthodox faith. Thank you to our Parish for sending me as a delegate to represent our Parish.
-Love in Christ, Cheri Olga Wilson

Charity Committee News

The next Charity meeting is scheduled for November 19th. We will assemble gift envelopes which will include a grocery store gift card for the purchase of Thanksgiving meals. If you or anyone you know are in need of a meal for Thanksgiving please talk to Father John or Cheri Wilson so the committee can prepare. Our Adopt-A-Family gift collection will take place from November 5th to December 10th.

In Our Parish --- cont'd

We will put a display up in the Parish house with gift tags for each member of the adopted families. Anyone who would like to help put up the display, please meet on November 4th at 4:00 PM, before Vespers. We will also need 2 or 3 volunteers to help deliver the Christmas gifts from our Adopt-A-Family gift donations. (Date of delivery to be confirmed). Please talk to Cheri if you are available.

We will also be collecting toys for Toys-for-Tots, sponsored by the United States Marine Corps, during our Saint Nicholas Party on December 3rd. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to give to a child. Father John will deliver them to the local Toys-for-Tots collection station.

Our first Sunday collection will be on Nov. 5th and our Seminarian collection will be Nov. 19th.

News & Notes

The annual meeting of the Diocese of the West, the Diocesan Assembly, was held in Portland Oct. 10-12 where **Lynnell Brunswig** was reelected by acclamation to the Diocesan Council for her second three-year term. She also chaired the second session of the Assembly. Congratulations to **Matthew and Laurel Means** who were married on Sunday, Oct. 15th. The Means' wedding provided us an opportunity to see old friends, including **Fr. Joseph & Matushka Marthie Ramos** and **Seraphim & Thomias Shackleford** along with their respective families. **Abraham and Alexandra Kerns** returned to Holy Resurrection to have their new son, **Victor**, baptized on Oct. 21st. Congratulations to Victor's grandparents, **Dn. Luke & Matushka Andrea Fordice** and **Matushka Elizabeth Kerns**. Thanks to **Sdn. Gideon Pete** and **John Peachey** for repairing the fascia board and refastening the gutter along the southern side of our Holy Trinity Temple. **Dr. Alan Orsborn** of the Holy Trinity Wilkeson Committee is following through on a Parish Council resolution to install a thermostat at Holy Trinity Temple that will allow us to control the heat by using a smart phone app. This will make it cozy for us when we have services, and allow us to turn

on the heat periodically to combat mold and mildew. **Sdn. Dimitri Pletz** continues to work with our attorney on developing a cemetery for our Tacoma property. Progress is being made, slowly but surely. **Gabrielle Link** is pricing surveillance cameras for our parking lots and Parish House hallways. We've had cars tearing into the parking lots in the middle of the night.

Time Change!

We leave Daylight Saving Time and return to Pacific Standard Time on Sunday, November 5th. Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening!

Bible Study

Tuesday mornings have always been best for Bible study. We'll have two in a row, Nov. 7th & 14th at 9:30 a.m., both with potlucks.



Holy Myrrhbearers Sisterhood

Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 11th at 5:00 p.m. All the women of our parish are most welcome to attend, to help us plan future events and assist with sandwich sale prep.

Holy Trinity Wilkeson Committee

Open to all who are interested in the preservation, development and history of Holy Trinity Temple are invited to our next meeting following Liturgy on November 12th in room 3, downstairs in the Parish House.



The Nativity Fast

We begin our preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, Christmas, on Nov. 15th, which lasts until after our Communion on Christmas Day. Please observe the fast as one means to prepare a spiritual manger for Christ to be born in your hearts as we celebrate the Winter Pascha.

In Our Parish --- cont'd

Family Fun Pizza Party & Advent Chains!

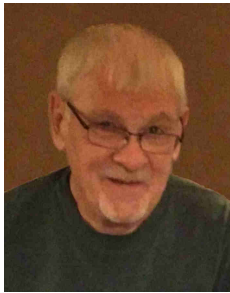
On Sunday, November 12th, the Sunday before the Advent fast begins, we invite all families & friends of Holy Resurrection for a pizza party & Advent paper chain craft event. Children can take their chains home and remove a link each day of Advent – the family can read the passage on it to help prepare for the Nativity of Christ.

Akathist for Thanksgiving

The beautiful Akathist, *Glory to God for All Things*, will be served on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Thanksgiving.

Keith Andrew Hoirup

The one year Memorial Service (Panikhida) will be chanted for Keith Andrew Hoirup at the conclusion of Liturgy on Sunday, November 26th. A Mercy Meal will be served by the Sisterhood following the service.



December 9th: A Visit by our Archbishop, the Ordination of Reader Steven Hille

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9th. On that day at 9:30 a.m., His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin will visit us for Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and ordain Reader Steven Hille to the Holy Diaconate. A reception meal will be served in the Parish House and St. Joseph Hall.



Hazardous Weather News

We will make every effort to keep you up to date on changes in scheduled services & activities due to inclement weather. PLEASE, when the weather is threatening, check www.OrthodoxTacoma.com, (our parish web-page), and your e-mails before setting out for church. We'll post information on the home page, and make changes to the calendar page in case of a cancellation. We'll let you know! For those who do not have internet: Please let Fr. John know, and we'll put you on a phone call list.

Nov 15 - Dec 24: The Nativity Fast

Sunday	Abstinence of: Meat & Meat Products, Dairy Products	No Abstinence of: Fish, Shellfish, Vegetables & vegetable products, Olive oil, Fruit, Wine
Monday		
Tuesday		
Thursday Saturday		
Wednesday Friday	Christians maintain the same fast & abstinence on these days as they do on all Wednesdays, Fridays & other days of fast: No meat, dairy, fish, wine & olive oil.	

NOTE: During the Nativity Fast, from Dec. 14th (the Day after St. Herman of Alaska) to Dec. 24th inclusive, the fast is taken more strictly, and olive oil and wine are permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Also, fish is not permitted on any day during this period.

Book Store Report --- Susan Reynolds - Shopkeep

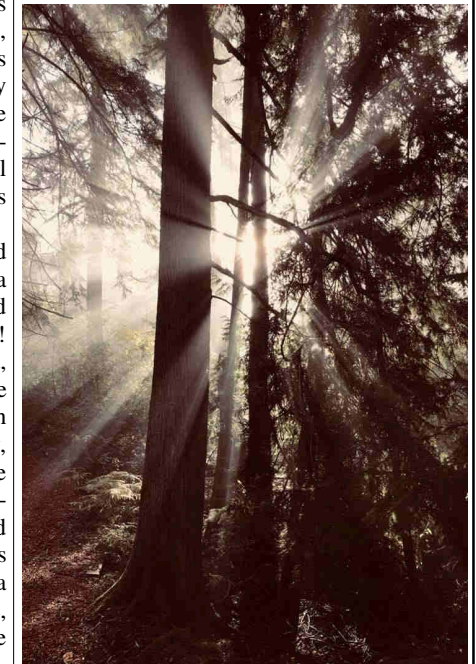
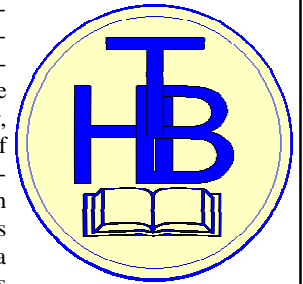
'What is truth?' (John 18:38) This was the question Pilate asked of Christ after he had just told him that he had come into the world to testify to the truth.

We Orthodox have an amazingly beautiful, oft-repeated prayer: 'O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things...' I was beginning my prayers the other day, and happened to look out the window of my sunrooms into the cool, green garden, with all its variety of plants. The thought came to me: All this is filled with the Spirit of Truth, the apple tree, the bamboo, the beauty berry, the hibiscus with the 8" hot pink blossoms, and even my messy pond. A calm, quiet sense of peace came over me, and I realized that in the turmoil of the insecurities of this world, with all its bombast and untruth, all I need to do is look at a blade of grass.

St. Augustine tells us: Some people read books in order to find God. Yet there is a great book, the very appearance of created things. Look above you, look below you! Note it, read it! God whom you wish to find, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things He made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that? Why, heaven and earth cry out to you, 'God made me'. When I go out into the woods, surrounded by nothing but earth, water, sky, and plants, without even trying, all the tensions built up in my body start to drain away, and a sense of gratefulness ensues. "Come unto Me, all ye who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

In a new book of homilies by Elder Ephraim, some addressed to laymen and some to monks, he writes this about a monk who had been praying for a long while, and experiences an opening of the eyes of his soul. "Everything he was seeing and hearing was something extraordinary. The birds were chirping; the plants were in full bloom; the flowering trees were fragrant the sun was



shining brilliantly, everything was proclaiming... the glory, splendor, and beauty of God! A revelation had taken place: it was unveiling a mystery that is hidden from us who lack such spiritual eyes.



"Let every breath praise the Lord"! We may not behold the full glory, but we know it is there.

This month we are blessed to be able to sing the Akathist 'Glory to God for All Things'. "Thou hast brought me into life as into an enchanted paradise... Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age"!

Send December Newsletter Articles to <larrysortho@gmail.com> by November 21st.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Tacoma: 8710 28th Ave. East, end of the gravel road one block west of Waller & 84th.</p> <p>Wilkeson: 431 Long Street, located 4 miles south of Buckley in Eastern Pierce County.</p> <p><i>Visit our webpage for most current interactive and future online calendars!</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>Readers Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Fr. John Away</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p> <p>Turn clocks back</p>
<p>5 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 1st Sun collection, potluck & pictures 1-6 w Fr John "choir"</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Adopt-a-Family Nov. 5 - Dec. 10 Details in Parish House</p>	<p>7</p> <p> Bible Study potluck 9:30 am Parish Council 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8 In Wilkeson: Divine Liturgy 10:00 am <i>Synaxis of the Archangel Michael</i> Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Slavonic Liturgy 10:00 am potluck Myrrhbearers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>12 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sandwich Sale Wilkeson Mtg "choir"</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Family Pizza Party Advent Chains 4:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p> Bible Study potluck 9:30 am</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Beginning of Nativity Fast "Advent" Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Apostle Matthew</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>19 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Seminarian Collection 2018 Budget Mtg Charities Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Great Feast! Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Entrance of the Theotokos</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Panikhida 6:00 pm Dn. Joseph Kerns Akathist 6:30 pm <i>Glory to God for All Things</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>
<p>26 Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am One Year Memorial for Keith Hoirup Mercy Meal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" Bring a new toy to church!</p>		<p>29</p> <p>Vespers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>30 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am <i>Apostle Andrew</i></p>	<p>Dec. 1</p>	<p>2 Slavonic Liturgy 10:00 am potluck Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>