

# GIVING TO OTHERS

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



Icon Source: <https://www.christthesavioroca.org/stnicholas>

## LUKE 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

1

### GOAL

With the example of the saints, how can we give generously to others?

2

### AT CHURCH

We attend liturgy on our namedays.

3

### AT HOME

We read & discuss the lives of the saints with our kids.



1. Prayer, Lesson with Father, & Confession



2. Lesson & Activities in the Hall



3. Nativity Pageant practice in the church



4. Story & Cookies with St. Nicholas

## LESSON: GIVING TO OTHERS

The saints provide us with many examples of how they incorporated living the virtues in their own lives.

**Saint Nicholas** is well-known for many reasons; one of them was his generosity in helping three, poor sisters. In those days, girls needed what is called a dowry from their parents in order to get married. The dowry allowed the newly married couple to get everything they needed to start a home together after their wedding. Saint Nicholas provided these girls the money they needed to get married by sneaking bags of gold into their father's home through a window and chimney in the middle of the night.

When **Saint Paisios** was a young man, he served as a radio operator in the military. There were an abundance of ways that he gave of his time, shared his food, and was even willing to sacrifice his own life in order to protect and care for the people around him. For example, when his fellow soldiers wanted to go on leave, but didn't have the time to take off, Saint Paisios would volunteer and serve their shift for them. He willingly gifted his free time over and over again in order to give his fellow soldiers a break while he continued to work.



Saint Paul teaches us in the epistles that we are all **called to be saints**. How do we do this? There are many ways, but one of them is working to cultivate or acquire the virtues in ourselves. We try to develop the characteristics of Christ in ourselves, and in doing so, we grow closer to Him.

The **virtues** are characteristics such as: patience, humility, generosity, honesty, kindness, love, patience, love, and self control.

We work on this every day of our lives - at home, at school, at our friend's house, at church, while we're traveling, and everywhere in-between.

**Read or tell the story of "Christmas from Heaven" or "Candy Bomber: the Story of the Berlin Airlift's Chocolate Bomber" to the kids.**

## EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(YouTube) [The WWII Bomber Who Dropped Chocolate Over Germany](#)

(YouTube) [Colonel Gail Halvorsen - The Candy Bomber](#)



*What virtues did Hal ("The Candy Bomber") display by giving his gum and chocolate rations to the children in Berlin?*

*What happened when other people saw Hal giving candy to the children?*

*When you read or hear about the story of Saint Nicholas or Saint Paisios, do their lives inspire you to give to others as well? How do you think you could go about doing this?*

Each of us will have opportunities in our daily life to help others - just like Christ, the saints, and many people around us have done. We can learn from them and when we see people who are hungry or struggling in some way - we can help them too!

## ACTIVITY #1

YOUNGER CHILDREN - 6 AND UNDER



Create two columns on the white board: "Yes" and "No." *Is this something we should or shouldn't do?*

Mix up the pictures of the good characteristics (virtues) and bad characteristics (passions) and place them on the table in front of the white board.

Let one child at a time find a characteristic on the table. You can describe the picture to them, if needed - For example: This is someone stealing. Is this something we should or shouldn't do? Then let them tape the characteristic in the correct column. Another example: This is someone sharing. Is this something we should or shouldn't do?

Continue until all of the characteristics are taped to the whiteboard in the correct columns. Briefly talk about how we can incorporate the virtues in our lives. For example, if someone wants to use the toy we have, what can we do?

## ACTIVITY #2

YOUNGER CHILDREN - 6 AND UNDER

GROUP SCROLL CARD FOR \*PERSON IN OUR PARISH\*



Measure the scroll of craft paper for the width of the table. Then attach the paper to the table using masking tape.

Provide the kids with crayons and stickers to decorate the paper. Please write a Christmas greeting and the children's names on the paper as well.

After the kids are done, take off the masking tape and roll up the paper. This scroll card will be placed in the Christmas gift basket for the person in our parish.

## ACTIVITY #3

YOUNGER CHILDREN WITH OLDER CHILDREN

As a group, we will be assembling donations for two causes:

- A Christmas gift basket for someone in our parish

- “Blessing Bags” for Safehaven, which helps women and children of domestic violence

## ACTIVITY #1

OLDER CHILDREN WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

As a group, we will be assembling donations for two causes:

- A Christmas gift basket for someone in our parish
- “Blessing Bags” for Safehaven, which helps women and children of domestic violence

## ACTIVITY #2

OLDER CHILDREN - 7 AND UP

GROUP SCROLL CARD FOR \*PERSON IN OUR PARISH\*



Measure the scroll of craft paper for the width of the table. Then attach the paper to the table using masking tape.

Provide the kids with crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate the paper. Please write a Christmas greeting and encourage the kids to write their own message and sign their names as well.

After the kids are done, take off the masking tape and roll up the paper. This scroll card will be placed in the Christmas gift basket.

## LESSON WRAP-UP

ALL AGES

When we help people, we should show:

**Meekness** - We help others with what they *need*, not just with the stuff we find fun and enjoyable. We offer our help subtly and without announcing to everyone how or to what extent we have helped. We focus on helping the person, not drawing attention to ourselves.

**Humility** - We’re not looking for praise, a thank you, or a high five. We help because it’s the right thing to do.

**Generosity** - We offer as much as we possibly can give. This might be our time, talent, money, or possessions.

**Patience** - Sometimes it’s not easy to help someone. They may have a medical problem that we find difficult to deal with day in and day out - or the person is not ready to receive help yet, even though we are willing to offer it.

**Love** - Our willingness to care for others is rooted in our love for them

The lives of the saints show us that living an Orthodox Christian life will have both similarities and differences from the person or family next to us.

One person may be called to help the poor and injured during a time of war; while another person is called to take care of young children for a family who cannot afford daycare. We give in the way that is needed by the people around us.

# NATIVITY RETREAT

9:00 am	Meet in the church Prayer with Father Lesson with Father
9:45 ish	7 & up - Confession 6 & under - Activity #1 (hall)
10:00	6 & under - Activity #2  If done before big kids are in the hall, tell them the story of Candy Bomber
10:15	6 & under - Activity #3 7 & up - Activity #1
10:30	6 & under - Lunch 7 & up - Main Lesson
10:45	6 & under - Wiggle Time 7 & up - Activity #2
11:00	6 & under - Wiggle Time 7 & up - Lunch
11:15	All Ages - Nativity Pageant Practice in the church
12:15	All Ages - Story & Cookies with St. Nicholas!!

# ACTIVITY #1 FOR 6 & UNDER - IMAGES





