

ALMSGIVING



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THREE PILLARS OF LENT



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

*“When you give alms...
When you pray... When you fast...” -
Jesus, Matthew 6*

What is Almsgiving?

- Giving to the poor, specifically.
- Making mercy concrete.
- A lifestyle, not just an activity

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” Prov. 19:17

“But when you give to the needy [alms], do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:3-4

“Cornelius... Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial to God.” Acts 10:4

LUKE 12:32-33



Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy ["give alms"]. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail..."

LUKE 12:13-34



“Take care, and be on your guard against **all covetousness**, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his [or her] possessions.”

Luke 12:15

LUKE 12:13-34



The Rich Fool (vv.16-21)

Who we often aspire to be

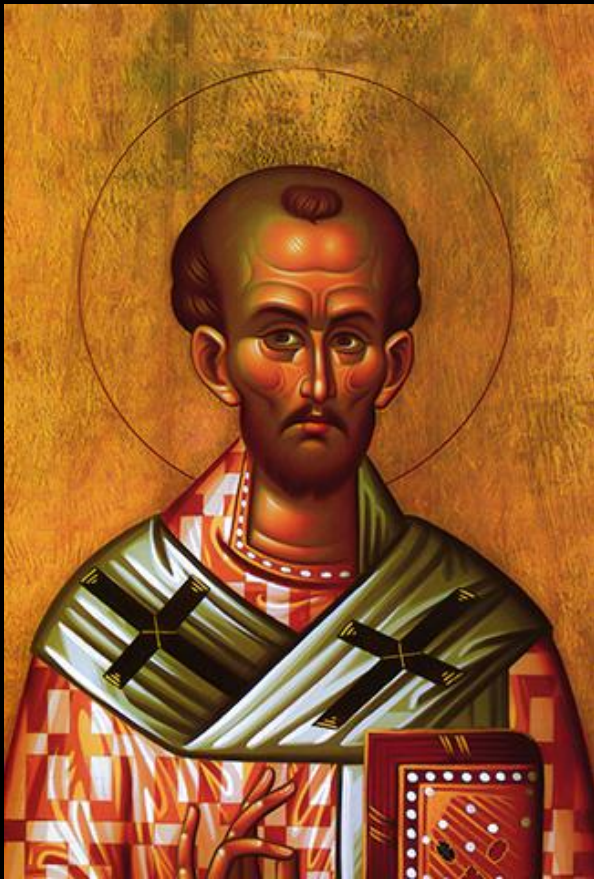
God's Worrying Children

(vv.22-30) – Who we usually are!

Little Flock, Faith-Filled, Beloved Children (vv.31-34)

– Who we **are** and who we are invited to be

The rich man is not the one who has collected many possessions...



...but **the one who needs few possessions.**

St. John Chrysostom, 4th Century
“On Wealth and Poverty”



Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.



Fear not, **little flock**, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.



Fear not, little flock, for it is **your Father's** good pleasure to give you the kingdom.



Fear not, little
flock, for it is
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Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you **the kingdom.**



Sell your
possessions,
and give to the
needy.*

* Give alms



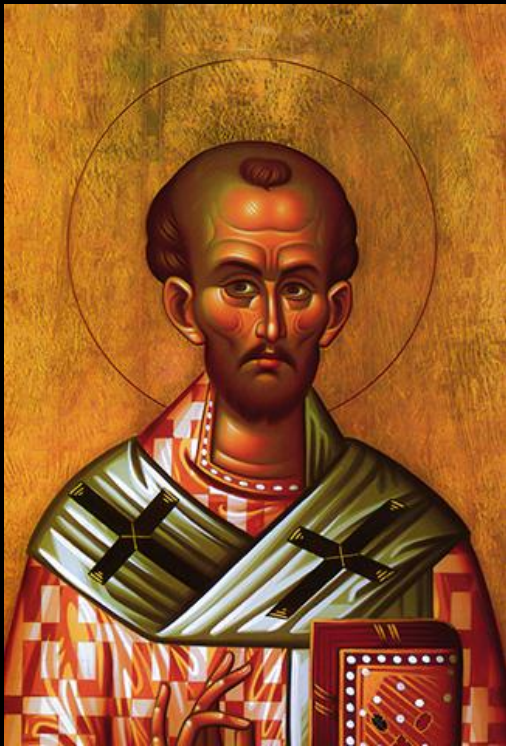
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possessions,
and give to the
needy.*

* “Give alms”



Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a **treasure in heaven** that will never fail.”

Just as on the stage actors enter with the masks of kings, generals, doctors, teachers, professors, and soldiers, when they are nothing of the sort ...



...so in the present life
**poverty and wealth
are only masks.**

St. John Chrysostom, 4th Century
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This week...



Remember: You have a Father who delights to give, and you are freed from fear!

Pray: “Father, please help me to identify who you want me to help this week and what you want me to do.”