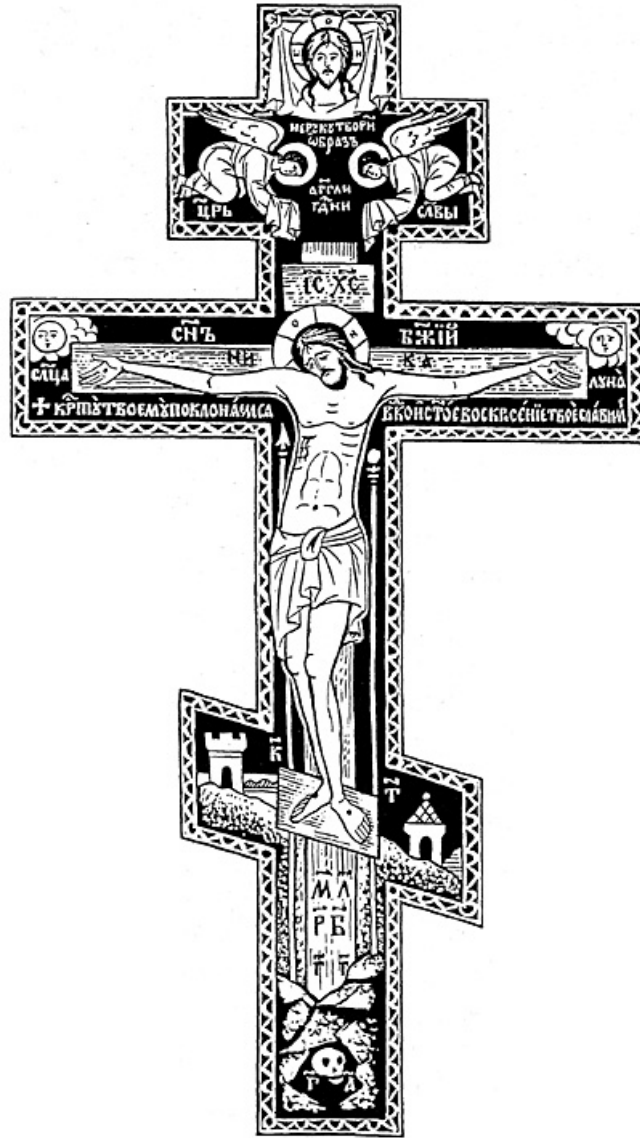


Our Precious Cross!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Volume 12, Issue 14

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Who comes first?



Have you ever wanted something very much...but you couldn't have it? Maybe you can think of something that you wanted to do, but you knew it was better *not* to do. Having a cookie when your mother said to wait until dessert. Playing another round of a video game when you could start your homework. That sort of thing. Sometimes we want to do one thing, but we know we should do another.

In today's Gospel reading we hear something that Jesus told us. "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself." What does that mean? How can we deny ourselves?

Well, when you follow Christ and deny yourself, you put God first. We do what God wants! Sometimes it might not be something that we want to do. Church on Sunday morning instead of a friend's birthday party. Reading our Bible instead of watching TV. Giving money to the poor instead of buying a toy or a treat for ourselves.

Yes, sometimes it's hard to put what God wants *first* and what we want *second*! But that's how we deny ourselves. And that's how we follow Christ. That's how we show we love Him. That's how we show Him that He is first in our lives.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Basil
- Clues
- Confessor
- Cross
- Defend
- Deny
- Flowers
- Follow Christ
- Icons
- Makarios
- Sunday
- Veneration

S R E W O L F M C M K Q Z D Y
 A E X V B S H A A G T Y O L A
 J V K P R J E K Z F V D W W D
 C D H B L M A U G Z A W E I N
 S Y Q I X R B N L Q L Y C I U
 O L S A I V D X M C G N L D S
 Y A C O N F E S S O R E H F F
 B J S Y G Y F K B G I D A B Q
 N O I T A R E N E V S C X U H
 J O J O W B N K T U T S W K W
 Q V D B Q U D A S I N O O Z U
 F N I Z Y E P T F X C S E R X
 X E C L X Q G O L I M O Q S C
 I K Q I Y T R S D R Y P N Y R
 I A R F O L L O W C H R I S T

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Can you find the Cross in this icon? The Patriarch Makarios is holding it above a whole bunch of flowers.

Do you see something like this at your church? Does your priest have a cross on a tray full of flowers?



SAINT BASIL THE CONFESSOR

BISHOP OF PARIUM

If you see an icon, do you look at it closely? Sometimes we see the icon of a saint we've never seen before, and we might wonder who he or she is. Icons are pictures that can give us clues about the saint: what he did, how he died, what kind of person he was.



This week, we celebrate Saint Basil the Confessor. Do you see his icon? In his icon, he's holding another icon, the icon of Christ. That's because Saint Basil lived during the time of the iconoclasts, the people who hated icons and who wanted to get rid of them in the churches and in homes.

Saint Basil knew that icons were something worth fighting for! He knew icons weren't just pretty pictures to put on the wall. He knew icons showed something we believe. We believe Christ is God, but He was a real person too. That's why we can show a picture of Him. Saint Basil knew that icons tell us about Christ and about the saints. He knew they help teach our faith.

Saint Basil was a bishop who had a very hard life. That's because he refused to give up about our precious icons. Isn't it special that we can look at an icon of him, and we can see him holding an icon too? Now we learned about *him* by looking at an icon he defended all his life!

We celebrate St. Basil the Confessor on Friday, April 12th (OC: April 25th).