

God reveals His Son!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (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, December 31, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 53

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



I have finished the race!

Have you ever run in a race

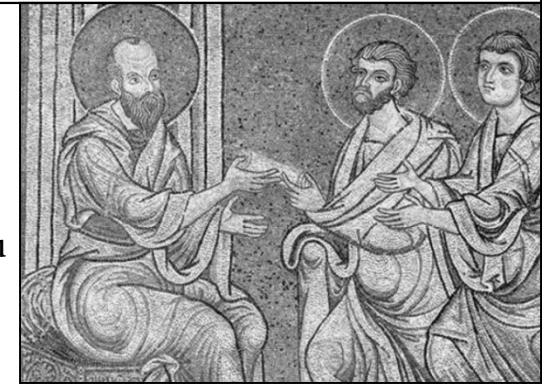
before? How did you do? Do you remember how fast you ran? Do you think you could have done better?

We Christians are in a race too! Did you know that? We are in a race to grow close to God! In today's epistle, Saint Paul tells us how he was doing in this

very special and very important race. "I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Saint Paul knew that he had worked hard to be a strong Christian. He had worked hard to stay close to the Lord.

It's always a good idea to think about how we're doing in our race, the race to be close to God. But today is the very last day of the year, December 31st, so it's a *really* good time to think about how we can make changes. How did we do in our race last year? Could we have done better? What are we going to try to do differently in this new year?

Our Lord Jesus Christ loves us. He invites each one of us to be with Him. Let's think about how we're doing in the race, so that one day, we can say what Saint Paul said. "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Epistle
- Fight
- Humility
- Keep the faith
- Melania
- Race
- Rome
- Saint
- Salvation
- Theophany
- Wealth
- Wisdom

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?



If you ever go to Jerusalem, you can visit a little chapel of Saint Melania. That is where her relics (her body) is.

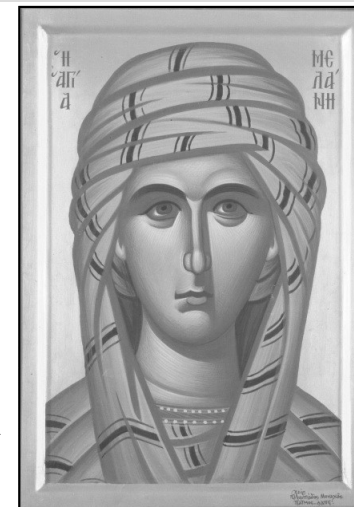
In this picture, you can see a priest with an icon of Saint Melania. Do you see how it is decorated with flowers for her feastday?

SAINT MELANIA, THE YOUNGER

THE NUN OF ROME

Have you ever ridden by some super fancy, super huge houses, and wondered what it would be like to live there?

Today we celebrate Saint Melania, a person who *did* live in one of those kinds of houses, and she gave it all up. One historian wrote about her life, just a few years after Melania died. He wrote about how much money and land her family had when she was a child. “On one side lay the sea and on the other some woodland with animals for hunting, so that when she was bathing in the pool, she could see ships passing by and animals in the woods. The property also included 60 large houses, each with 400 servants.” Wow! 60 houses, and 24,000 servants. Can you even imagine that?



But Saint Melania wasn't impressed! Saint Melania wanted to dedicate her life to Christ. When she was a young woman, she got married, but sadly, her two children died. She and her husband gave away all that treasure to the church and to the poor. Then they traveled far away from Italy, to Africa and later to the Middle East. They started convents and a church.

Sometimes when we have something, we might want to have more and more. Saint Melania didn't want to have more and more money. She wanted to have more and more of Christ's love! And isn't that a better thing?

We celebrate Saint Melania today, December 31st (OC: January 13th).