

Saint Matrona, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 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

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Are you listening?



The story shows how the Word of God is like seeds.

How many times has somebody—a teacher, your mother or father, or even a friend—told you to LISTEN? Sometimes we DO hear something, but that doesn't mean we are really listening!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a story about somebody who goes out to the field to plant seeds. Some seeds never sprout at all. Some seeds sprout at first and then die. But some seeds fall onto good dirt, and they do sprout. They grow and grow and give a good crop.

This story shows how we should hear God's teachings. The Gospel explains that the seeds that are in the good dirt are the ones who, "hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart." They hold onto it, because the word of God is something precious!

So it's easy to *hear* the word, but we also have to *listen*. That means in church, or in church school, or when we read our Bibles, or when our parents tell us about Jesus Christ, we *listen*. We try to take these words about God and put them into our hearts. We try to *live* the words, and not just *hear* them (and forget them!). We hold them fast in an honest and good heart.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Chios
- Compassionate
- Listening
- Matrona
- Parable
- Scripture
- Seventh child
- Sower
- Word of God

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a little icon of Saint Matrona.

Along the edges of the icon, you can see eight more little pictures with Saint Matrona. They tell the story of miracles she has done, by the grace of God.

That's why she is called a Wonderworker!



SAINT MATRONA OF CHIOS

THE POOR COME FIRST!

Did you ever have a chance to save some money? What did you do with it? Did you keep it for yourself or did you buy something for somebody else? Was it hard to decide what to do with it? Saint Matrona had to make that decision about money too!



Saint Matrona came from the island of Chios, in Greece. She was the seventh child in her family. She tried to listen to her parents and to obey them, but they wanted her to get married, and she really wanted to become a nun.

Finally, her parents knew she was serious, and they let her become a nun and dedicate her whole life only to God.

Matrona joined a small, poor monastery. Lots of people would come to visit the monastery, and so they needed a bigger church. Matrona had a little money of her own, and she sold some of the land she had too. What should she do with that money? The monastery needed a bigger church! Matrona had a kind heart, and she thought about the poor people in the village. She convinced the other nuns to build a place for the poor people to take baths, so they could stay healthy and clean. After they had built the public baths, the nuns built the new church. Saint Matrona thought of the poor first.

Let's remember Saint Matrona's soft heart, and try to be like her!

We celebrate Saint Matrona on Friday, October 20th (OC: November 2nd).