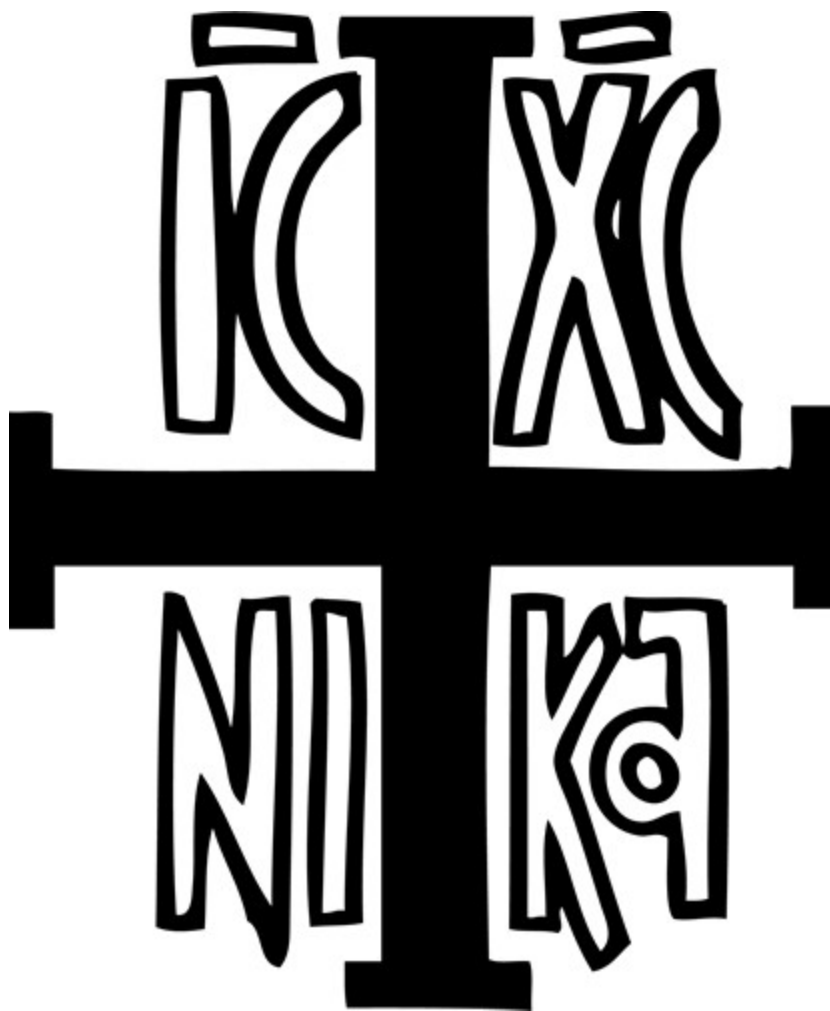


By grace you have been saved!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 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 1, 2024

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The gift of God

Have you been shopping lately? Lots and lots of people go Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving. They want to find the best gifts, and to get a head start for Christmas.



Today at church, we hear about the very, very best gift we could ever get.

In the epistle reading, we hear how God wants us to be with Him. He knows we sometimes do the wrong thing, and He forgives us for that. He gives us more than we can ever ask for, when He gives us life with Him forever. The epistle says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." When we love God very much, He *gives* us this spot in heaven. It's a gift! It's not because of something we did.

In the Gospel reading too, we hear about a man who was blind. He was begging by the road, because it was hard for him to work when he couldn't see. He asked Jesus to heal him, and He did heal him. He could finally see. That man asked Jesus for help, but that miracle was really a gift that Christ chose to give.

Let's always remember that life with God is a gift! We love God, so we want to do what He wants. But we can't earn it! Let's pray that our Lord will give us this great "gift of God."

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Chaplain
- Gifts
- Grace
- Hospital
- Joy
- Love
- Miracle
- Monk
- Porphyrios
- Salvation

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

SAINT PORPHYRIOS

“CHRIST IS OUR FRIEND”

Have you ever been scared of somebody who turned out to be not so scary? A teacher? A priest? Even somebody who became your friend?

Today we celebrate a saint who died just 33 years ago. He was declared a saint just 11 years ago! Saint Porphyrios was a very humble man. He was very poor as a child, and only finished 2nd grade. But still, Saint Porphyrios was a very wise man because he had the wisdom of God!



Saint Porphyrios was a joyful man, even though he was in pain a lot. He knew that God wants us to be joyful too. God doesn't want us to be scared of Him. Once, Saint Porphyrios said, “This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother. He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, ‘You’re my friends, don’t you understand that?...I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me.’”

For 33 years, Saint Porphyrios worked as a priest in the little chapel at a hospital in Athens, Greece. He comforted many, many sick people there. He spoke to their families. He helped people who were even dying. And everywhere, Saint Porphyrios always gave them that good news from Christ: “I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me.”

We celebrate St. Porphyrios tomorrow, December 2nd (OC: December 15th).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Porphyrios suffered with lots of pain in his life. In this icon though, he has a little smile on his face!

Saint Porphyrios is with Christ in heaven, with no more suffering!

