

Two men went up to the Temple to pray.



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

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Be proud?

Has anybody ever told you to "be proud"? Sometimes people tell us to be proud of something we have or something we've done. When you win a medal or a trophy, somebody might tell you to "be proud of yourself." But is being proud a good thing?



Let's try to work for the real trophy!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about two men. One of them was very proud of himself. He's the one who told God all the great things he had done. He had fasted and prayed. He had given money to the poor. He's the one who talked and talked, all proud of himself. The other man didn't say anything like that. He just asked, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Do you know? The Gospel tells us to be like that second man—the one who was so humble.

Sometimes we hear one thing at church, and then we hear another thing everywhere else, don't we? In the Bible and at church and maybe at home, we hear how we should be humble. We hear how we should say, "Lord, have mercy!" But everywhere else, people tell us to be proud. They tell us, "You're the best!" They might tell us to show off! Let's remember this story from the Bible. Let's remember that God wants us to be like the second man, not the first man. And you can even remember one more thing: Even Jesus, our Lord God, was humble too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

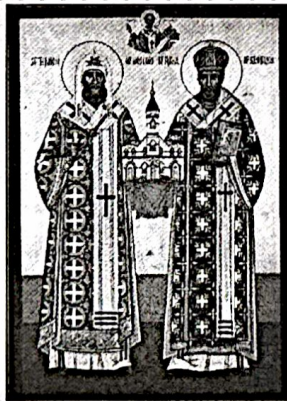
- Bishop
- Brooklyn
- Gospel
- Humility
- Missionary
- Pharisee
- Prayer
- Prideful
- Publican
- Raphael
- Temple

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WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

The saint on the right is Saint Raphael. Can you find the church he is holding?

This shows that Saint Raphael helped build up the Orthodox Church here in our own country.



THE SAINT FROM BROOKLYN

SAINT RAPHAEL



St. Raphael of Brooklyn

Have you ever been to New York City? Did you know we have an American saint from Brooklyn?

St. Raphael was born in Lebanon, and when he became a priest, the tsar in Russia sent him to America to take care of the Orthodox here. In 1904, St. Raphael became the very first person to become a bishop in America.

As a bishop, St. Raphael worked hard to serve the Church. He started 30 Orthodox churches here! He opened the cathedral in New York called St. Nicholas Cathedral. He also helped start a monastery in Pennsylvania—St. Tikhon's Monastery.



Now, when you travel throughout America, you can always find an Orthodox church to visit. But when St. Raphael lived in this country, that wasn't true! He traveled all the way across the country and visited 30 different cities between New York and San Francisco, California. Many of the Orthodox people living in this country did not have a church to go to. He baptized lots of people, married them, and served Liturgy wherever he went.

We remember St. Raphael of Brooklyn because he did so much to start the Orthodox Church here in America.

We celebrate Saint Raphael on Tuesday, February 27th (OC: March 12th).