

God bless our Church!



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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Being obedient

Do you know what it means

to be obedient? You might think of a dog being obedient to its master. But have your parents ever asked you to be obedient to them? When you obey somebody (when you're obedient), you do what somebody says to do. Sometimes, that might be something you want to do...but other times, maybe it isn't!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear about two people who were obedient to their Master, our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter and Andrew were out fishing, but when Jesus came by, He asked them to follow Him. They dropped everything and followed the Lord. Their friends, James and John, also left everything and followed Christ too, just like that.

Saint John Chrysostom once said that that's the kind of obedience Christ wants from us, too! He doesn't want us to waste even a minute! He wants us to follow Him just as soon as He asks us.

Sometimes it might be hard to know what God wants from us. You probably won't hear a voice from God that tells you just what to do! You can listen to your parents, to your priest, and to your teachers. You obey them because they are watching out for you and helping you to grow in the right way. When we follow another Christian, we are following Christ too!

WORD SEARCH

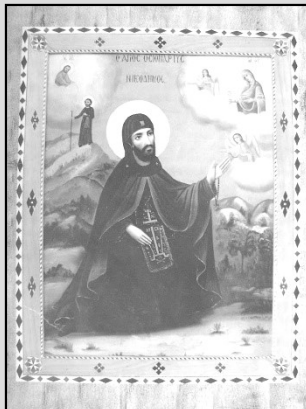
Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Andrew
- Apostles
- Fishermen
- Follow me
- Gospel
- Monk
- Mount Athos
- Nikodemos
- Obedient
- Peter

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

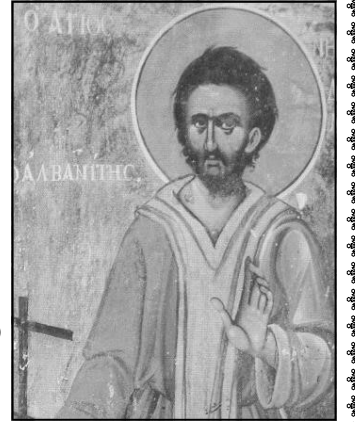
This Thursday we celebrate two saints with the name Nikodemos. They both became monks on the holy Mount Athos. (You can see Mount Athos in the background of these two icons!)



SAINT NIKODEMOS

OF ALBANIA AND MOUNT ATHOS

Have you ever made a bad mistake? We can always say we are sorry for our bad mistakes. But sometimes we can fix them and make them right. If you make a mess in the kitchen, you can clean it up, right?



This week we celebrate a saint who made a much worse mistake than that, but he wanted to fix it just the same. Nikodemos was born in Vithkuqi, Albania. He was a faithful Christian as a child, and he grew up and had lots of children. Once, he got angry at the Orthodox Church, because he didn't agree with her teachings. He got so mad, that he decided to turn against the Church. He decided to stop being a Christian, and he became Muslim! Even more, he wanted all his children to become Muslim too.

Well, his oldest son wouldn't do that. He left home and went to the holy place of Mount Athos, where monks live and worship God together. Nikodemos was still mad, and followed his son so he could punish him. But when he got there, he realized he had done a terrible thing. He asked God to forgive him. Nikodemos became a monk and grew closer and closer to God.

Later, Nikodemos wanted to fix his terrible mistake. He went back to Albania and showed everyone that he was a Christian again. The Muslim judge had him sentenced to death, but now Nikodemos is a saint of our Church, and our Lord welcomed him to be with Him in heaven!

We celebrate Saint Nikodemos on Thursday, July 11th (OC: July 24th).