

It's the Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt!



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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When God says, "no"

You've asked your parents for things, haven't you? A snack, some water, some new shoes, permission to go to a friend's house. You ask for things all the time. They probably say, "yes," most of the time. But let's say you ask them if you can eat the whole bag of cookies, or if you can climb up on the roof with a chainsaw. Well, probably not. Your parents, and other grownups, look out for you. They don't want you to ask for the wrong things.



Jesus with the Apostle James

Today, in the Gospel reading, we hear about how two of Jesus's followers asked for the *wrong* thing. James and John were walking along with their teacher, Jesus Christ. They asked Him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." These two brothers wanted Jesus to let them be powerful and important in heaven! That's a big thing to ask for! Jesus told them that being with Him in heaven "is for those for whom it has been prepared." In other words, Jesus didn't want to promise them a special place in heaven. God would decide that...not James and John!

God wants us to ask Him for help and things we need. But let's always try to ask for the right things, the things that will bring us closer to God. Sometimes we might try to ask for things that will make us look good (like praying for us to win a game, or praying to have the coolest toy). Let's pray for things that we need to bring us closer to our Lord!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Alexandra
- Empress
- Fifth Sunday
- Gospel
- Humility
- James and John
- Lent
- Mary of Egypt
- Patience

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

THE GREATEST TREASURE

SAINT ALEXANDRA, THE EMPRESS

Have you ever wanted to be super rich and famous? Maybe you day-dreamed about how great it would be to have tons and tons of money, and to walk around with people staring at you, or even bowing down!



Well, today, we celebrate the nameday of a person who had all that. Alexandra had the most valuable treasures in the world, because she was the emperor's wife. Sadly though, her husband, Emperor Diocletian, was a cruel and evil man who hated Christians. Lots of times, *he* daydreamed of ways to get rid of all the Christians in the empire. Alexandra wasn't a Christian, but she saw how awfully the Christians were treated.

She even saw how one brave soldier, Saint George, refused to give up his Christian faith...even when the emperor told him he would be killed! Saint Alexandra saw this brave man, and she decided she wanted to be a Christian too. She saw that all her money and power didn't mean anything! She wanted to really have the greatest treasure...to be with Jesus Christ in heaven! When she said that she believed in Christ, her husband was so angry that he even decided to punish his own wife. Saint Alexandra was killed two days before her teacher, Saint George. Now they are saints together, with the treasure of heaven!

We celebrate St. Alexandra today, April 21st (OC: May 4th).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of Saints George and Alexandra.

St. Alexandra is the empress, but she is listening to St. George, as he tells her about the Lord!

This year, we will celebrate Saint George on Monday, May 6th.

