

Saint Sarah, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2016 Alexandra Houck.
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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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Seek first the kingdom of God

Have you heard anybody say, "That's icing on the cake!"? It means something extra, on top of something already good. Cake is good, of course, but icing on cake makes it even better!



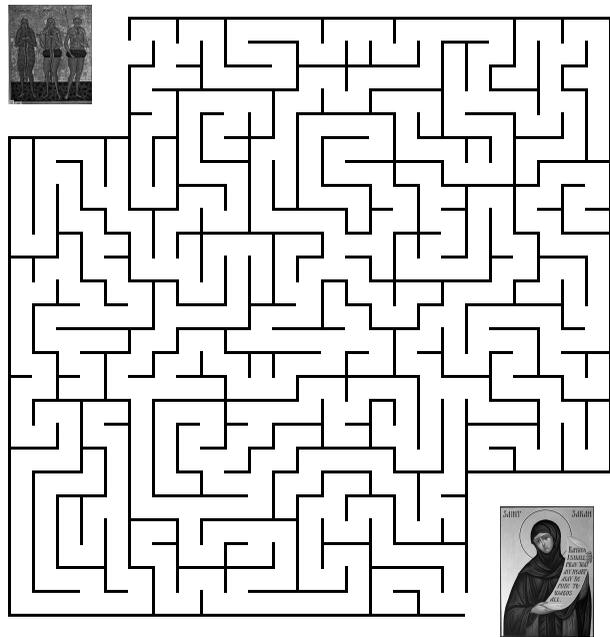
Today in the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus' words. He tells His disciples (and us too!) not to worry. He tells us, not to say, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For... your heavenly Father knows you need them all." Our loving God doesn't want us to worry about things! "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

The Gospel tells us, when we try for the greater things, when we try to be close to God, when we try to do what God wants, He will give us that wonderful gift. But then He will even give us more! He will give us the icing on the cake too. He will take away our worries and satisfy our needs too.

Let's always try to think about the most important part first (the cake). When we try for the important part (life with our Lord), then He will give us the icing too (everything we need here on earth)!

A-MAZE-ING DESERT

Can you help these desert fathers make it through the desert maze to find Amma Sarah? They want to ask for her advice.



SAINT SARAH A DESERT MOTHER

Have you ever heard of the desert fathers? Well, they were monks who lived a long time ago, in the desert. They lived there so that they could spend all their time praying to God. There, they didn't have to think about the same kinds of things you'd think about if you lived in a city. They could think about growing closer to God. People would go to them for advice, and we still have some stories about them and some things they wrote—even from 1,700 years ago!



Some people don't know that we have desert mothers too! Saint Sarah (or Amma, which means "Mother") lived near the river Nile (what is the country of Libya today). She lived all by herself for 60 years. She didn't have comfortable things because she only wanted to focus on the Lord! People would come to her to ask her how they could grow close to God too. Even some of the desert fathers asked for her help.

Saint Sarah wasn't perfect (only God is perfect, right?), but she tried to be perfect. For a long time, she kept being tempted to do wrong things. She would ask God for help, and she would pray, "Oh God, give me strength." We can take St. Sarah's advice whenever we feel like doing something wrong, too!

We celebrate the feastday of Saint Sarah on Wednesday, July 13th.

What's in the icon?

Sometimes saints hold little scrolls with something that they once said. Here is an icon of Saint Sarah again. Can you read her sign?

"Rather I shall pray that my heart may be pure towards all."

