

Saint Anna, 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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Praying for unbelievers

Do you have a friend who is not a Christian? Probably! Some of our best saints (like Saint Basil the Great) had friends who were not Christian. Did you know that in the United States and Canada, there are 1,584 religious groups? Chances are, you have friends who are not Orthodox Christians, or maybe not even Christians at all.

Today, in the epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us his own thoughts about people who don't believe in Christ! He writes, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." Saint Paul spent years and years preaching to people about Jesus Christ! We know that he put up with a lot to spread the message about the Lord. He was stoned and beaten and put in prison and much more! But still, Saint Paul shows his love and concern for the people who still wouldn't believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We can follow Saint Paul's example too. When we know someone who isn't a Christian, we can pray for him or her. And always, we want God to save that person and keep him or her close. Sometimes we might want to win an argument with an unbeliever or show that we know a lot, but let's follow Saint Paul and his "heart's desire and prayer to God"!



Saint Paul preaching to unbelievers in Athens, Greece

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- ANNA
- BABY
- DORMITION
- EPISTLE
- GRANDMOTHER
- JOACHIM
- MARY
- PRAY

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

What's in the icon?

In this icon, you can see Jesus' Mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother!

Can you find Saint Anna, whose feast-day we celebrate tomorrow?



SAINT ANNA

THE GRANDMOTHER OF OUR LORD

In just about 3 weeks, we will celebrate the falling asleep (the Dormition) of Mary, the Mother of God. We celebrate it (instead of being sad about it), because the Theotokos was close to God and we know that she is still close to Him!



Well, tomorrow, we celebrate the Dormition of *her* mother, Saint Anna. (She was the grandmother of Jesus). We celebrate her death, because we know that she is in heaven too!

Saint Anna lived a life close to God too. She and her husband, Joachim, were very old, but they prayed to God for a long time that they would have a baby. God heard their prayer, and gave them one of the best gifts ever—baby Mary!

Many people pray to Saint Anna if they wish they could have a child, but can't. Also, many married couples pray to Saints Joachim and Anna because they gave such a great example of a loving marriage, and they were always faithful to God. God listens to our prayers, just as He listened to the prayers of Saint Anna and her husband, Saint Joachim!

We celebrate this feastday of Saint Anna on Monday, July 25th.