

Saint Theodora, pray for us!



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

Sunday, August 7, 2016

Volume 4, Issue 32

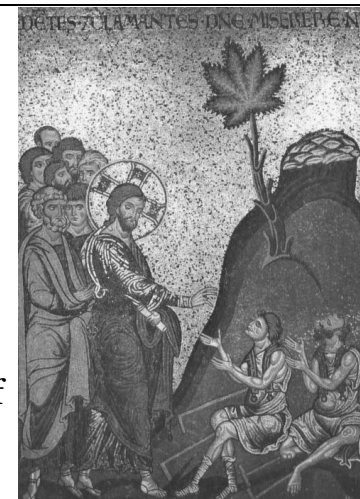
A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Can you keep a secret?

Has anybody ever told you a secret? "Don't tell anybody else," you might have heard. But maybe the story was just too hard to keep a secret, and you told somebody else. A surprise party. A present. A fun trip coming up. Secrets are hard to keep!

Jesus did so many miracles when He was living here on earth. In the Bible, we read a few stories of when Jesus healed blind people. In today's story, two blind men followed Christ and called to Him, "Have mercy on us!" When Christ touched their eyes, they both could see again.



In this icon, Jesus is healing two blind men.

After that, Jesus told the men, "See that no one knows it." He wanted these men to keep the miracle a secret. Maybe He didn't want to have lots of people following Him around yet. But how could they keep it a secret? Imagine. They were blind, and now they could see! They went around and told everybody what happened. Lots of people found out about Jesus Christ just from these two men.

God does so many things for us every day. Now, we don't have to keep them a secret! When God answers one of your prayers, you can tell everybody!

WORD SEARCH

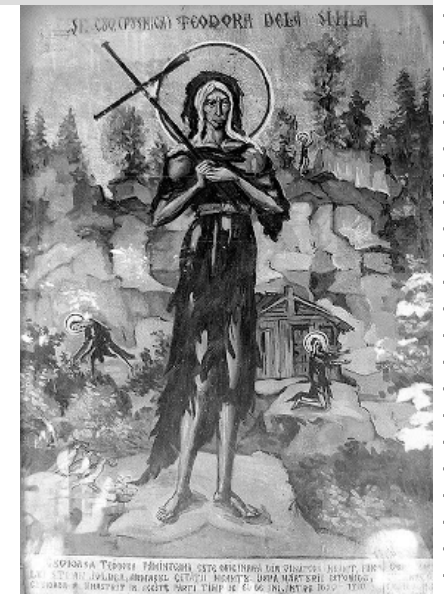
Can you find these words in the jumble?

- ASCETIC
- BLIND
- COMFORTABLE
- MIRACLE
- ROMANIA
- SECRET
- SHARE
- THEODORA

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

SAINT THEODORA OF ROMANIA A REAL ASCETIC

How many pillows do you have on your bed? How many snacks and treats do you eat a day? And how many times do you pray every day? Sometimes (grown-ups too!) think a lot about how to make their lives easier, more comfortable, and more fun.



But as Christians, we know that life is more than that! Today, we celebrate the feastday of somebody who really knew that. Saint Theodora lived in Romania. When she grew up, she lived as an ascetic.

That means she *didn't* try to make her life easier, more comfortable, or even more fun! Instead, she tried to live a very hard life. She lived out in the mountains, mostly by herself. Lots of times, she stayed up late at night, praying. She held her hands up to God, in prayer. She didn't eat very much. She drank water from a little spring. (You can still find it in Romania. It is called St. Theodora's spring!)

Life was hard for Saint Theodora, but this saint wanted to grow closer to God. That's why she tried not to think much about herself and how to make things great for her. She tried to think mostly about God. Saint Theodora lived all alone on earth, but now she has lots of company, with the saints in heaven!

We celebrate this feastday of Saint Theodora today, August 7th.

What's in the icon?

This is Saint Theodora of Romania again.

This saint spent lots of time praying to God.

Can you find her prayer rope? "Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me."

