The Sunday of Orthodoxy

“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Mark 10:14

Sunday, February 25, 2018                Volume 6, Issue 8

What would you do if somebody came into your house and destroyed all your pictures? What if somebody poked holes in the photos of your family? Or cut through some of the pictures of your friends? Or burned the precious pictures of your grandparents or great-grandparents? That’s exactly what iconoclasts did, 1300 years ago.

Iconoclasts were people who destroyed icons. That’s right—they destroyed pictures of our family—Jesus Christ, the Theotokos, and the saints. They made it against the law to have icons, and even destroyed these holy images whenever they could.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Today we celebrate the return of icons into our churches and into our homes. We celebrate how we still use icons in our Orthodox faith. We pray with icons, because we know that God became a real person, Who lived here on earth. The Theotokos and the saints are real people too, and we remember them when we see pictures of them!

In 843, St. Theodora and the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council finally brought icons back, making icons legal once again. Today, let’s all hold our icons up high, thanking God for our freedom, and thanking St. Theodora and the Church Fathers for their courage!
You might see this icon at your church today, the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Can you find the icon inside the icon? The saints and angels are celebrating the icons, just like we are today!

**What's in an icon?**

Have you ever eavesdropped, and heard something you probably shouldn't have? Maybe you heard your parents talking about your birthday surprise. Maybe you listened to two classmates talking about YOU. Listening in is hardly ever a good idea. But for St. Eudocia, it was!

St. Eudocia was a very early saint—She lived just about a hundred years after Christ lived! At first, Eudocia was not a Christian, and she was definitely going down the wrong path. She made lots of mistakes. But one day, a holy man, Germanos, came to stay at the house of her next-door neighbor (who was a Christian). As Eudocia was trying to sleep, she could hear Germanos singing psalms from the Bible. He was also reading something about asking for forgiveness. St. Eudocia really couldn't sleep then. She started to think about all the mistakes she made. The next day, she began to turn her life around. She was baptized. She gave her valuable things away to the poor. She prayed all the time. She changed everything. Soon, she became very holy, and even gave up her life for Christ when the governor found out she was a Christian.

God gave St. Eudocia another chance to do the right thing, and she sure took that chance!

We celebrate St. Eudocia on Thursday, March 1st (March 14th, OC).

---

**A Turnaround Life**

**St. Eudocia**

Across
1. Raise your ____ up high!
3. St. ____ was the empress who helped bring back icons.
4. Saint ____ changed her life.
5. Today is the ___ Sunday of Lent.

Down
1. An ___ is somebody who destroys icons.
2. Today is the Sunday of ____.

Answers: Across: 1. icon, 3. Theodora, 4. Eudocia, 5. first; Down: 1. iconoclast, 2. Orthodoxy