

We bow down before Your Cross!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2018 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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A new creation

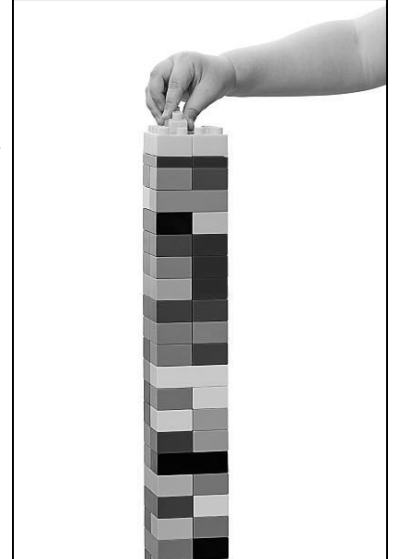
Imagine making a tower out of blocks or Legos. Let's say you are really proud of it, but somebody comes and knocks it all down. Imagine now making a new tower, taller, bigger, stronger, and even better! It's a new, better creation.

Before Jesus came, humans—God's creation—were knocked down by sin. That's what sin does to all of us people. When we sin, or do the wrong thing, we are knocked down! We might not even want to get up. We might not even want to change and do the right thing again!

But in today's epistle reading, Saint Paul writes about what God does for us. Saint Paul writes about how our Lord, Jesus Christ makes *us* into a new creation with His death on the cross. We are God's new creation, and Christ has saved us! He has built us new, taller, bigger, stronger, and even better by our faith in Christ. Christ is the master builder!

When we become Christians, we become part of Christ. We become a new creation, something different. We are something better than we were before. God rebuilds us. He makes us His new creation!

Let's thank God for lifting us up and making us even better.



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

BUILDING
CROSS
EXALTATION
FEASTDAY
HELEN
MACARIOS
NEW CREATION
SEPTEMBER

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

What's in an icon?

Here is the icon of the feastday of the Cross. On that day, the people celebrated the finding of the true Cross.

Can you find Saint Helen (she has a crown) and Patriarch Macarios (he has vestments)?



A FEASTDAY WHEN WE DON'T FEAST!

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

What would *you* do on a feast-day? Well, you'd probably feast, wouldn't you? You'd have a party!



Our Orthodox Church has 12 great feastdays. These are big holy days, when we try to go to church and remember what a special day it is. But this week we have a feastday when we don't feast. We don't have a big party at all.

Why not? Well, because this Friday is the feastday of the Holy Cross. On this day, we think about the Cross, and remember how our Lord died for us on the Cross. This day is like a mini-Holy Friday, and you remember how Holy Friday is the most solemn day of the year. On the feastday of the Cross, we don't have any parties. We try to fast and not eat fancy foods. And we go to church. At church, there is a special service when we say "Lord, have mercy" more than 200 times!

Of course, we always remember how Christ rose from the dead. But on the feastday of the Cross, we will think about what an amazing thing it was that Jesus died on the Cross.

What will *you* do to make this day special?

We celebrate this great feast Friday, Sept. 14th (Sept. 22, OC).