

St. Olympiada, 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

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Our words matter!

Do you think words have power? We know what we *do* matters, but does what we *say* matter?

In today's epistle reading, we hear that our words really do matter. We read, "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart...If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

When we say something, especially in church and to our Lord, those words really mean something. They have power!

Did you know that our prayers have different parts? Part of our prayers might be to ask for something. Part of our prayers might be to thank God for something. Part of our prayers might be to say we are sorry for something. But part of our prayers is to tell God how great He is! Let's try to match what we have in our hearts with what we say out loud. Let's think about how great God is, and then say it out loud in our prayers.

What's in our hearts and our mouths matters. The epistle says, "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you say your faith and are saved."

So our words really do matter!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- CHRYSOSTOM
- COURAGE
- EXILE
- FAIR
- FAITH
- HEARTS
- OLYMPIADA
- WORDS

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

SAINT OLYMPIADA THE DEACONESS



Have you ever been treated unfairly? Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't do? What did you do about it? Did you complain or did you just keep it to yourself?

This week, we celebrate Saint Olympiada (or Olympia), a saint who was definitely treated unfairly! Saint Olympiada was a friend of Saint John Chrysostom, a great saint of our Church (he was also the patriarch). St. Olympiada came from a rich and important family in Constantinople, and when her husband died, she gave so much of her time and money to help the Christian church. With her own money, she built lots of churches in the area. She also built an orphanage and a hospital. Olympiada was also a deaconess, a special servant of the church.

After a while, St. John was sent away from Constantinople because the emperor was angry with him. St. Olympiada was upset that her friend and patriarch had been treated so unfairly. Soon after St. John left the city, the great church in Constantinople was set on fire! Even worse, some people thought that Olympiada had done it! She was put on trial, and she tried to explain she was innocent. She said, "I, who have helped build so many churches, am not in the habit of burning them down." Still, the authorities didn't like Olympiada, so they sent her away too. Saint John Chrysostom wrote to her, and helped her. He told her she was taking it all as a Christian should. Saint Olympiada died after some time. We remember for her courage and also for her friendship to Saint John!

We celebrate St. Olympiada on Thursday, July 25th (Aug. 7th, OC).

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

In this icon, you can see that Saint Olympiada was not a poor lady. Her clothes show that she came from a noble family.

But remember, St. Olympiada gave *so* much to help the Christians, especially the poor! Even St. John Chrysostom was impressed!

