

We listen to the Word of God!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2019 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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Ready for Christ

What do you do to get ready for Christmas? Do you buy or make presents? Do you help decorate? Do you go to Christmas parties? Do you make cookies? Do you get pictures taken with Santa Claus?

This time of year, we have lots of things to do that help us get ready for the big holiday! Your parents are probably busy getting ready too. Those things are fun, but sometimes we forget to get ready for Christmas in the right way.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story about the man who gave a big dinner party, but nobody came! Why? Because they were too busy. They had other things to do. They thought the other things were more important. They all made excuses, so they didn't go to the party.

This story is really about being ready for the coming of Christ. God wanted the people all to come and be with Christ, but they all made excuses. They were not ready to be with Him. When we get ready for Christmas this year, let's not make excuses about being too busy with cookies and presents and decorating! Let's get ready for Christmas by reading the Bible, praying, helping the poor, asking for forgiveness, visiting people, and going to church!



The Holy Forefathers were ready!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ABRAHAM
ANIMALS
EXCUSES
FAITHFUL
FOREFATHERS
FOREMOTHERS
GET READY
ISAAC
JACOB
MODESTOS
SARAH

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

SAINT MODESTOS OF JERUSALEM PROTECTOR OF ANIMALS

Do you like animals? Do you have a pet that you play with? Or have you been to a farm with cows and chickens and goats and sheep? When we have an animal, we always try to take care of them, because they are God's creatures too!



Tomorrow we celebrate a saint who loved animals, and he knew they are part of God's beautiful creation. Saint Modestos led the Christian church of Jerusalem as patriarch about 1,400 years ago. Saint Modestos led his people with faith and love. What we remember him most for though is his love for animals! Saint Modestos wrote a prayer for the blessing of animals that our Orthodox Church still uses today. The prayer says, "Yes Lord, look down from your holy dwelling place and bless these animals, as you blessed the flock of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all your faithful servants."

On his feastday, some Orthodox Christians remember Saint Modestos. They even sprinkle holy water on their animals and pray to this holy saint. Sometimes priests throughout the world visit farms of Orthodox Christians and bless the animals there. You can remember Saint Modestos tomorrow too. You can ask him to pray to God for you, your family, and your animals. Remember, you are all part of God's creation!

We celebrate St. Modestos on Mon., December 16th (Dec. 29th OC).

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Today we celebrate the Holy Forefathers, the saints who came before Christ.

Here, you can see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are holding babies because they were the beginning of lots of people faithful to God!

