

What are your treasures in heaven?



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 Alexandra Houck.
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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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Treasures in heaven

Do you have a piggy bank? Do you have somewhere you keep your extra money, or where you try to save for something? You probably keep it in a safe place, because it is a little treasure for you, isn't it?



Today's Gospel reading gives us some special advice for living a good life as a Christian. We learn about what kind of treasure we should have, and what we should do with that treasure! The Bible says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

What kind of treasures are these "treasures in heaven"? Well, these treasures are all the good things we do for others—like giving food and money to the poor, visiting the sick or the lonely, helping people who have nobody else to help them. These treasures are also our faith in God. We can make these treasures grow even bigger by coming closer to God with our prayers and with our reading the Bible and by receiving Holy Communion and Holy Confession. These treasures in heaven will grow and grow!

This is good advice for us Christians every day, but especially for tomorrow. Tomorrow we start Great Lent, a special time we can grow closer to our Lord!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- CONON
- FAITH
- GARDENER
- GOVERNOR
- GREAT LENT
- HELP OTHERS
- MARTYR
- SAINT
- STRENGTH
- TREASURE

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

This is another icon of St. Conon. This saint had such a strong faith in God! Even though the rulers were so mean and cruel to him, he always looked to Christ. Do you see the little icon of Christ in the corner?



SAINT CONON THE GARDENER

Have you ever had to do something very, very hard? Well, Saint Conon did. His whole life was hard, and his death was too.



Saint Conon was born and raised in Nazareth, in the same area where our Lord, Jesus Christ lived as a child. Later on, he lived in what is now Turkey. Saint Conon worked hard all his life as a simple gardener. He had a little garden with vegetables, which he sold to others and kept some for himself to live.

Once, Saint Conon was surprised that the governor wished to see him. He was surprised, because he was just a simple gardener, and Conon wondered what the mighty Governor Puplius wanted him for! Well, Governor Puplius just wanted to hurt Christians. Conon knew he had to look to his Lord, Jesus Christ for help. Conon told the governor that he was a Christian and that he would never back down.

Saint Conon never did back down, even though the governor sentenced him to lots of terrible punishments. He was even tied to the governor's chariot and made to run after it. Saint Conon had a hard life, but we know that God rewards us for our struggles. In the Bible, we read Christ's words, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." And surely God has given rest to this wonderful saint!

We celebrate St. Conon on Thursday, March 5 (March 18, OC).