

The Dormition of the Holy Theotokos



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 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

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Volume 8, Issue 32

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Building the foundation

Have you ever tried to build something together with a friend or with a brother or sister? A sand castle? A Lego construction? A fort out in the woods? When you build something, you know you have to start off the right way, or else it might not work!



In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us the same thing. Saint Paul wanted to help build something really great, the Church of Christ! He writes, "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it...No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

As Christians, we want to start off the right way. And thank God, we have lots of people to help us build the foundation the right way. Your parents teach you about God and His love. Your godparents baptized you so you could follow Christ. Your priest teaches you and gives you the sacraments. Your church school teachers teach you things about His Church. Camp counselors and other friends in your church help lead you to Christ too.

All of these people are builders too, and they are helping you build the right foundation inside you, "which is Jesus Christ." Thank God for your builders!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

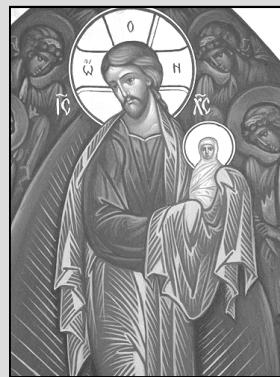
BLESSINGS
BUILDING
DORMITION
FEASTDAY
FOUNDATION
MARY
PASCHA
SAVE US
THANK YOU
THEOTOKOS

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

What's in an icon?

In the middle of the Dormition icon, Christ holds the soul of his mother, Mary.

Does it remind you of an icon of the Theotokos holding her baby son, Jesus?



PASCHA IN AUGUST? THE GREAT FEAST OF DORMITION

In springtime, we celebrate the great feast of Christ's Resurrection. You might call that special day Easter, or you might call it Pascha. Pascha means "passing over." We remember how our Lord, Jesus Christ, "passed over" death to life again. We know that our Lord is living, watching over us still.

We celebrate another Pascha too, and we celebrate it this week! This feastday is called the Dormition, and some people call it another Pascha, because God's mother, the Theotokos, "passed over" death into life. We know that the Theotokos is living too, and she is watching over us too!

Orthodox Christians celebrate this day in a big way! Pascha in April is a celebration, but this is a celebration too. God gave us life when He rose from the dead, but Mary gave us life too when she gave baby Jesus life. So, we have to celebrate!

All through the first half of August we have been praying to the Theotokos, and we ask her to "save us." We can always ask her for help, especially in getting close to her son, Jesus Christ. After all, she was the closest person to Him! This week, let's celebrate this other Pascha, and thank the Theotokos for her help.

We celebrate the feast of the Dormition on Aug. 15th (OC: Aug. 28th).

