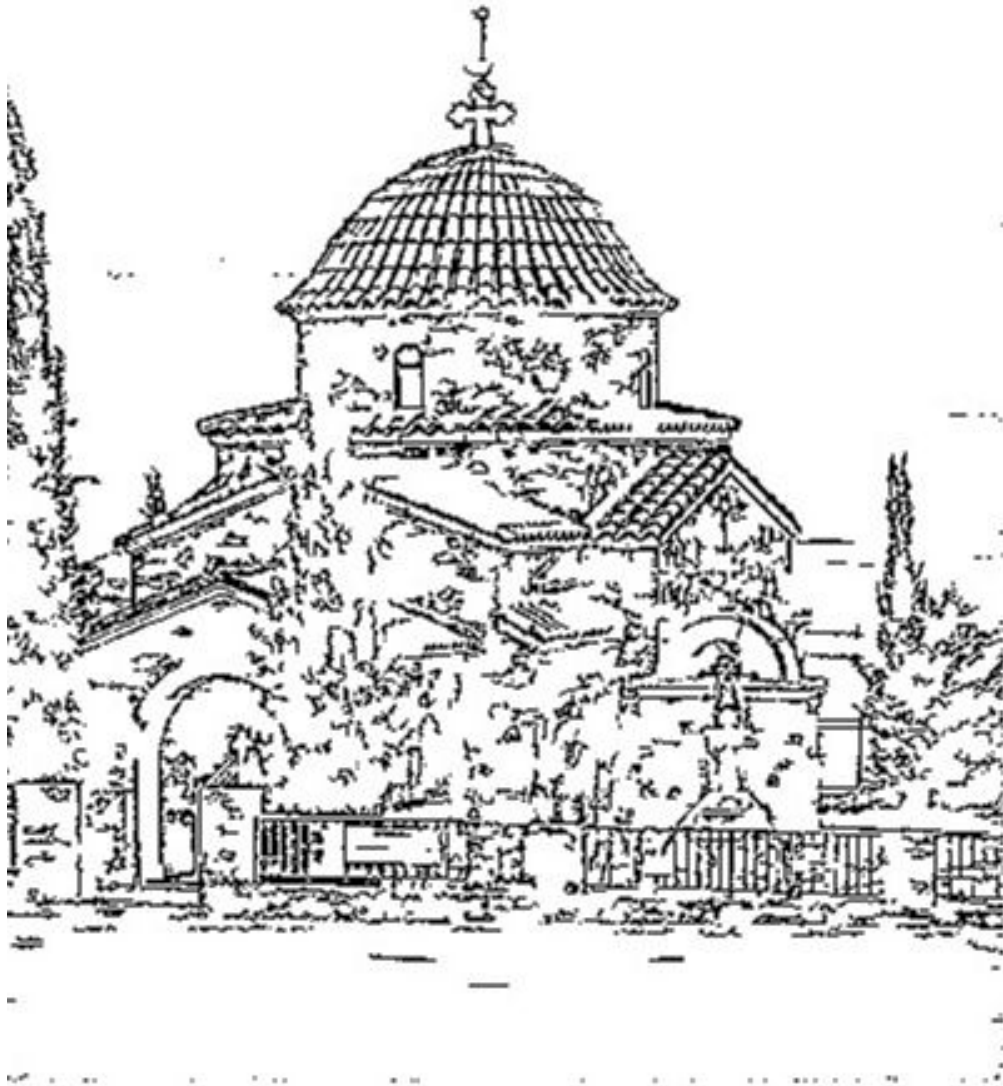


Saints of Cyprus, pray for us!

This is a church at a monastery in Cyprus. It is named after the saints of Cyprus.



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, October 4, 2020

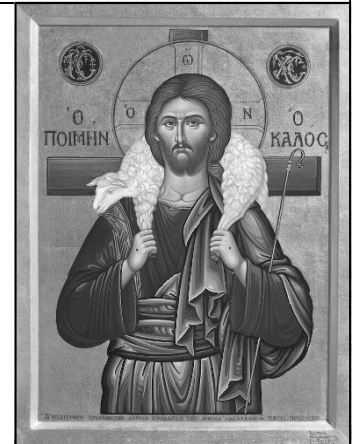
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Getting clean

Have you ever gotten really, really dirty? Maybe you played outside in the mud. Or maybe you ran around in the woods on a hot and sticky day. Well, after that, did you take a shower or a bath? It feels so good to get clean after being *so* dirty. Sometimes we might not even *want* to get clean, but afterwards, we feel great!



Today, in the epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us about a different kind of clean. He tells us how God makes a promise to us. When we are clean on the inside, when our souls are clean, God says, "I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Saint Paul tells us, "Let us cleanse ourselves...and make holiness perfect in the fear of God."

God makes this wonderful promise with us. We can get clean on the inside. We can try to do the right thing. We can try to love God and our neighbor so much. We can ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done. If we are clean on the inside, God will welcome us. He will be a loving father to us. God wants us to be clean on the inside!

Just like when we take a nice, refreshing bath or shower for the *outside* of us, it feels so good to get clean on the *inside* too. And when we do, God promises us the best thing ever!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

BARNABAS
CHRISTIAN
CLEAN
CYPRUS
DIRTY
FATHER
PAUL
SAINTS
WELCOME

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

What's in an icon?

If you zoom in on the icon on page 3, you will see our old friend, Saint Paul.

Why is he holding a church with his friend, Saint Barnabas? That's because they both went to Cyprus to help start the Christian Church there!



HOMETOWN HEROES THE SAINTS OF CYPRUS

Do you watch sports? Do you have a favorite team? Sometimes you might hear about a sports player who is from your same town, or your same state. You might have a special pride for where you come from, and you'll cheer extra hard for him or her.

Today is the first Sunday of October, and today we celebrate a special nameday. We remember *all* the saints of the island of Cyprus. (One person counted 240 saints, but another person counted 369 of them. There are probably even more!) The people in Cyprus have a special pride for their saints and wanted to celebrate them all together.

Do you know about the saints from where you live? Do you know about the saints from your own country? Have you learned about the saints from where your ancestors lived? These are your hometown heroes! Maybe you have a special pride or love for them. Or maybe you can feel especially close to them and ask them to pray to God for you.

Today, we remember the saints of Cyprus, but we can also think about our own special saints who lived near where we live!

We celebrate the saints of Cyprus on the first Sunday in October!

