

Be “rich toward God.”



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

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Volume 8, Issue 47

A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



## Eat, drink, and be merry?

### What would you do if you

had years of free time? Yes, years. Not just a few hours a day, but years! Nothing to do. No need to work. Would you relax, have parties with your friends, or goof off? Or would you spend your time in a different way?



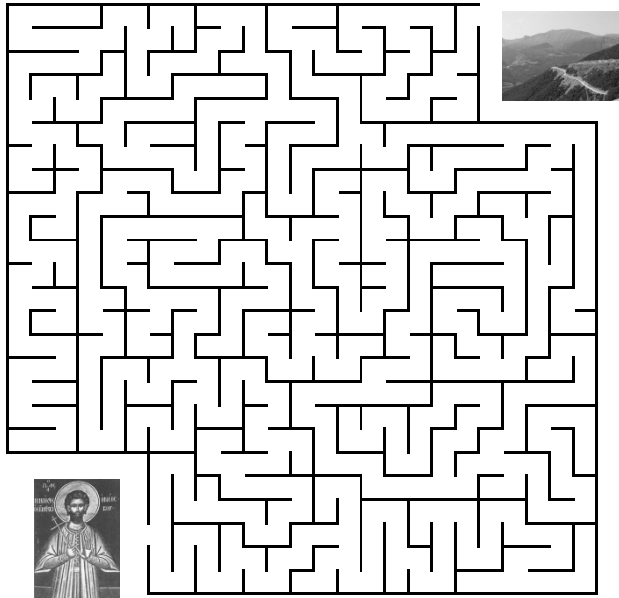
In today's Gospel lesson, a man faced that question. He stored up enough food to live for many years. What did *he* choose to do? “Eat, drink, and be merry,” he said. In other words, he decided to take it easy, have parties, and enjoy himself. He didn't feel like working. Now he had lots of free time, and he planned to have some fun!

But in this Gospel reading, God wants us to know that there is more to life than having fun! As Christians, we must always try harder and harder to improve ourselves. We must always work at being more like our Lord, Jesus Christ.

What do *you* do with the few hours of free time you have? Think about how much time you spend playing video games, watching TV, or looking on your computer or phone. Then think about how many minutes you spend praying, or reading something that will help you, or helping another person. How does it compare? God wants us to spend our time in the right way.

# HELP SAINT NICHOLAS

Can you help Saint Nicholas of Metsovo find his way back to his hometown in the mountains of northern Greece? He left to work in another city.



## What's in an icon?

This is an icon of the parable we hear in the Gospel today!

Do you see the rich man talking to the angel?

Do you see the men building bigger barns so the man can store his food?



## SAINT NICHOLAS OF METSOVO RICH TOWARD GOD

### Saint Nicholas Day is coming!

Well, yes, in two weeks we celebrate our good friend, Saint Nicholas of Myra. But we have other Nicholas saints too! St. Nicholas of Japan, St. Nicholas Planas, St. Nicholas the tsar of Russia, St. Nikolai Velimirovitch, and so many more!

On Saturday, we will celebrate another Saint Nicholas—not one you sing about in Christmas carols and who is dressed in red. But this Saint Nicholas loved God very much, and even gave his life to show his love for our one, true God.



This St. Nicholas lived in Metsovo, which is in the northern part of Greece. He came from a poor family, and he worked hard in a bakery so he could take care of his family. One day some richer people got to know Nicholas, and they helped him with many things. They persuaded Nicholas to give up his faith in Christ and to become Muslim. So, St. Nicholas did. Later, Nicholas felt so sorry for denying Christ. He told everybody, “I was born a Christian, I am a Christian, and a Christian I wish to die.”

The rulers didn’t want Nicholas to believe in Jesus Christ. Sadly, Nicholas was killed for his strong faith, but now he is a saint in heaven. In the Gospel today, we hear about how we should be “rich toward God.” Do you see how Saint Nicholas gives us his great example of being “rich toward God”?

**We celebrate St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 28th (OC: Dec. 11).**