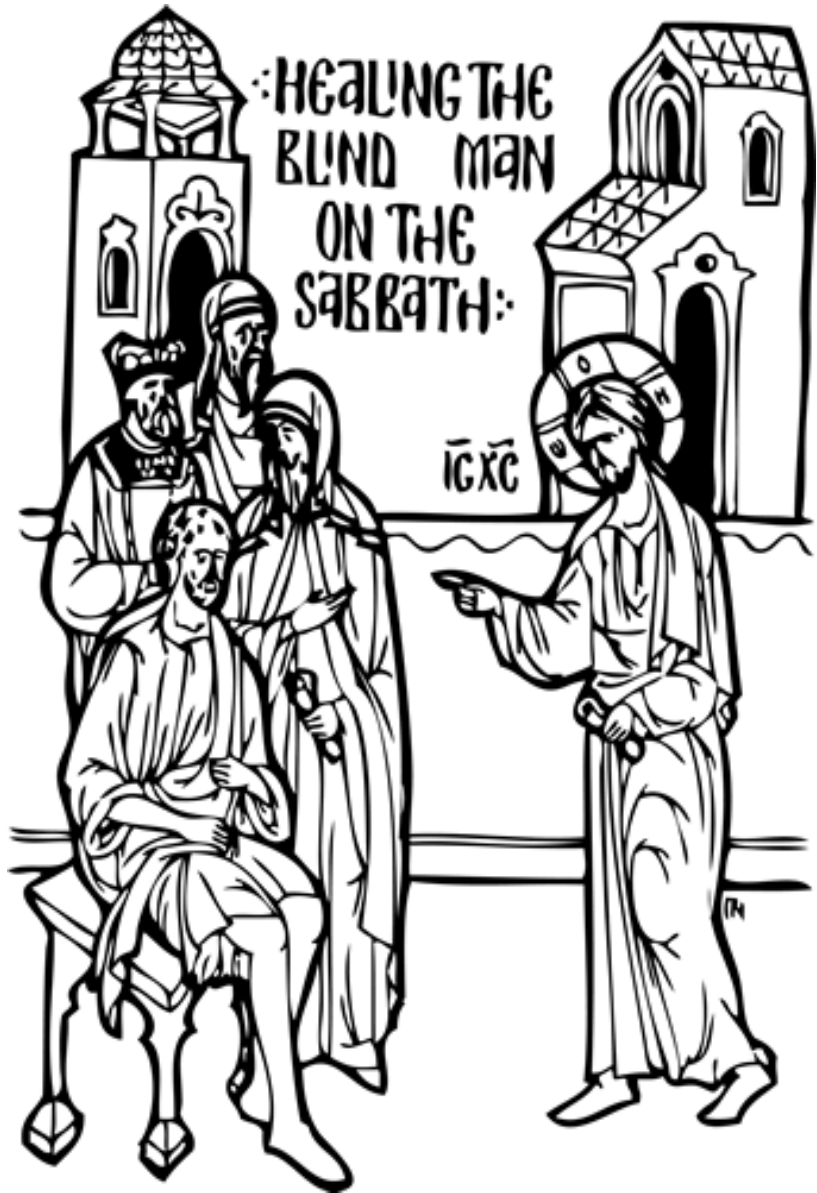



Sunday of the Blind Man



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Email is [orthodoxchildrensword \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com). Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

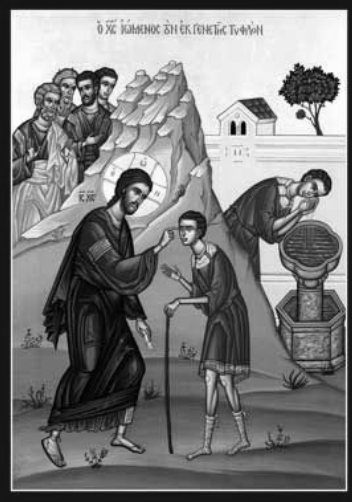
"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Never since the world began...

Can you think of a time that you saw something you had never ever seen before? Maybe it was an interesting animal or car or even food. Maybe you said to yourself, "I've never seen *that* before!"

In today's Gospel reading we read about something that happened while Jesus visited the people. He healed a man who had been blind since he was born! And after Jesus healed him, everybody seemed to say, "I've never seen *that* before!" Later on in the Gospel reading, the man who had been blind says, "Never since the world began has anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind." Nobody had ever seen *that* before, because it had never happened! Our Lord Jesus Christ did something that nobody had ever done.



One of our wonderful saints, Saint Athanasios the Great, tells us why this miracle is such a big deal. He tells us that there were lots of miracles in the Old Testament, before Jesus came to earth. People even were raised from the dead! But Saint Athanasios reminds us about the prophecy in the Old Testament, the words that were written 700 years before Christ was born. Those words tell us that the savior is here when the eyes of the blind are opened. This miracle was such a big deal because nobody had ever done it before. This miracle showed that Jesus was the one who would save the whole world!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ATHANASIOS
BLIND MAN
CHRIST IS RISEN
CONFESSOR
ICONS
MIRACLES
NIKEPHOROS
PROPHECY

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

What's in an icon?

Saint Nikephoros was the patriarch, and a bishop. That's why in his icon, he carries a Gospel, because bishops teach the faith.

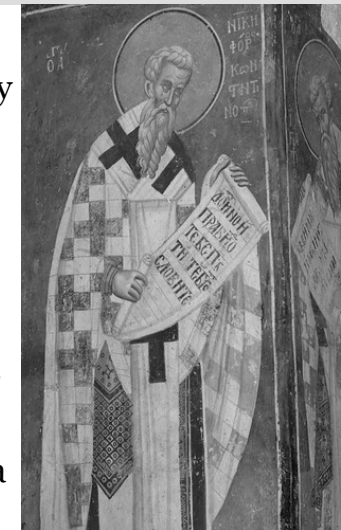
But Saint Nikephoros also knew that along with the Gospel, icons were another way we teach our holy Orthodox faith!



FIGHTING FOR ICONS SAINT NIKEPHOROS THE CONFESSOR

Do you love icons so much that you would fight for them? If you saw somebody putting them down and stomping on them, would you fight for them?

Well, Saint Nikephoros did! Saint Nikephoros was born many years ago, in the year 758. At that time the emperors seemed to go back and forth between loving icons or hating them. For a few years the people would have an emperor or empress who protected icons, and then for a few years they would have a ruler who hated them and wanted them all destroyed!



Saint Nikephoros wrote three great works to explain why the Church must have icons! Later on, Nikephoros became the Patriarch of Constantinople, but unfortunately the emperor at the time was a terrible icon-hater. He hated icons so much that he punished people who defended them! Saint Nikephoros fought for icons, even though the emperor sent people to secretly attack and kill him. This didn't happen, but finally the emperor sent the holy saint away into exile, where he was forced to live away from his church flock. That way, the emperor wouldn't have to listen to his warnings and advice!

Saint Nikephoros died in exile, but our Church remembers his courage and how he loved icons so much that he fought for them!

We celebrate St. Nikephoros on Sunday, June 2nd.