

Sunday of All Saints



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2019 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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A cloud of witnesses!

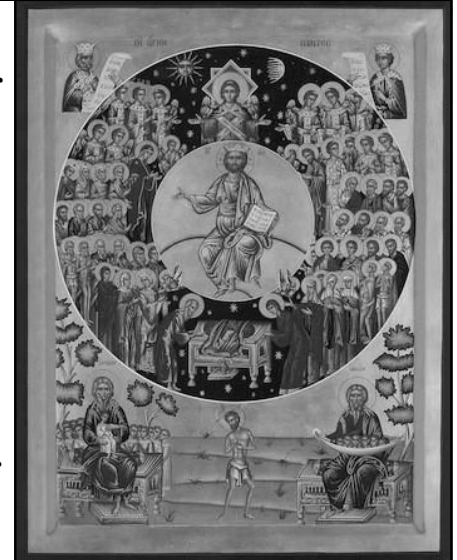
Do you know what a witness is?

A witness is somebody who saw something or heard something. A witness knows something because of what he saw or heard.

Today is All Saints Sunday, the day we remember all the wonderful saints we have in our Church. As the Gospel tells us today, these wonderful saints are witnesses! But what did these witnesses see or hear? They heard about Jesus Christ, and they lived their lives in a special way because they learned to love God so much!

The Gospel says, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely." We have a cloud of witnesses, a whole bunch of saints. And our saints all point us to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

When we look to all these witnesses, we are looking to our Lord! When we follow all these witnesses, the saints, we can try to be part of the cloud of witnesses too! We can see or hear something about God that makes us live our lives in a special way too. Then, that means that we can show other people the way to God too, just like the saints have done for us!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- ALL SAINTS
- FOMAR
- GEORGIA
- MONASTERY
- MOSCOW
- NUN
- SEE AND HEAR
- WITNESSES

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

If you look closely at the icon of All Saints, you can see that the saints are all in different groups. The monks are in one group, the apostles are in another group, the Old Testament saints are in another group.

But who is always in the middle? Our Lord, Jesus Christ!



DO YOU KNOW A SAINT? SAINT FOMAR (TAMARA) OF MOSCOW

Have you ever met a saint? Maybe. Sometimes we might think of saints as living many, many years ago. But saints are alive among us today. That's because people who love God very, very much are around us today!



A nun holds a new icon of Saint Fomar, because she was just declared a saint

Today we celebrate a saint who was just declared a saint three years ago. Saint Fomar was born in 1868 in the country of Georgia with the name Tamara. She came from a rich family, but she gave up a fancy life to become a simple nun. Later on, she helped start a monastery near Moscow, Russia, and Saint Fomar became the abbess, a loving and patient leader of these nuns. Sadly, when the saint was an old lady, the leaders of Russia (who didn't believe in God) decided to close the monastery. They arrested Saint Fomar, and they sent her to Irkutsk, a very cold part of Russia. Saint Fomar became very sick there and she died in 1938. Saint Fomar is an example to us, because she never gave up her faith in God. In fact, her faith grew stronger and stronger!

Today is the Sunday of All Saints. Always remember that God calls each one of us to be saints. And we always have examples (like St. Fomar!) to help us.

We celebrate St. Fomar today, June 23rd (July 6th, OC).