

## Christ calls the first disciples



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2019 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

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## God commissions us!



**Have you ever gotten a special job?** Have your parents or your teacher ever given you a special task that you were supposed to finish?

In today's Gospel reading, we read about how the disciples got a special job from the Lord. Jesus showed

them a miracle when they were out catching fish. He called them, and then the disciples "left everything and followed Him." God had a special task, a special job for them. He told them, "you will be catching men." They would "catch" people to teach them and to lead them to Christ!

The epistle today also tells us about a special task that Christians have. Saint Paul writes in the epistle, "It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put His seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts." Do you know what "commission" means? It means God sends us with a special task, a special job. God wants us to do that job. He wants us to do our best! We know that the disciples had special jobs to do. We know that our bishops have special jobs too. We know that our priests have special jobs. But God gives us a "commission" too!

Let's follow our Lord, so He can show us what our special commission is!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

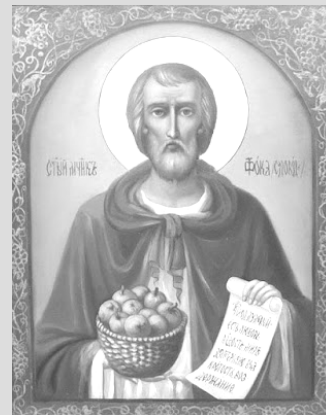
CALLING  
COMMISSION  
DISCIPLES  
FISHERMEN  
GARDEN  
HOSPITALITY  
LOVE  
MIRACLE  
PHOCAS  
SHARE

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

# What's in an icon?

Here is another icon of St. Phocas, the Gardener.

Do you see what he is holding? A basket of fruit that he would share with the poor!



# SHARING THE HARVEST SAINT PHOCAS THE GARDENER

## Have you ever planted a garden?

When it was time to pick, what did you do with your fruits or vegetables or flowers? Did you keep them for yourself or did you share them with somebody else?

Long, long ago, a saint named St. Phocas planted a small garden each year. He was a little poor, but he still shared what he grew with people who were even poorer.

Saint Phocas gave hospitality and love to everyone! Later in his life, the authorities found out he was a Christian, and they sent soldiers to arrest him. But St. Phocas was hospitable and loving even to the soldiers, and he gave them food and let them stay the night at his little house!

We always try to be like the saints. In Toronto, Canada, some Orthodox Christians plant a special garden. They plant lots of fruits and vegetables. When things are ready to pick, everything goes to the poor people in the city! This group is called the St. John the Compassionate Mission, and they do many other things to help the poor and needy in their city.



You may not have a garden, but what can *you* do to try to be like St. Phocas the Gardener?

This priest is getting a garden ready for the poor!

We celebrate St. Phocas today, September 22nd (Oct. 5, OC).