

Receive Him joyfully!



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

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Receive Him Joyfully!

Can you think of something you *have* to do, but you don't *want* to do? Maybe a chore like cleaning up your room or doing homework? Sometimes chores like those seem to take forever!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story of Zacchaeus. You remember that Zacchaeus was the man who climbed a tree to see Jesus pass by. When Jesus called him to come down and invite Him to his house, Zacchaeus came down quickly, "and received Him joyfully." Zacchaeus didn't think about all the things he had to do to get ready. He didn't think about how he had to clean up afterwards and find something for Jesus to eat. The Gospel tells us that Zacchaeus came down quickly, "and received Him joyfully"!

As Orthodox Christians, we have a great blessing! We can receive our Lord Jesus Christ too! We receive Jesus when we have Holy Communion. We receive Him when we pray to Him, and when we read the Bible too. We receive Jesus. But do we do it joyfully? Do we complain about going to church, or do we complain about praying to God at night? Do we complain that we have to read the Bible (or maybe we don't do it at all)?

Let's be like Zacchaeus in the story today. We can receive Jesus. Let's receive Him joyfully!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

BIBLE
COMMUNION
EVDOXIA
HOLY
JOYFUL
MARTYR
MOTHER
PRAYER
RECEIVE
SAINTS
ZACCHAEUS

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

What's in an icon?

Do the saints on page 3 make you think of another strong, Christian mother with 3 daughters?

The one on the left is Saint Sophia, with her daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love.



THREE SISTERS

SAINTS THEODOTI, THEOKTISTI, AND EVDOKIA



Many, many years ago, the awful emperor Diocletian was furious. Why? Because lots of people were becoming Christians. They were ignoring the idols and worshipping our one, true God instead!

One Christian mother, named Athanasia, had three daughters, Theodoti, Theoktisti, and little Evdokia. She taught them to love God more than anything or anybody else. The girls were young, but that didn't stop the idol-worshipping authorities from sending them to prison.

Two other Christians (Cyrus and John) heard about this strong Christian family, and they went to visit them in prison. They wanted to encourage them. They wanted to tell the young girls to stay strong. They wanted to tell the girls that God wants them to love Him more than anybody or anything. They all prayed together.

Sadly, this made the guards even angrier, and they took all of these Christians and began to hurt them. But the family never gave up their love for God. That's why God welcomed these saints to heaven with His own love for them.

We celebrate these sisters on Tuesday, January 31st (Feb. 13, OCA)