

We grow close to God!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 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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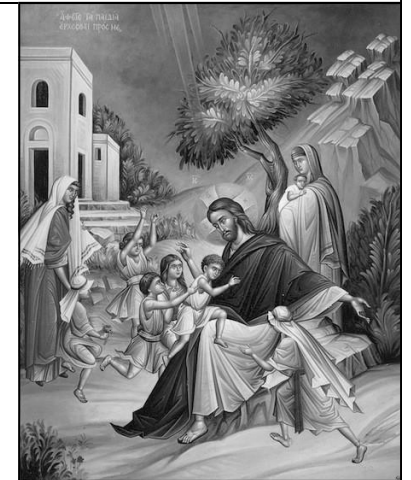
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Growing in the faith

Are you still growing? Sometimes, we might think we are pretty much all grown up. But then, when we look back on it, we know we weren't!

We grow in how tall we are, and how much we weigh, and how much we know, and how much we can do. But we also grow in our faith too! We grow in what we know about God and His Church, too.



In the epistle today, Saint Paul writes to the new Christians. He writes, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened." Saint Paul says that they *want* to know more about God, but they don't know everything yet.

As children, we are like this too! We want to be close to God, but we don't know everything yet either. We can try to know more about God by reading the Bible, reading about the saints, learning from our teachers and learning from our parents. When we learn more about God, we grow closer to Him too, and our Lord is always ready to draw us closer to Him.

Did you know something? We can *always* be learning more about God, because we can *never* know everything! Even when we are old, we can still try to learn more. And the good thing is that God *always* wants us to learn more about Him!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

CHILD
CROSS
ENLIGHTEN
FAITH
GROWING
I LOVE CHRIST
JULITTA
KYRIKOS
LEARNING
MARTYRS

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

What's in an icon?

Here is another icon of Saints Julitta and Kyrikos. Do you see how the mother is helping her son in his Christian faith? Kyrikos is making the sign of the Cross.

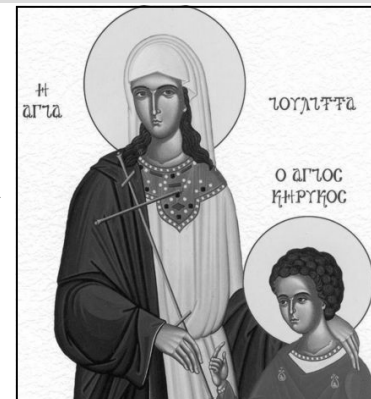
Do you know who taught you to make the sign of the Cross?



A HAPPY ENDING

SAINTS JULITTA AND KYRIKOS

Have you ever heard a very sad story? You've probably read a book or watched a movie that started very sad and maybe ended, "happily ever after." This week we hear a story of two saints that really does end "happily ever after"!



Saint Julitta lived many years ago during the time when many Christians were hurt and persecuted and even killed just for being Christians. Julitta lived during the time of the emperor Diocletian, the same emperor who killed Saint George. Julitta's husband died young, and so Saint Julitta had to raise her little son, Kyrikos, all by herself. She knew it was her job to make sure he grew up to be a strong and faithful Christian.

The governor heard that Julitta was a faithful Christian and he wanted to make an example of her. He took her little three-year-old son, Kyrikos, and he tried to make her give up on Christ. Kyrikos was a little boy, but he already knew he loved Christ very much. He told the governor, "I am a Christian! Give me back to my mother." This made the governor very mad. Kyrikos said again, "I love Christ!" Soon, the little boy and his mother were hurt by the rulers, and they were then killed.

As Christians, we know that that isn't the end of the story! God rewards those who love Him and want to be with Him. We know that these special saints—the faithful mother and faithful son—are with our Lord "happily ever after."

We celebrate Saints Julitta and Kyrikos on Wed. July 15th (OC: July 28).