

Christ is born! Glorify Him!



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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Getting ready for Christmas



OUR waiting is easy!

How do YOU get ready for Christmas?

Do you buy or make presents? Do you help cook a fancy dinner? Do you decorate the house? We all have ways of getting ready for the great day.

But in today's Gospel reading, we hear about how people had been getting ready for the very *first* Christmas. They had been getting ready...for almost two thousand years! We hear, "Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob..." and so on, all

the way down to Joseph and Mary.

Abraham lived almost two thousand years before Christ was born! Ever since then, the faithful people had waited. They got ready for the first Christmas. Not with fancy dinners or pretty Christmas trees, of course. They prayed that God would give them a Savior, somebody who would save the world. This Somebody was our Lord, Jesus Christ!

On the day before Christmas, we read the Gospel that tells us about how Jesus was born. "for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." This was wonderful news—news that the world had been waiting for, for a very long time!

So on Christmas Eve night, when you are excited for Christmas to come, just remember the people who *really* had to wait...for two thousand years! Then, let's thank God that He has come!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ABRAHAM
CHRISTMAS
FAITHFUL
FOREMOTHER
HOSPITALITY
NATIVITY
SARAH
SERVANT
VISITORS
WAITING

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

What's in an icon?

This icon was made more than one thousand years ago!

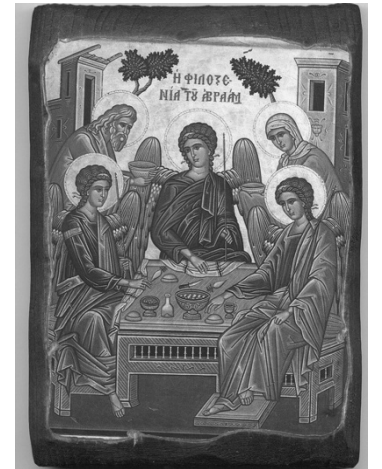
Can you find Mary, the Theotokos? Can you find baby Jesus?

Can you find the animals who were with Him?



RIGHTEOUS SARAH THE HOLY FOREMOTHER

Have you ever had visitors at your house? Did you make them feel welcome? Did you talk to them and give them food and something to drink? Welcoming visitors is called “hospitality,” and today we celebrate a saint who welcomed some very special visitors.



Sarah was the wife of Abraham. We call Abraham a forefather of our Lord, Jesus Christ, because he came before Jesus. He was like a great-great-great...grandfather. So, his wife Sarah, was a foremother of the Lord!

Once, three visitors came to see Abraham and Sarah. The old husband and wife welcomed the visitors, even though they were strangers to them. Abraham and Sarah took care of the visitors, and the visitors told them that Sarah would have a baby. Later on, Sarah did have a baby, Isaac, and that was a special miracle. Abraham and Sarah were faithful to God. If you go to a wedding, you will hear their names in the wedding prayers. We remember them because they were married to each other, but they were faithful to God *together*.

The icon up above is called “The Hospitality of Abraham” but we know that Sarah showed hospitality and love for the visitors too! And God knows it too!

We celebrate St. Sarah today, the Sunday before Christmas.