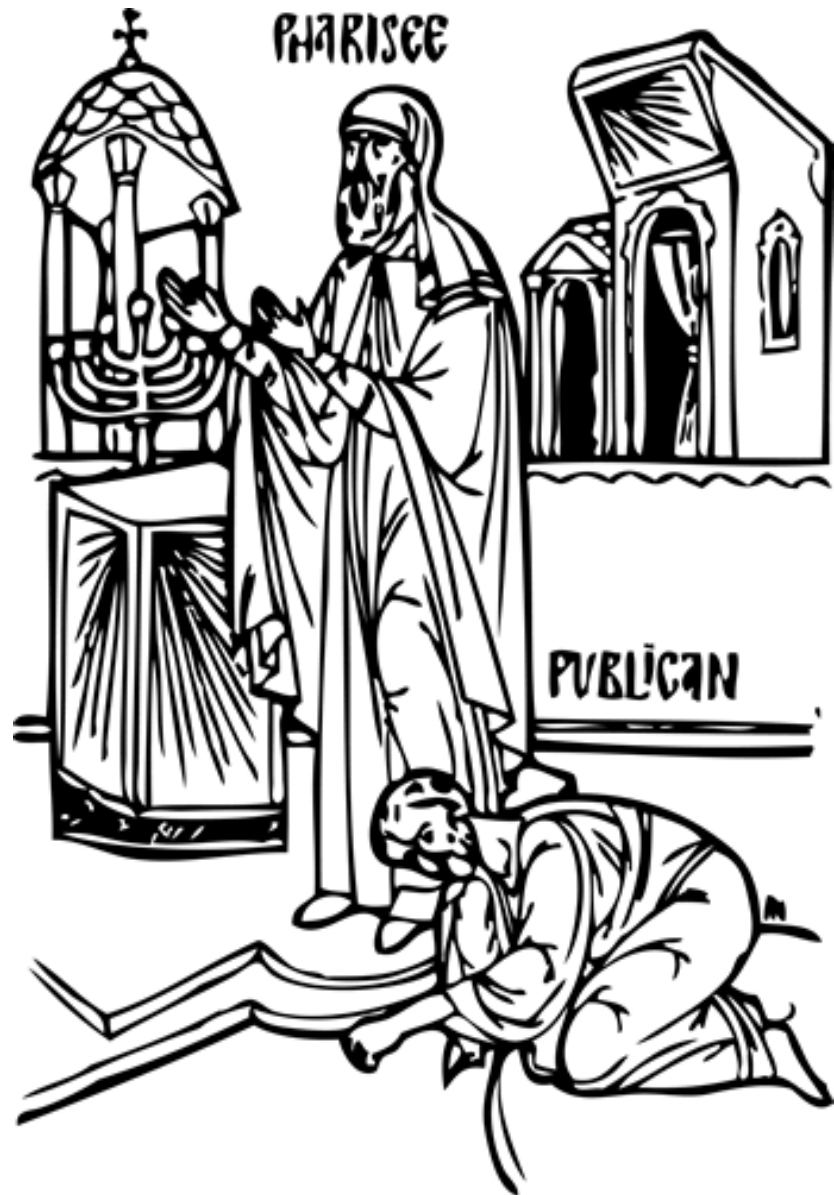


“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”



# 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

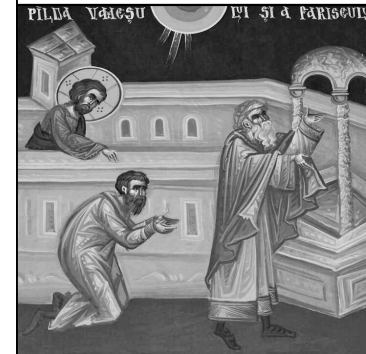
Sunday, February 21, 2021

Volume 9, Issue 8

A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



## What's the difference?



Have you ever played a “find the difference” game? You know, you look at one picture and then you look at the other picture. Then you try to figure out what is different about the two. (You can do one on page 2!).

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a man who played “find the difference” in real life! This man looked at himself, and then he looked other people. He tried to figure out what was different about him and others. He tried to show how he was better than others. He saw another man in the temple and told God how he was better than that tax collector.

This man, called the Pharisee, prayed like this: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men...even like this tax collector.” This Pharisee “found the difference” and showed God too!

“Find the difference” games are fun, but God doesn't want us to do them in real life. He doesn't want us to compare ourselves to other people. He doesn't want us to notice what other people are doing wrong! Why? Because we could be like this Pharisee in the story today. Did you see how that Pharisee said how he was better? Did you see how that Pharisee said he was great?

God wants us to pay attention to what God wants from us. Let's not try to “find the difference” with other people. Let's notice what God wants!

## FIND THE DIFFERENCES



Can you find the differences between these two pictures?

## What's in an icon?

Here is an icon of Saint Gorgonia with her older brother, Saint Gregory.

Do you think you and your siblings (or cousins or friends!) can help each other be saints?



## SAINT GORGONIA THE SISTER OF SAINT GREGORY

**Have you ever described a** brother or sister, or a friend? If somebody said, "What's your sister like?", what would you say? Maybe you would tell what she looked like, or what she likes to do, or what her favorite things are.



Many years ago (1,400 years!), one of the great saints of our Church, Saint Gregory the Theologian, described his younger sister, Saint Gorgonia. Sadly, she died before he did, and Saint Gregory gave a beautiful sermon about her.

In his sermon, Saint Gregory didn't tell what his sister looked like, but he did tell what she liked to do. His sister, Gorgonia, liked to help other people. She took care of her family, and she took care of strangers too! Gorgonia was married with five children. She helped her husband become a Christian. She raised her children to be faithful Christians too. She also helped strangers by inviting them to her house, and serving them, giving them food and a place to stay.

Saint Gorgonia came from a holy family. Her mother was Saint Nonna, and her big brother was Saint Gregory the Theologian, one of the Three Hierarchs. But you don't have to come from a holy family to love the Lord and to do what He asks! Saint Gregory told how his sister, Gorgonia, was an example for everyone. Wouldn't that be how you'd want somebody to describe *you*?

**We celebrate St. Gorgonia on Tuesday, Feb. 23rd (OC: March 8th).**