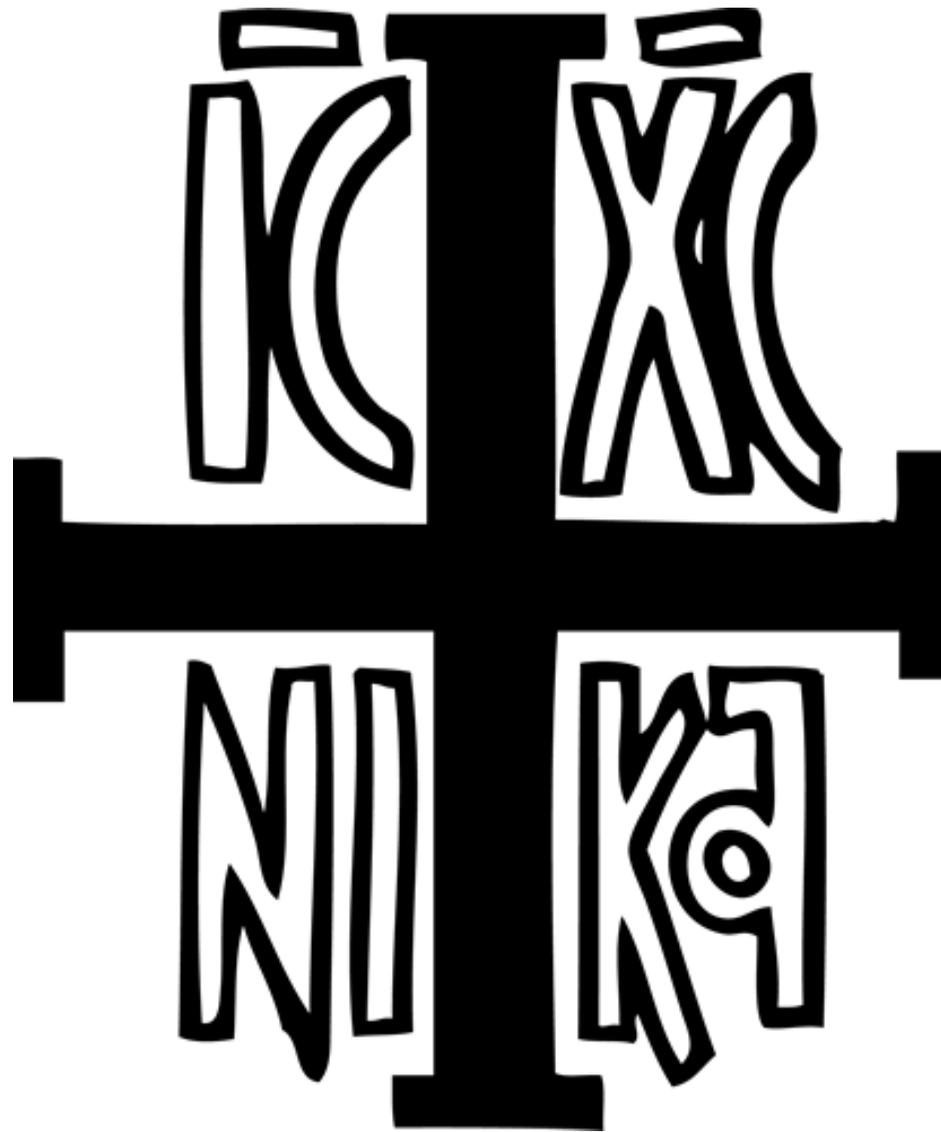


Jesus Christ conquers!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 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

Sunday, April 4, 2021

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## Take up your Cross!

**Have you ever waved a flag?** You probably have waved a flag at a parade or at a sports game. You see flags waving everywhere on the 4th of July!

When we wave our flag, we are celebrating our independence. We thank God for our freedom. We are proud of the people who helped keep the rights God gave us. The flag is something that helps us remember our freedom!



Today, we celebrate a special day in our Church. It's the Sunday of the Holy Cross. We celebrate today because the Holy Cross helps us remember a different kind of freedom. When we see the Cross, we think ahead to the Resurrection. The Cross isn't something sad for us, even though our Lord died on it. The Cross shows that Christ won. He won freedom for us!

Do you know what kind of freedom Christ won for us? He made us free from sin and from death. With the Cross, we have true freedom, because now we can be free with Christ in heaven.

The Gospel tells us today, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." So, let's celebrate today and take up our crosses. We can joyfully show our crosses, and celebrate the freedom Christ won for us!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Freedom
- Holy
- Independence
- Kiev Caves
- Lent
- Monks
- Obedient
- Resurrection
- Rufus

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

# WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

This is the icon we see at church today! In the middle, we see the Patriarch Macarios (the bishop) praying in front of the holy Cross.

Do you see how the emperor and the empress honor (venerate) the Cross too? Let's follow their example and honor the Cross today too!



# SAINT RUFUS THE OBEDIENT

**Do you have a friend named Rufus?** Probably not, but you might know of a dog named Rufus. Did you know it used to be the most popular dog name? It's a name that's easy to say when you call your dog to obey you!



This week we celebrate a more special Rufus, who was known for being obedient. In fact, we hardly know anything about him, but 700 years after he lived, we Orthodox Christians still remember him as Saint Rufus the Obedient!

Saint Rufus was a monk who lived in the Kiev Caves, which is in the country of Ukraine. Almost a thousand years ago, a monk decided to live in a cavern in this secluded spot. More monks followed his example, and they settled there too. In this spot, there were many, many caverns, and the monks even lived and went to church underground! Over the years, these Kiev Caves became a very popular place for monks. Even today, the Kiev Caves monastery is still active with monks.

Saint Rufus was one of the monks who chose this special and holy place to pray and to focus more closely on the Lord! We all live in very different places than Saint Rufus did, but we all have many people we need to obey. That's why we can still follow Saint Rufus's holy example!

**We celebrate St. Rufus on Thursday, April 8th (OC: April 21st).**