

Saint Prokopios, pray for us!



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

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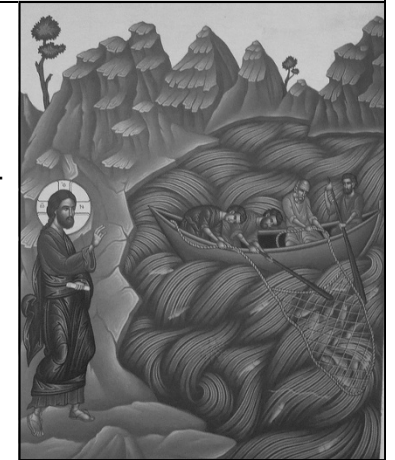
Follow me!

Have you ever been very busy at something—maybe building something with Legos, maybe writing a letter. Then, all of a sudden, your mother or father says, "It's time for dinner!" or "We have to leave right now!" It's hard to stop what we're doing and start something else.

But in today's Gospel reading, we hear about how Christ called His first disciples. These men were very busy, working as fishermen. Then, all of a sudden, Jesus comes to them and says, "Follow me!" It would have been hard to put down what they were doing. But they did! The Bible says, "Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

Now let's say you are doing something you *really* like to do. All of a sudden, you might have a good thought like, "I could read my Bible." Or "I could say my prayers." Or "I could see if my parents need help with something." Or "I could send money to people who need it." Now you might go right back to what you are doing. But you **could** try to be like the disciples. "Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

God sometimes gives us these good ideas. When we think of these good ideas, God is helping us follow Him! If we ignore these things, we can miss a chance to do the right thing. Listen to these good ideas! Can you try to stop what you're doing sometimes and follow Him?



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostles
- Diocletian
- Fishermen
- Follow me
- God bless America
- Gospel
- Marriage
- Prayer
- Prokopios
- Saint
- Theodosia
- Wedding
- Witness

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Saint Prokopios is special to many Orthodox Christians!

This icon is from the church of Shen Prokopit (Saint Prokopios) in Tirana, Albania.

He is the protector of Albania!

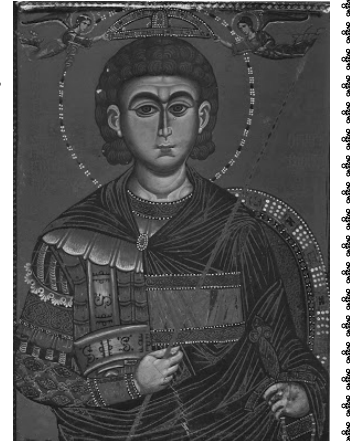


SAINT PROKOPIOS

A SAINT FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Have you ever been to a wedding

service at your church? If you listened *very* carefully (and you weren't thinking ahead to the reception), you might have heard the name of a special saint we remember this week!



At the very end of the marriage service, we ask for the prayers of Saint Prokopios. Do you know him?

Sadly, Prokopios's father died when the boy was very young. His father was a Christian, but his mother, Theodosia, worshipped idols. Theodosia brought her son to the Emperor Diocletian, who was very cruel to Christians. Later, when Prokopios wanted to be a Christian, Theodosia even told the emperor on her son! She told the emperor Prokopios worshipped Christ!

The emperor had Prokopios hurt and tortured. Theodosia saw all this, and she saw her son's courage. She knew that his God must be someone very special, if Prokopios was willing to die for Him! Then Theodosia became a Christian too! Prokopios and Theodosia both followed Christ to the end, and then got a new beginning with God in heaven!

So why do we pray to Saint Prokopios at weddings? Because the new husband and wife want to grow close to our Lord Jesus Christ too! Saint Prokopios can help them struggle to heaven together!

We remember Saint Prokopios on Thursday, July 8th (OC: July 21st).