

Saint Olympias, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck.
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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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God is wonderful in His saints

Before your school day starts, **do** you ever have any special announcements at the beginning of the day? You might hear some announcements about things that are coming up, things you need to know, things you need to keep in mind throughout the day.



In our Church, we also hear some special announcements in our liturgy. Before we hear the epistle and gospel, we hear something called the prokeimenon (it means "before the reading"). This prokeimenon is some good advice or a beautiful thing that we can keep in mind when we hear the readings.

Today, you will hear the chanter sing, "God is wonderful among his saints. Bless God in the congregations." Doesn't that sound like good advice to keep in mind? The prokeimenon is like our morning announcement. Just like at school, we remember the special advice we hear, we can remember these special words too.

We can try to remember this verse during the epistle, and also in our day. Can you say it to yourself sometime after church too? Sometimes we might let our minds wander in church (and in school!) but each word we hear at church is special and valuable.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Advice
- Announcement
- Bless God
- Chrysostom
- Deacon
- Helper
- Olympias
- Prokeimenon
- Saints
- Servant

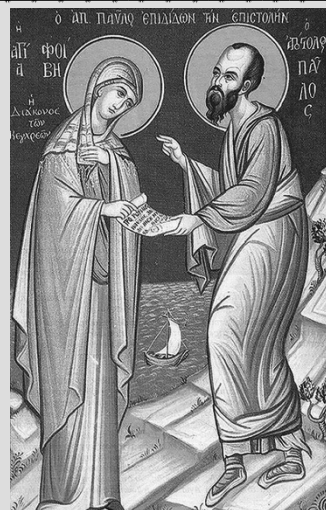
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O	F	E	E	T	E	H	M	E	S	L	K	L	J	Y
I	C	Z	Z	P	N	H	I	M	S	A	E	F	Q	L
J	J	P	F	E	D	A	E	E	E	E	Z	F	O	P
J	H	B	Z	L	Z	P	K	N	L	L	Y	X	Z	K
U	J	J	U	Y	V	P	O	T	B	D	M	F	A	H
D	E	A	C	O	N	F	R	L	T	Q	Q	F	L	C
L	I	F	V	C	G	Y	P	I	X	E	R	V	N	T
M	O	T	S	O	S	Y	R	H	C	E	H	Z	F	U

What's in an icon?

Saint Olympias wasn't the only woman deacon in the Church!

Saint Phoebe was one of the first woman deacons, and she was a special helper to Saint Paul.

We celebrate St. Phoebe in September!



FIRM IN HER FAITH SAINT OLYMPIAS THE DEACON



Do you have a deacon in your church? You might see him helping the priest or bishop with the prayers, or with Holy Communion. “Deacon” means somebody who serves, and that is just what he does.

Today, we celebrate the nameday of Saint Olympias. She was a deaconess, a woman deacon. (You probably *haven't* seen one of those in your church. That's because there are just a few in the world today.)

Saint Olympias grew up in a very rich family, but when she was older, her parents gave her all the family money. She gave that money away—to the poor, to orphans, and to widows. So, as a deaconess, she really *served* the people. She was very close to another saint, Saint John Chrysostom. Later in her life, some people were jealous of Saint Olympias, and she got in trouble for something she didn't do. She was sent to prison. Saint John Chrysostom wrote letters to her there, and we still have some of these today.

Saint Olympias was a real deacon. She spent her life serving the needy, and as the Bible tells us, when we serve the needy, we serve God, too!

We remember St. Olympias today, July 25th (OC: August 7th).