

Sept. 8—Birthday of the Theotokos



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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## 10 Million Dollars!



The Unforgiving Servant

**What do you do when somebody gives you a present?** Well, you probably say "thank you!" Then, you might try to repay that person with another present—maybe for a birthday or for Christmas. Sometimes, we might feel like we *owe* something until we've given something equal.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a story that Jesus told. It shows us just how much God has given us, even when we haven't really given anything

back! In the story, a servant owes the king lots of money, so much money that he could never, ever repay it. The Bible says he owed 10 thousand talents—scholars say that would be worth about 10 million dollars! Imagine trying to ever repay that! This servant begged the king to forgive him, to help him. And the king did forgive the money. He forgave everything. The man didn't owe anything anymore.

Later on, we hear how that same servant wouldn't forgive another person who owed him money too. Jesus wanted to tell us something with this story. He shows us how much God forgives us—yes, every single day! Ten million dollars is a *ton* of money. And God forgives us for a *ton* of things! Let's thank God for forgiving us. We thank Him for loving us, even when we do lots of things wrong. Then, let's forgive others when they do things wrong to us!

# WORD SEARCH

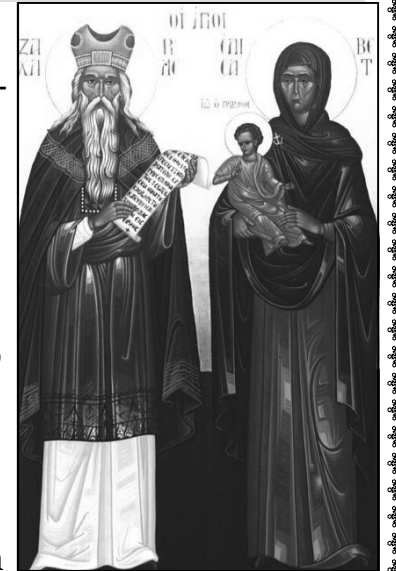
Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Elizabeth
- Faith
- Forgiveness
- John
- Millions
- Neighbor
- Parable
- Servant
- Sins
- Trust
- Unforgiving
- Zacharias

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# SAINTS ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH FATHER AND MOTHER OF ST. JOHN

**Last Sunday, we remembered** a very special saint, a cousin of Jesus! Last Sunday was bittersweet, happy and sad together, because it was the day we remembered Saint John and how he was killed by people who hated Jesus and who hated the Lord. But it was happy too, because we remembered how much Saint John loved his cousin, Jesus, who was God Himself!



Today, we celebrate Saint John’s holy parents, Saints Zacharias and Elizabeth. They loved God too, and that is why God gave them such a special son! Zacharias was a priest in the temple, and they both tried hard to serve God in the best way. They couldn’t have children, and they prayed so much that God would give them a child. God heard their prayer (He always does!) and an angel told Zacharias that they would have a son who was “great in the sight of the Lord.”

Zacharias and Elizabeth were very old, and so they were not alive when their son John was all grown up. They didn’t see John preaching about Jesus coming. But they always knew that God had given them a special son, a miracle. And they trusted God that John would be “great in the sight of the Lord.” And he was! Saint Zacharias and Elizabeth are special saints who remind us to always trust God, even when things seem impossible!

**We remember these special saints today, Sept. 5 (OC: Sept. 18th).**

# What's in an icon?

Saints Zacharias and Elizabeth were married saints!

They loved God, and they loved each other.

