

Christ shows us the greatest commandment!



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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Bending the rules

Do you remember the story of Moses and the 10 Commandments? God gave the prophet Moses a list of rules that all His people should follow.

One of the rules says, "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy." The Sabbath is a special day when we try not to do any work. We spend the morning praying in church, worshipping God. Then we try to rest on this special day that God gave us.

But in today's Gospel lesson, we hear about how Jesus found a woman who had a bent back. She hadn't been able to walk straight for 18 years! When Jesus healed her, lots of people got angry with Him. They said He broke one of the 10 Commandments, because Jesus had done work on the Sabbath. He had healed her on that holy day!

Another time in the Gospels, Jesus tells us the *most important* commandment. He tells us the greatest commandments are 1. To love God, and 2. To love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Christ showed us he loved his neighbor, this poor woman, when He made her all better... EVEN though it was on that holy day, the Sabbath. When you follow these two big rules, you are doing what Christ would do!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

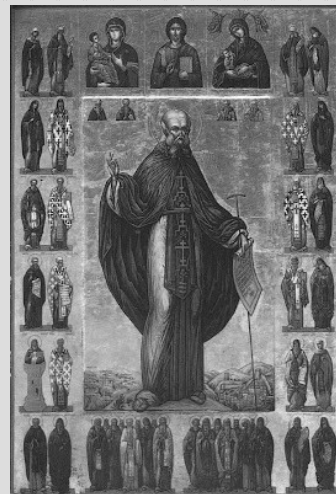
- Bible
- Commandment
- Healing
- Jerusalem
- Monastery
- Prayer
- Sabbath
- Sanctified
- Savas

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

What's in an icon?

It's a little hard to see their faces because the icon is so small, but in the middle is Saint Savas.

Around him are other saints from his famous monastery in Palestine. Saint Savas was a holy man, but he led other men to be holy too!



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SAINT SAVAS THE SANCTIFIED



Have you ever heard somebody say, “He’s in a different league”? Usually, it means that person is so far above the rest of us, like if you tried to play basketball against a pro basketball player. Or if you tried to talk to a high-level scientist when you’re only in 3rd grade. It’s hard to even know where to start!

Today, we celebrate a saint who really is in a different league than any of us! Saint Savas is called “the Sanctified” because he became so holy, so sanctified in his life. When Savas was a young man, he became a monk. And all his life, he worked hard to grow closer and closer to the Lord! He prayed more, he fasted more, he always tried to do more. Later on, Savas started a monastery near Jerusalem. Many other monasteries followed the rules Saint Savas created for this monastery there.

Everybody seemed to realize that Saint Savas was a holy man! Once, the emperor sent for Savas. When he came in, Savas looked like a poor monk in run-down clothes, but the emperor could see something in him that was special and holy, and the emperor bowed down to this poor monk!

Saint Savas was such a holy man, and when we read stories and miracles of his, we will realize it too! God gives us grace and lots of strength to be holy, but we have to work for it too! Saint Savas knew that, and that’s why we call him “the sanctified,” or “the holy one” today!

We celebrate St. Savas today, December 5th (OC: Dec. 18th).