

Holy Theophany



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 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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Pointing to Christ

Have you ever gotten credit for something great...but that you didn't really do? "Good job!" somebody might say. Maybe you even get an award or a prize! But it doesn't make you feel so great, unless you earn that praise yourself.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about Saint John. He is called the Forerunner, because he came *before* our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lots of people started to follow St. John, and he baptized lots and lots of people.

They probably thought he was pretty great. But Saint John stopped that praise with these words, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose."

Saint John didn't want the credit. He pointed to Christ instead. He knew that our Lord, Jesus Christ was *much, much* greater than he was.

If you look at the icons in the front of your church, you will see the icon of Christ. Lots of times, you will see Saint John in the icon beside Him. He points to Christ. Give Him the credit! Give Him the praise!

Can YOU do that too? Can you give God the credit for things you have done?



Saint John points to our Lord

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Baptist
- Bears
- Humble
- John
- Peaceful
- Prayers
- Sarov
- Seraphim
- Theophany
- Unworthy

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

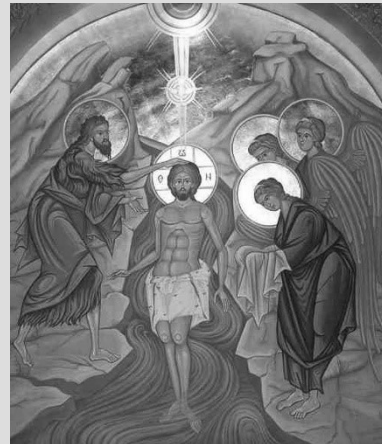
What's in an icon?

Here is an icon of the baptism of our Lord.

Can you find the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove?

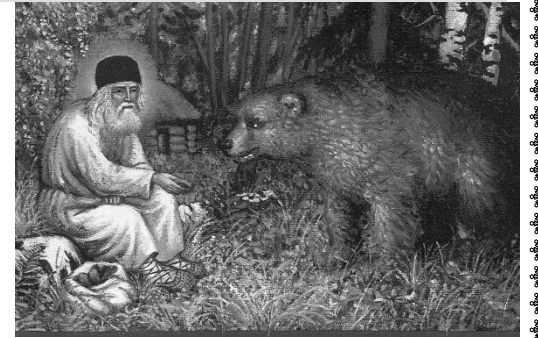
Can you find Saint John?

How about the angels?



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SAINT SERAPHIM A PEACEFUL SAINT



Do you know what you're supposed to do if you see a bear? You're supposed to look as big as you can, make a lot of noise, and walk away slowly. Today, we celebrate a saint who saw lots of bears, but he didn't follow that advice! In fact, the bears came right up to him to eat out of his hand, because he had such a calm and humble and peaceful spirit.

Saint Seraphim only wanted to grow closer and closer to God. He knew that a good way to do that was by *talking* to God. So he prayed...a lot! For 25 years, Saint Seraphim lived in the wilderness. He had a little hut in the woods there, and he would spend most of his time praying. Once, he spent 1,000 nights—that's almost three whole years—on his knees, praying to God. Do you think you can go for even a few minutes?

Saint Seraphim reminds us to try to be peaceful and gentle. He said that when we get a peaceful spirit, "thousands around you will be saved." That means that when we are peaceful, we can make a big huge difference in other people's lives too!

But how can we be peaceful in our hearts? Well, one good way is by saying a little prayer during the day. "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." We can say it when we are angry or when we are sad or when we're feeling just fine. We can be peaceful like Saint Seraphim!

We celebrate St. Seraphim today, January 2nd (OC: Jan. 15th).