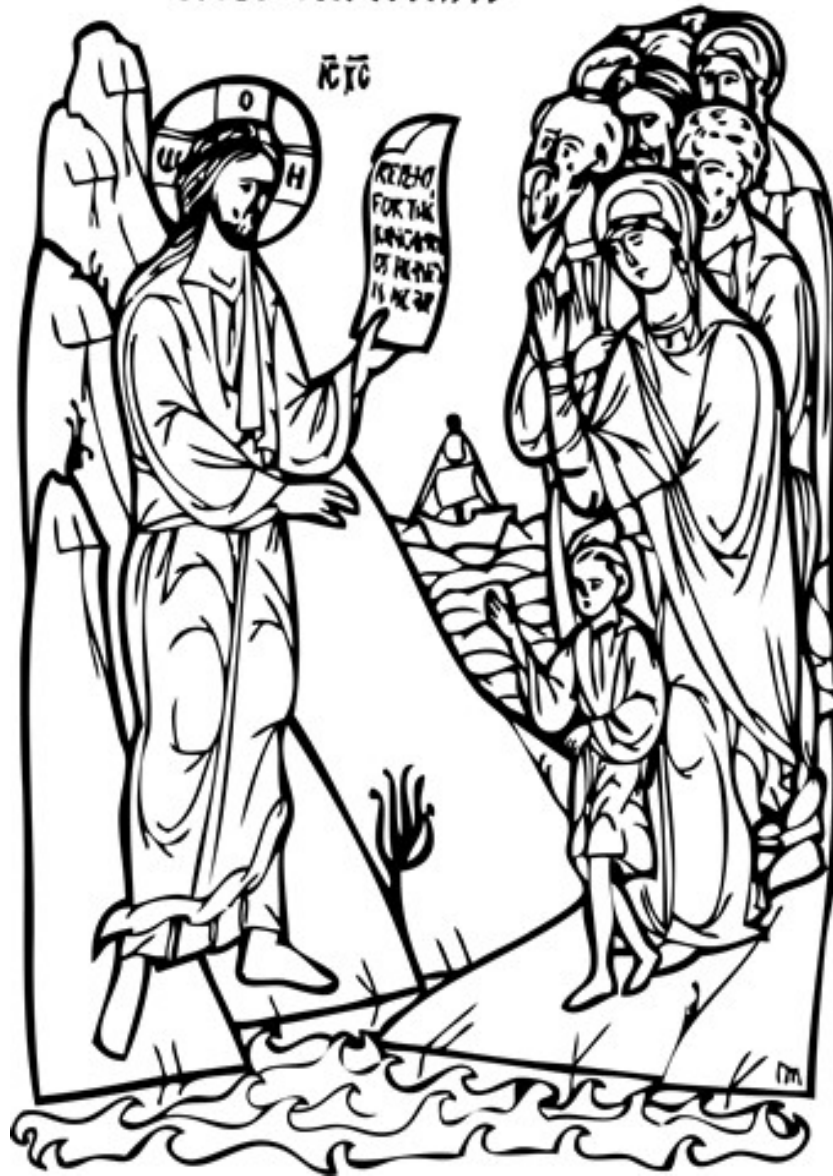


Our Lord calls us to Him!

JESUS PREACHING



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

Sunday, January 23, 2022

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God calls us to be close to Him!



Have you ever missed a chance to do something? Maybe you wanted to go on a little trip to the store, but you took too long to get ready. Or maybe had to get up early to do something really fun, but you just didn't want to get out of bed. You might have looked back and said, "I should have done it!"

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a wonderful healing story. This time, a blind man was begging by the side of the road, and he heard a lot of commotion. When he asked what was happening, the others told him that Jesus was passing by! This blind man took the chance to call out to Jesus and be close to Him. He cried even louder to Jesus, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" He didn't just sit there thinking about it. He took that special chance and called out to Jesus.

God gives us lots of lots of chances to be close to Him! And sadly, we don't always take those chances. We might choose to waste time when we could be using that time to grow closer to God. Can you think of a chance God gives you? When we are tired before we go to sleep, could you take that chance to pray before bed? When you have a chance to help somebody, could you do it?

When we take these special chances to be close to God, our Lord will pull us close to Him too, just as He did for the blind man in the Gospel today!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Blind
- Call out
- Christ
- Fool
- Healing
- Opportunity
- Petersburg
- Prayer
- Xenia

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

This icon of Saint Xenia tells a famous story about her.

At nighttime, she would help move bricks to build a church. Nobody knew it was Saint Xenia until some people waited for her once!



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SAINT XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG A FOOL FOR CHRIST

When you read about any of our holy saints, you might notice one thing about all of them. They took a chance God gave them and used that chance to grow close to God!

This week we celebrate the very special Saint Xenia of Saint Petersburg, Russia. Xenia was a young lady with a wealthy life. She was married to a colonel in the army. The two had only been married a little while, when her husband suddenly died. Xenia knew life would be very different for her now.

Saint Xenia took this sad thing and used it to call to God. She went to a monastery for a few years, but then she came back to the great city of St. Petersburg. She wore her husband's old military coat, and would wander through the city as a homeless person.

People started to know that Xenia was a holy person too. She was a very prayerful person, and God gave her special gifts. Lots of times, she could know that something was going to happen before it actually happened. The Church calls her a "fool for Christ" because she did strange things and acted as a crazy person, but she did it to be close to God.

Faithful people still love Saint Xenia! Her grave is a place many people visit. Many people pray to Saint Xenia for help finding a job, or even finding a husband or wife!



We celebrate St. Xenia on Monday, January 24th (OC: Feb. 6th).