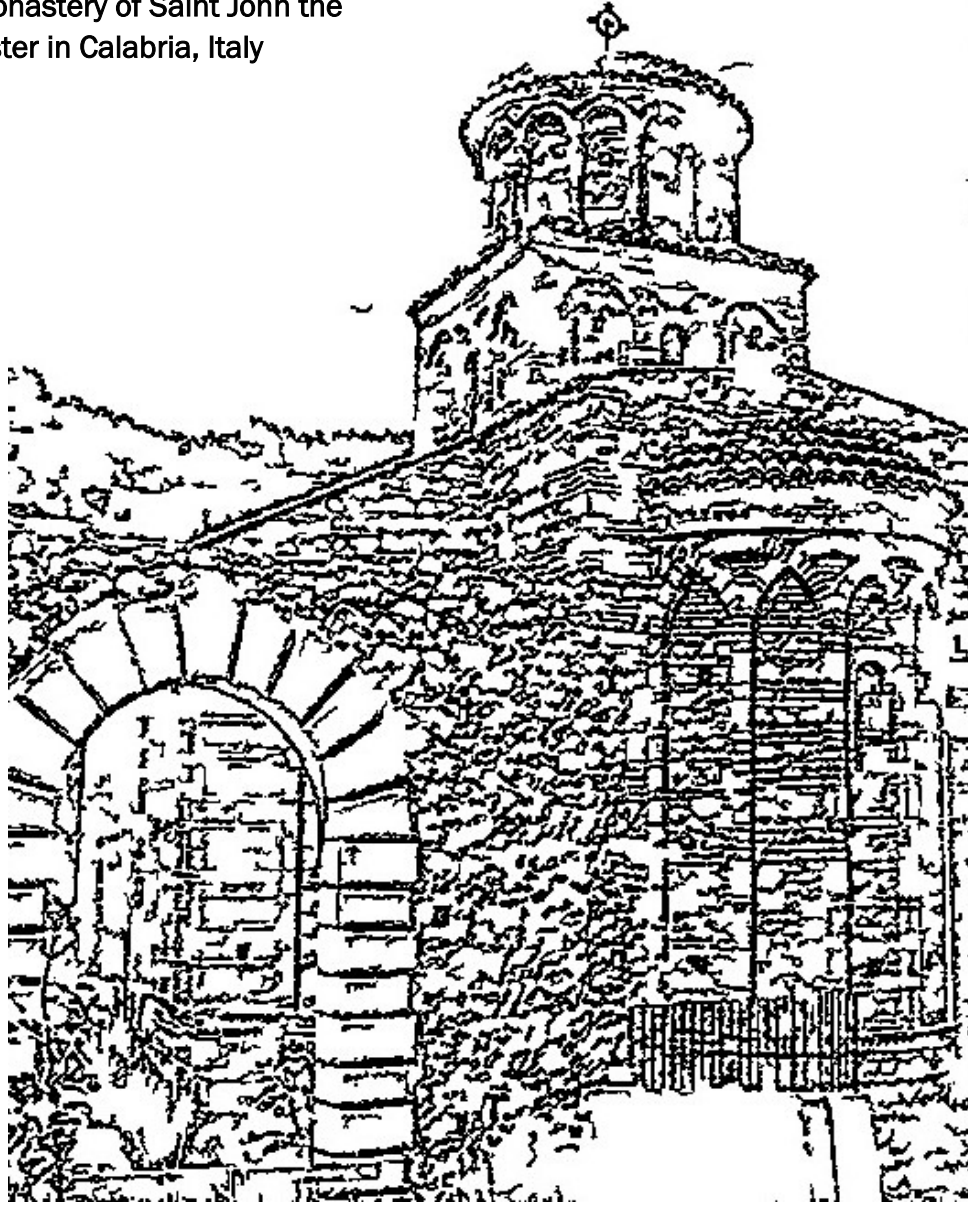


Saint John, pray for us!

The Monastery of Saint John the Harvester in Calabria, Italy



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword@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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Fighting with our brother

Do you ever fight with a brother or sister? Or maybe with a friend? Maybe you argue or pick on each other, or even punch or pinch. Your parents try to get you to make up with each other, don't they? Your parents don't like the fighting!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a story you probably already know. Do you remember the story of the young man who left home, did some wrong things, and then came back? Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son! This young man had an older brother who was angry when he came back. The older brother saw how his father was so happy. He saw his father run out to the lost son and hug him. Then he saw how his father got ready for a big party to celebrate!

Then the older brother went and complained to his father. After all, he was really upset that he never got any of these things! But his father explained to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was right to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the father tries to make things right between the brothers. And that is just what our Father in heaven wants. He wants us to make peace with each other. He doesn't want all that fighting! Let's try not to be jealous or angry at each other, but let's be ready to love our brothers and sisters like our Father loves us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Brother
- Calabria
- Fighting
- Harvester
- John
- Monastery
- Orthodox
- Peace
- Prodigal
- Theristis

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint John the Harvester.

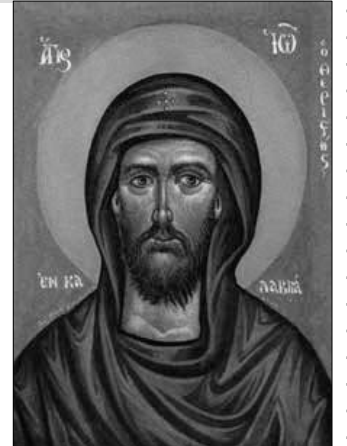
You can see the kind of place he lived in the background of the icon. Does it look like the land near the monastery picture on page 3?



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SAINT JOHN THE HARVESTER A NICKNAME THAT STUCK

Do you have a nickname? Maybe your friends call you something because of a funny story that happened to you? Sometimes those nicknames can stick with you through your whole life!



On Wednesday, we'll celebrate Saint John the Harvester (Theristis). How did he get that name? Well, Saint John was a monk who, one day, went out into the fields to work. Suddenly, a storm hit, and all the workers ran away to protect themselves. But when they came back, the corn had been cut and tied up. That miracle gave him the nickname, "the Harvester," because through his prayers, they harvested the crops!

Saint John lived a thousand years ago in a part of Italy that had lots of Orthodox Christians (most of Italy is Catholic). He became an abbot of a monastery, and later, the monastery was named after him.

About 25 years ago, some monks from the holy mountain of Mount Athos decided to fix up the monastery of Saint John the Harvester (the one in Italy). So many years later, people still remember Saint John with the nickname "the Harvester," Theristis, because they remember that great miracle from God so many years ago!



We celebrate Saint John on Wednesday, February 23rd (OC: March 8th).