

Saint Nicholas, pray for us!



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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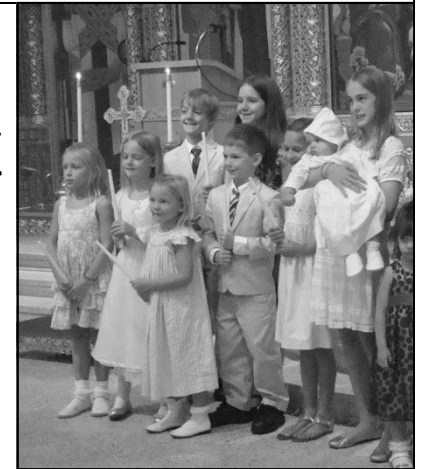
A good example

Have your parents ever told you to set a good example? Or maybe a teacher has told you that? Playing together, eating meals together, working on projects together, saying our prayers together...if one person does the wrong thing, other kids might follow his example!

We are getting closer to the beginning of Great Lent, and we know that a big part of Lent is improving how we act. The epistle today gives us a little advice about how we should try to set a good example with how we act.

Saint Paul writes, "Take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." In other words, we should pay attention to other people around us. Did you know that we can make others stumble and fall if we do the wrong thing? But we can help lift people up if we do the right thing, if we are good examples.

In the Church, we know that we are all Christians together. We can help each other or hurt each other by how we act. Saint Paul told the early Christians this, and he tells us this today! Let's try to be good examples for each other, especially during this special time of Lent. God wants us to help each other grow closer to Him. Can you try to do that, with your family and with your friends?



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Athens
- Christians
- Epistle
- Example
- Lent
- Nicholas
- Planas
- Priest
- Stumble
- Together

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Nicholas (Planas).

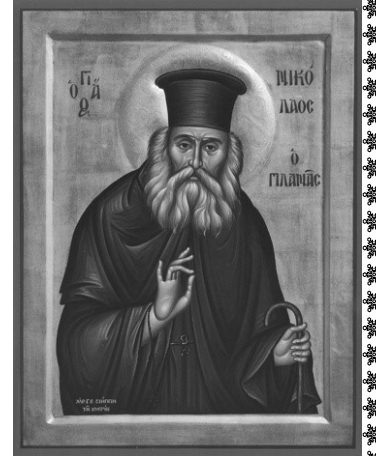
Below him, you can see the city of Athens, Greece, where he lived for most of his life.



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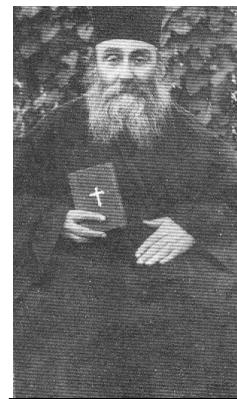
SAINT NICHOLAS OF PLANAS A MODERN SAINT

Do you have a photograph of your patron saint? Probably not! Most of the saints of our Church lived before cameras were invented. But on Wednesday, we will celebrate the feastday of Saint Nicholas of Athens. And we *do* have a photograph of him! He died less than a hundred years ago, in 1932.



An icon of St Nicholas Planas

Saint Nicholas was a very simple priest. He wasn't very well educated, but God loved Nicholas for his strong faith and his own love for God. St. Nicholas didn't have much money, but when somebody would give him gifts or money, he would quickly give it to the first poor person he saw. So then, poor people would wait for him because they knew he was a generous man!



A photo of the saint

St. Nicholas served as a priest for more than 50 years, and he never missed a Liturgy! People knew that St. Nicholas was a holy man, so they asked him to pray for them. Nicholas would write the names down and stuff them in his pockets. Then at Liturgy, he would pray for thousands of people who asked for his prayers!

Now St. Nicholas is a saint in heaven, and he will still listen to our prayers, even if we *all* ask him for help!

We celebrate Saint Nicholas on Wednesday, March 2nd (OC: March 15th).