

Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us!



THESE GREEK LETTERS
STAND FOR “MOTHER
OF GOD.”

The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck.
Email is orthodoxchildrensward (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, August 7, 2022

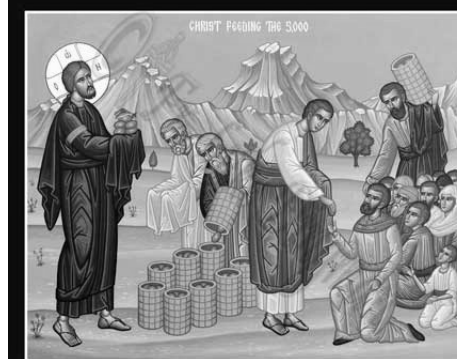
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More than you asked for!

Have you ever asked your mother or father for a present—maybe for your birthday or for Christmas? Did they give it to you? Did you even get something extra? Sometimes we might get more than we ask for!



Today we hear a story from the Bible that almost everybody knows. Jesus was visiting people, healing people who were sick. These sick people must have followed Jesus around, asking for Him to help them. Other people followed Him too, listening to Him preach. But when the day was over, the disciples wanted the people to go home and find food for themselves.

Our Lord wanted to give the people more than they had asked for. “Bring them here to me,” He told the disciples. He took five loaves and two fish and multiplied them. He gave the disciples back baskets and baskets full of food, enough to fill more than 5,000 people. He gave the people more than they had asked for!

Can you think of what you pray for? Does God give YOU more than you ask for? God listens to our prayers, but He gives us even more than that! Sometimes we pray for one thing, but we forget to pray for other, even more important things. Sometimes we don't even know *what* to pray for, but God knows what we need. Let's thank God for the things we don't even ask for!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Ascetic
- Baskets
- Disciples
- Feeding
- Five Thousand
- Miracle
- Prayer
- Romania
- Thanks
- Theodora

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

This is Saint Theodora of Romania again.

This saint spent lots of time praying to God.

Can you find her prayer rope? “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.”



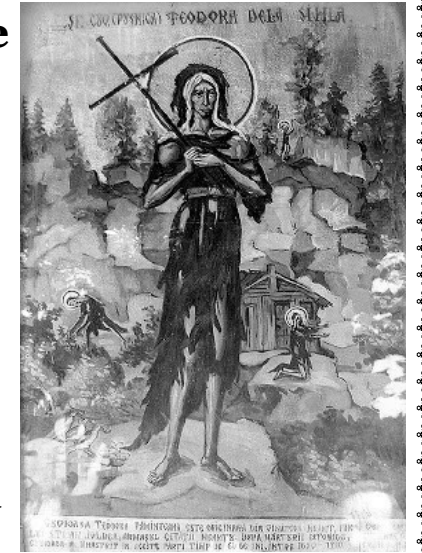
SAINT THEODORA OF ROMANIA

A REAL ASCETIC

How many pillows do you have on your bed? How many snacks and treats do you eat a day? And how many times do you pray every day? Sometimes (grown-ups too!) think a lot about how to make their lives easier, more comfortable, and more fun.

But as Christians, we know that life is more than that! Today, we celebrate the feastday of somebody who really knew that. Saint Theodora lived in Romania. When she grew up, she lived as an ascetic. That means she *didn't* try to make her life easier, more comfortable, or even more fun! Instead, she tried to live a very hard life. She lived out in the mountains, mostly by herself. Lots of times, she stayed up late at night, praying. She held her hands up to God, in prayer. She didn't eat very much. She drank water from a little spring. (You can still find it in Romania. It is called St. Theodora's spring!)

Life was hard for Saint Theodora, but this saint wanted to grow closer to God. That's why she tried not to think much about herself and how to make things great for her. She tried to think mostly about God. Saint Theodora lived all alone on earth, but now she has lots of company, with the saints in heaven!



We celebrate St. Theodora today, Aug. 7th (OC: August 20th).