

The Entrance into the Temple



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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More, more, more!

Have you ever opened a bunch of birthday presents, and then you looked around to see if there were any more? Maybe you had a gift bag, and you reached down further to make sure you didn't miss another present!

In today's Gospel, we hear about the man who wanted more. This rich man had done very well, and he had so much food and grain that he didn't know what to do with it all. So, he decided to build bigger barns to hold all his things. He didn't think about giving it away to others; instead, he just thought about how he could hold onto it for himself. He wanted to have a bigger place so he could store more, more, more.

God doesn't want us to do that! He wants us to think about others. If God has given us something, He wants us to share what we have. God doesn't want us to just think about getting more money, more toys, more clothes, and more places to put it all.

But, do you know, there is one thing we can do more, more, more of! We can do *more* for other people. We can give *more* time to people who need it—maybe visit an older person in a nursing home. We can give *more* of our things or money to others—maybe giving to a poor person or organization. We can give *more* friendship to people we know—maybe to somebody you don't know so well at school. Let's try to give more, more, more!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

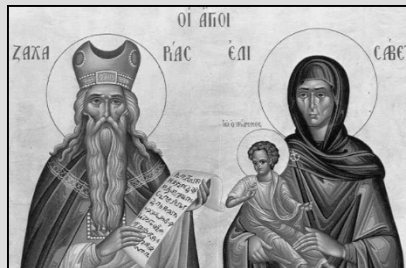
- Building
- Charity
- Compassion
- Entrance
- Gospel
- Great Feast
- More
- Theotokos
- Zachariah

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

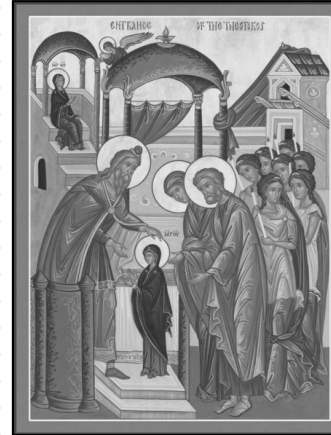
The priest who greeted little Mary was Zachariah.

Do you remember him? He is the father of Saint John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus!



A LIFE CLOSE TO THE LORD

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE



Have you ever been to a baptism (that you can remember)? Or maybe you've seen a little baby being brought to the church for the first time when he was only 40 days old? You might remember how special these services are. A little child begins his life in our holy Church!

Tomorrow, we celebrate one of the 12 great feasts of our Orthodox Church. On this day, we remember when Mary, the Theotokos, entered the temple. She lived there until she was engaged to Joseph. And not too long after that, baby Jesus was born to her!

On this day too, we remember how Mary began her life, close to God. She lived her whole life close to God. Even now, she is close to God in heaven.

Maybe you know somebody who lived his or her whole life, trying to be close to God. Maybe it's a family member, or maybe it's somebody from your church. We all know somebody who wanted to be close to God, and we pray that he or she is still close to God in heaven!

When you were brought to the church to be baptized, your parents wanted you to be close to God. They prayed for you to be close to God not just on that day, but for all your life! Let's use the Theotokos as our example, and always stay close to God and His holy Church!

We celebrate this great feastday tomorrow, November 21st (OC: Dec. 4th).