

Holy prophets, 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

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Volume 10, Issue 48

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



A holy temple in the Lord



Have you ever noticed all the parts of a house? If you've ever seen a house being built, you might have seen all the supplies the builders need to make it. Wood and bricks and doors and windows and pipes and wires, so many things. But you need every one of these pieces to build the house.

In the epistle today, we hear about how we need all the parts of God's house too! God's house is the Church, the holy temple. The epistle says, you are "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

Saint Paul tells us that each one of us is built into the holy temple. Each one of us is like a brick in a house, God's house. We are built into the Church, so that God can be there too. Just as the builders need all the parts to build a house, God wants all of us to be part of His house.

God has given us a special privilege to be part of His house! He loves us so much that He promises to dwell with us, to be with us, when we grow together into His holy Church. Let's remember our important places, like bricks in that house!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Builders
- Epistle
- Habbakuk
- Nahum
- Nativity Fast
- Prophets
- Saint Paul
- Temple
- Zephaniah

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of one of the prophets we celebrate this week, the Prophet Zephaniah.

The words are too small in the icon (and it's in Russian), but Zephaniah is holding a scroll with part of his book in the Bible.



THE "MINOR" PROPHETS NAHUM, HABBAKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH

You've heard of the prophets, haven't you? You know Moses and Elijah, maybe even Daniel and Isaiah? The prophets are the ones who spoke the word of God. God told them what to say to the people, and these prophets said it. We can find the words of the prophets in the Old Testament, the part of the Bible that tells about the world before Jesus became man.



Well, some of the prophets are called "major" prophets because they have long books in the Bible. Some of them are called "minor" prophets, because they have short books in the Bible.

We have a wonderful saint in our Orthodox Church, Saint John Maximovitch. He lived in the 1900s, right here in the United States! For part of his life, Saint John was kind of a principal of a school. Once, he was walking down the hallway of the school and he overheard a teacher telling the students about the "minor prophets." Saint John was usually very gentle, but he stormed into the classroom. "There are NO minor prophets!" he said.

Well, the word "minor" just meant that their books of the Bible were shorter than the others. But Saint John was right! There are no minor prophets. God gave each of them a voice to speak for Him! And that's a big deal, of course! During the first three days of December, we remember three of these prophets, Nahum, Habbakuk, and Zephaniah.

We celebrate these prophets on Dec. 1, 2, and 3 (OC: Dec. 14, 15, and 16th).