

Saint Spyridon, pray for us!



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, December 11, 2022

Volume 10, Issue 50

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Come, for all is ready!

Have you ever helped your family get ready for a party? Maybe you celebrated Christmas or Thanksgiving or another holiday at your house. It takes a lot of work, doesn't it? You might cook, clean, and decorate until everything is just right. Finally, somebody says, "It's time to eat!"



Our Lord uses that same idea of a party or a banquet in a parable. Today's Gospel reading is really telling us about an even better get-together. And it's one that we are all invited to! The Gospel says, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for all is now ready.'"

Did you know that our Lord is getting something ready for us? He has been preparing a special place for us. He is inviting us all to get together with Him. And He tells us, "Come, for all is now ready." God wants us to come!

We know that God wants us to come and be with Him in heaven someday, but we have to do something about it. We have to make *ourselves* ready for the banquet. We have to come when we are called to the get-together. We have to take the invitation! God is preparing a place for us. Let's get ourselves ready to come!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Banquet
- Bishop
- Excuses
- Heaven
- Invitation
- Parable
- Prepare
- Sheep
- Shepherd
- Spyridon

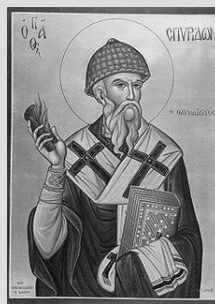
N	D	H	I	E	B	W	B	X	G	L	O	Y	Y	D
S	O	Y	N	L	L	A	T	A	F	K	Q	R	R	F
D	N	D	V	B	A	X	P	H	N	P	I	E	L	P
M	O	I	I	A	Q	J	E	S	E	Q	H	M	R	I
R	K	Y	T	R	M	N	E	M	E	P	U	E	A	W
T	R	S	A	A	Y	L	H	F	E	S	P	E	G	Z
M	E	M	T	P	R	P	S	H	I	A	U	X	T	Q
J	F	V	I	J	A	H	S	T	R	C	Z	C	L	X
L	X	F	O	N	K	B	N	E	V	A	E	H	X	E
V	A	R	N	R	V	Q	O	A	Q	W	S	G	W	E
S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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

You will always know Saint Spyridon in an icon because of his interesting hat!

What is it?

It's a shepherd's hat. Remember, he once looked after sheep. But as a bishop, he looked after people!



SAINT SPYRIDON THE SHEPHERD SAINT

Soon, at Christmas, you will hear all about shepherds watching their sheep, won't you? Well, tomorrow, we celebrate the feastday of another shepherd who watched sheep. He was born 270 years after those shepherds visited Bethlehem on Christmas night.



Saint Spyridon was a married man who worked as a shepherd. He loved God very much. Sadly, his wife died, and so Saint Spyridon decided to become a monk. Later on, he was ordained to be a bishop on the island of Cyprus.

Saint Spyridon was a simple shepherd at heart, but God gave him wisdom and strength to do great things. Spyridon was at a very important meeting, when the bishops of the Church told what we believe as Christians. Spyridon could explain things so that people could really understand them. Then, many people became Christians too because of his words.

Saint Spyridon grew to be an old man, and he later died in peace. If you ever go to Greece, you can pray at his relics (his tomb) on the island of Corfu. The people on that island love Saint Spyridon very much, and so do the Orthodox Christians in Cyprus (where he lived most of his life). But of course you don't have to be from there to love this great saint, who was a simple shepherd and a holy bishop.

We celebrate St. Spyridon on Monday, Dec. 12th (OC: Dec. 25th).