

Christ is born! Glorify Him!



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, December 25, 2022

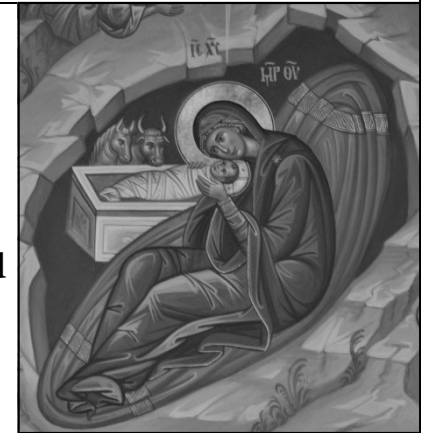
Volume 10, Issue 52

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Rejoice with great joy!

Have you ever been so excited or happy about something you didn't even know what to do? Did you celebrate your birthday or a holiday? Did your team win a big game? Did you get a new brother or sister? Maybe you laughed. Maybe you danced. Maybe you hugged somebody. Sometimes we might be so happy that we don't know what to do!



Today is Christmas, and we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! In the Gospel reading today, we hear about how the wise men searched for the baby. They followed a star for a long time, and they finally found it. The Gospel says, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him."

Those words in the Bible are almost funny. "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." These wise men were so happy, so overjoyed, so overwhelmed to see the star, because they knew they would find Jesus there.

On Christmas today, and on every day if we can, let's remember that our Lord came to give us joy! He came to save us and to let us be with Him in peace forever. So, we can be like the wise men. We can "rejoice with great joy" because we have found Jesus Christ too. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Christ is born
- Christmas
- Glorify Him
- Markellos
- Nativity
- Prayer
- Psalms
- Rejoice
- Savior
- Unsleeping

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a little detail of the icon of the Nativity, the birth of Christ.

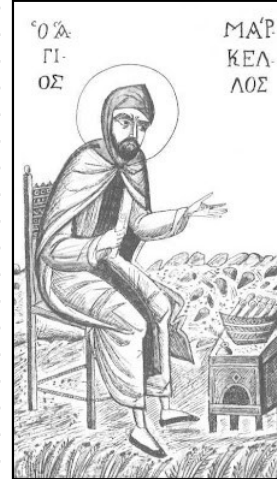
Do you see the wise men, pointing to the star?

Can you imagine how happy they were? They came from so far away!



SAINT MARKELLOS

ABBOT OF THE UNSLEEPING ONES



Do you like to sleep? Do your parents have a hard time getting you out of bed in the morning? Sometimes it feels so good to be warm and cozy in our beds, and we just don't want to get up.

Saint Markellos might have thought that too, but he got out of bed anyway! Markellos was born about 1,700 years ago, and he studied hard as a child. When he was a young man, he became a monk, and he tried to learn a lot from his elders. The monks at his monastery were called "the Unsleeping Ones." The monks did sleep sometimes, of course, but the monastery was set up so

that the monks would take turns staying up, even in the middle of the night. Somebody was praying or reading the psalms in the Bible or something at any hour of the day.

Saint Markellos took his faith seriously. He tried hard to grow closer to God with prayer and helping others. He became the abbot of the monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones." They built a hospital and a home for poor people. Many, many people visited Markellos at the monastery because God had given him the gift of healing. Faithful Christians wanted to be around him. Saint Markellos was also a part of the great meeting of bishops, the Council of Chalcedon.

What can we learn from Saint Markellos? One thing is to try to be serious about our faith. Let's try to at least pray to God before we go to sleep at night, even if it's something very short. Let's not forget, because St. Markellos didn't either!

We celebrate St. Markellos on Thursday, Dec. 29th (OC: Jan. 11th).