

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us!



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, June 25, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 26

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Seek first the Kingdom of God

Have you heard anybody say, "That's icing on the cake!"? It means something extra, on top of something already good. Cake is good, of course, but icing on cake makes it even better!



Today in the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus's words. He tells His disciples (and us too!) not to worry. He tells us not to say, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For... your heavenly Father knows you need them all." Our loving God doesn't want us to worry about things! "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

The Gospel tells us, when we try for the greater things, when we try to be close to God, when we try to do what God wants, He will give us that wonderful gift. If we want to be close to Him, we can! But then He will even give us more! He will give us the icing on the cake too. He will take away our worries and satisfy our needs too.

Let's always try to think about the most important part first (the cake). The important part is life forever with our Lord, the Kingdom of God! We can try to live our life in a way that is always bringing us close to Him. If we try to get that important part, our Lord will give us the icing too! And that something extra is everything we need here on earth.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostles
- Feastday
- Intercede
- Kingdom
- Paul
- Peace
- Peter
- Righteousness
- Worker
- Worry

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of Saints Peter and Paul.

Do you see what they're holding? It's a church! We call these two the pillars (support) of the Christian Church. And in this icon, they really are!



THE HARDEST WORKER

SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

Have you ever worked so hard on something...and you knew it? You can think of something you've done that your work really paid off, can't you?



This week we'll celebrate the great Apostle Paul. He was one of the hardest workers of the Christian Church...and he says so too! Saint Paul writes, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I *worked harder than any of them*—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

Saint Paul knew that he was a very hard worker for the Church. Saint Paul also knew that God was working with him. AND Saint Paul also knew that his hard work paid off, too! His work spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ throughout the whole world.

When you read the Bible, you find out that God wanted Saint Paul to preach the good news to the Gentiles, the people who weren't Jewish. Saint Paul did just that. It wasn't easy either. He was whipped with lashes. He was hit with rods. People threw stones at him. He was shipwrecked three times. He was cold, hungry, thirsty. Lots of times, his life was in big danger. Saint Paul knew that God was with him, but He expected him to work hard. And his hard work paid off! Thank God for Saint Paul!

We celebrate Saints Peter and Paul on Thursday, June 29th (OC: July 12th).