

Saint Sophia, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 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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What's a paradox?

Do you know what a paradox is?

A paradox is a statement that might seem silly or not true, but *is* actually true. You've heard some paradoxes in the Bible, haven't you? Maybe "The last shall be first, and the first shall be last"? That paradox means when we make ourselves humble, then God will reward us.



Christ lost His life, but He saved it, too!

In another part of the Bible, you might remember, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." That might seem silly to us! Would you rather give something or get something? But it's really true! God blesses us when we think of others instead of ourselves!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear another paradox. "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." That might be a hard one to understand. Sometimes we think a lot about what we can do for ourselves. How can we be rich? How can we be healthy? How can we be happy? How can we have fun? We think about our own lives. But God wants us to think about Him, how we can love God and His people.

And that's the paradox! When we spend our lives giving ourselves up for our Lord and His commandments, God promises that He will save our lives!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Church
- Faith
- Gospel
- Hope
- Love
- Martyrs
- Mother
- Paradox
- Sophia
- Wisdom

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Sophia with her three young daughters.

Do they look happy with the choice they made—to follow Christ?

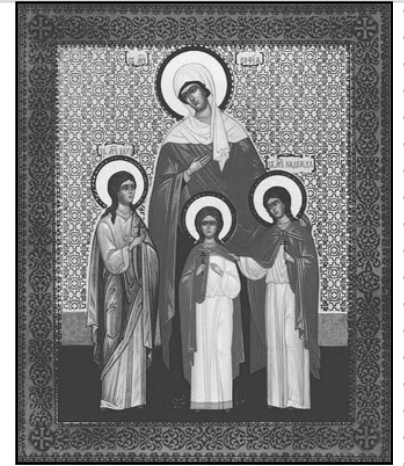


SAINT SOPHIA

AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS

What do you think the number one job is for your mother and father? To buy you cool toys? To take you to soccer practice? To make sure you like your dinner?

No...Your parents' number 1 job is to help you love God—and to try to be like Him! That's why they try so hard to teach you about Jesus Christ. That's why they take you to church and try to teach you to be loving and generous.



Saint Sophia taught her three daughters to love God more than anything or anybody!

St. Sophia was one of the best mothers, because she taught her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love, just that. She told them that the most important thing they could do was to love God. When the awful Roman authorities tried to tell the girls to worship idols, the girls wouldn't! They told them they would always follow Christ. The officials then killed the three girls, and they are now happy with Christ forever.

Sophia is a very popular name now for little girls. Her name means "wisdom" in Greek. Being wise means being smart and making the right choices. Saint Sophia was a very wise Christian, and she taught her daughters to be wise Christians too. They had a hard choice to make, and they made the right one. Do you think you can remember Saint Sophia's story?

We celebrate Saint Sophia today, September 17th (OC: September 30th).