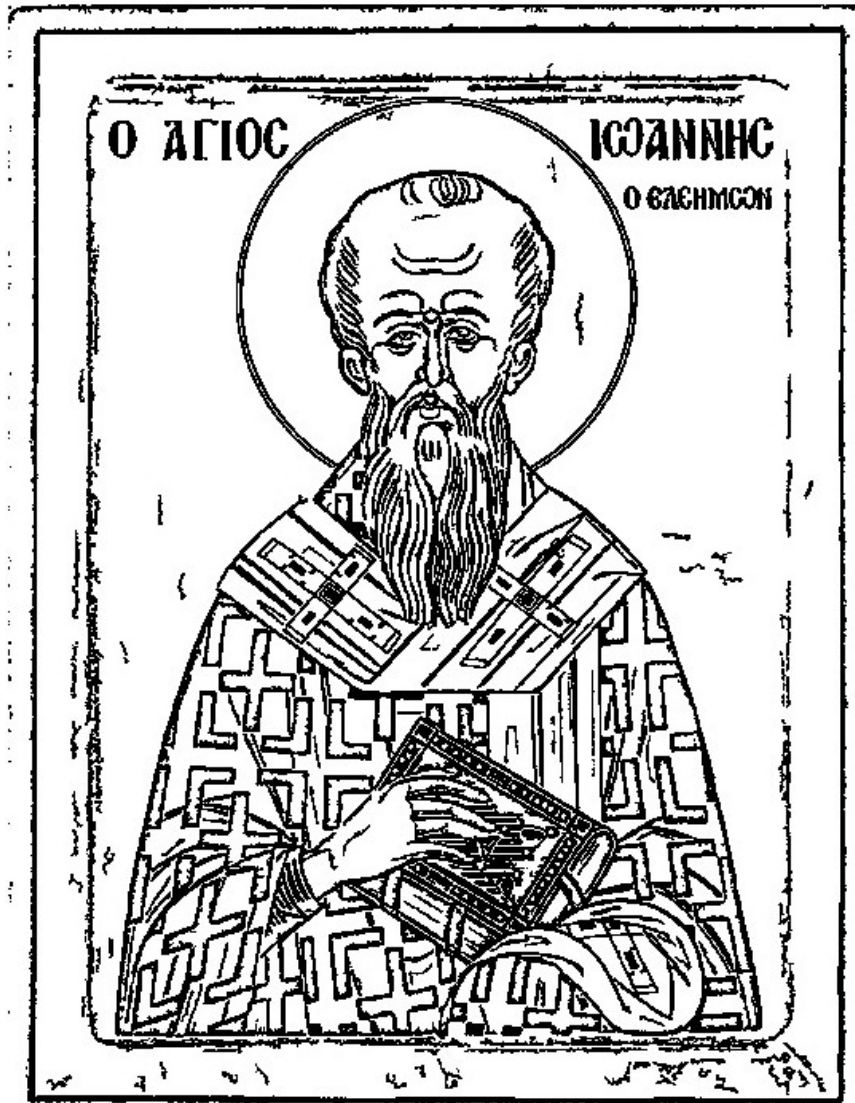


Saint John the Merciful, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is [orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com). Find it each week at [myocn.net](http://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 12, 2023

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## The Church is a hospital!

**Have you ever been to a hospital?** Well, probably you have, as a newborn baby. But maybe you broke your arm or maybe you were sick another time. When you're very sick and need help, you know that the hospital is the best place for you.



Today we hear in the Gospel a story you probably learned when you were very small. It's the story of the Good Samaritan.

You remember how a man was beaten up and left on the side of the road. You remember how nobody would help him, until a stranger came and took him to an inn. This stranger took care of him, and promised to come back and check on him.

When we read these parables or stories in the Bible, we know that they're not just for our entertainment. They have other meanings too, don't they? Of course, we know we should be like the Good Samaritan, the stranger who helped the poor, sick man. But some people explain the story in other ways too. Saint John Chrysostom (who wrote many, many sermons) tells us that the church is our hospital. We go there to be healed. We go there to get medicine (Holy Communion). We go to church to try to get better, and to grow closer to the best Doctor, Christ Himself. He's the one who takes care of us, just like the stranger did in the parable today!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Chrysostom
- Compassion
- Helpful
- Hospital
- John
- Merciful
- Neighbor
- Saints
- Samaritan
- Trust

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

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

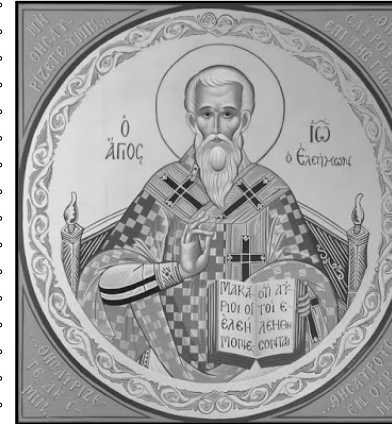
Can you see the difference between these two saints named Saint John?

The one on the left is Saint John the Merciful. The one on the right is Saint John Chrysostom. We celebrate his feastday tomorrow!



# SAINT JOHN THE MERCIFUL

## HOW FAR CAN YOU GO?



**Lots of times, we hear stories** about people who are very, very powerful. Sadly, sometimes they use their power just for themselves! But happily, St. John the Merciful was *not* one of *those* people.

St. John was the patriarch of Constantinople, which means he was the very highest leader of our Church. St. John is called the “merciful” because he always was thinking of other people, especially the poor. He always

tried to help anybody he could, just like the Good Samaritan did in our Gospel lesson today.

There is a funny but wonderful story about St. John. Even though he was the patriarch, he gave away lots of his things. He even slept on the floor because he gave away his bed! Once, a rich man gave St. John the most beautiful quilt, as a special present. St. John thanked him, but later he sold the quilt and gave the money to the poor. The next day, this same man saw the quilt in the market, and bought it again! Again, St. John sold it and gave the money to the poor! This happened again and again. The rich man knew what was happening, and the patriarch (St. John) told him, “We will see who gives up first!”

Do you see how far St. John went to help the poor? Lots of times, helping others means giving up something you might want for yourself!

**We celebrate Saint John today, Nov. 12th (OC: November 25th).**