

Saint Sebastian, 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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Following the map

Did you ever get really lost?

Maybe you were even riding around with your parents, and you couldn't find where you wanted to go. It helps to have some tool to show you the way, doesn't it? A map, or GPS, or just somebody's good directions.



Saint Paul gave some advice to the new Christians in the city of Ephesus—almost 2,000 years ago! We read Saint Paul's words in the epistle today because they are good advice for us Christians too (that's why we still read them!).

Saint Paul wrote, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." God calls each one of us to follow Him. He calls each one of us to listen to His words and to do them. He calls us to try to be like our perfect Lord, Jesus Christ. He asks us to do that.

But remember, God doesn't force us to follow Him. He doesn't *force* us to be good Christians.

When we follow Christ and His teachings, it's like we are following a map. We'll always know the right way to go! But if we try to do things our way, and we don't listen to directions, we are going to get lost. Let's live our lives the way God has called us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- California
- Calling
- Ephesians
- Epistle
- Gift
- Missionary
- Saint
- Sebastian
- Serbian
- Share

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

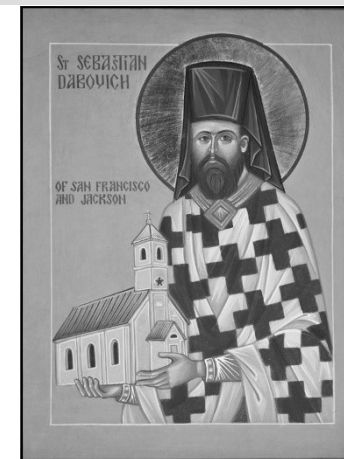
We have a photograph of St. Sebastian because he lived not so long ago.

Can you see how his icon looks a lot like his photograph?



SAINT SEBASTIAN OF CALIFORNIA

Have you ever told somebody you're an Orthodox Christian? This week we'll celebrate a saint who sure did! Saint Sebastian spent his whole life telling people about Jesus Christ *and* about His holy Church.



Saint Sebastian is a new saint—somebody the Church just started calling a saint a few years ago! He was born in San Francisco, California in 1863 and died in 1940. His parents were from Serbia, where most people are Orthodox Christians. They held onto their strong Orthodox faith even when they came to America, where there weren't so many Orthodox Christians. Sebastian learned his faith from his parents, and he became a priest. He lived in lots of places in the United States—California, Alaska, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Illinois, and New Jersey. Everywhere he went, Father Sebastian worked hard to spread the Orthodox faith throughout our country! He built many churches here and preached the faith.

Saint Sebastian died in the country of Yugoslavia, but many years after he died, the church brought his relics (his body) back to California (at the church where he served as a priest). Just eight years ago, Father Sebastian was declared a saint. We can pray to him for many things. Would you like to pray to Saint Sebastian to help the Orthodox Christians in America? He will listen to you!

We celebrate Saint Sebastian on Thurs., Nov. 30th (OC: December 13th).