

Saint Patrick, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 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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Your little secret



Tomorrow is the very first day of Great Lent. We have a long way to go before Easter, and a lot to do before we get there! We want to prepare ourselves for that awesome feastday, and the Bible today tells us just how to do it.

By now, we all pretty much know the right thing to do as Christians, don't we? We know we should pray more, be kind to others more, help the hungry and the poor more, listen to God more by reading the Bible, fast more, and so on. But did you know that we should try to do all these things **IN SECRET**?

That's right! In today's Gospel, we hear about how we aren't supposed to tell everybody about it when we fast. So in Lent, we shouldn't say, "Oh, I'm so hungry! I haven't been eating the treats I usually eat." Instead, we should keep it a secret.

And that goes for other good things we do, too. If we donate money, nobody else should know about it. If we pray, we close the door to our room so nobody can see. Then, guess what! The Bible also tells us what will happen when we do this. "Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." God knows our secrets and He knows when we are doing good things. When He sees what we are doing, He will reward us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostle
- Bishop
- Fasting
- Forgiveness
- Giving
- Ireland
- Lent
- Patrick
- Prayer
- Read the Bible
- Secret

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Patrick.

Do you see what he is holding in his hand? It's a shamrock, a three-leaf clover. Saint Patrick is said to have used the shamrock to teach people about the Holy Trinity. It is three, but one!

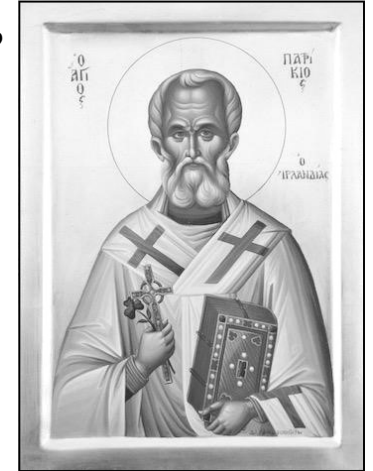


SAINT PATRICK

ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND

Next week, at the end of Liturgy, you will hear your priest read some special words. He says, "This is the Faith of the Apostles. This is the Faith of the Fathers. This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the Universe."

But what is this faith, and why did so many saints risk their lives to tell people about it? Our faith is our love for God, and our faith is how we have learned to worship from Christians who came before us!



One of these Christians was Saint Patrick, a bishop of Ireland. He is a saint we remember today. When St. Patrick was little, he was not a Christian. He was born in about the year 373 in Britain. He wrote about his life, and he wrote that when he was 16 years old, he was kidnapped and brought to the island of Ireland. Well, he escaped, and he went back home to Britain. But when he got home, he somehow knew that God wanted him to be back in Ireland!

Sooner or later, he became a Christian, and he left for Ireland. He knew that he wanted to follow Saint Paul's example and tell the world about our Lord, Jesus Christ, and what He has done for us! Saint Patrick became a bishop and he worked his whole life to do just that. Today, let's celebrate the right way and thank Saint Patrick for his good work!

We celebrate St. Patrick today, March 17th (OC: March 30th).