

This is My beloved Son!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (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

Sunday, August 4, 2024

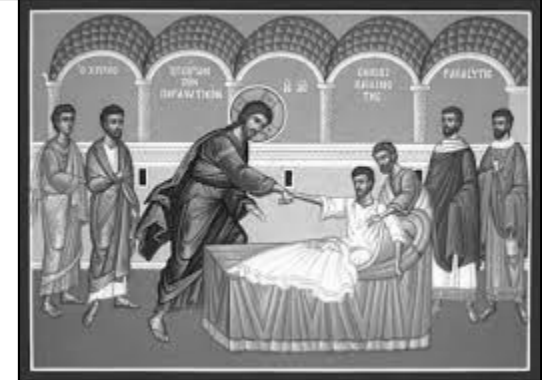
Volume 12, Issue 31

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Don't be a hypocrite!

Do you know what a hypocrite is? A hypocrite is somebody who pretends (in a bad way!). A hypocrite might act holy and faithful on the outside, but on the inside, he is mean and hateful.



Today, we hear about being a hypocrite in the epistle *and* the Gospel reading.

In the Gospel reading, we hear a story like lots of stories about Jesus in the Bible. It's the story of Christ healing a paralytic, somebody who couldn't walk. The man was sick, lying on a bed, and he wanted to walk again. Our Lord told the man, "Your sins are forgiven!"

Well, some religious leaders (who looked holy on the outside) didn't like that. They grumbled about Jesus and complained to themselves. But Jesus said, "Why do you speak evil in your hearts?" He knew that they were pretending to be faithful people. Then, Jesus healed the man to show them He really did have the power—to heal and to forgive!

These men were hypocrites. They were pretending to be faithful, but they thought all kinds of unfaithful thoughts. In the epistle reading, Saint Paul writes, "Let love be without hypocrisy." That means, when you love God and love each other, don't pretend! Love on the outside *and* on the inside! Of course, we can always look to our Lord, Who is always the perfect example for us.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

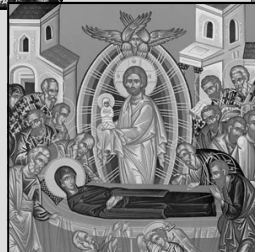
- Elijah
- Example
- Faithful
- Genuine
- Gospel
- Hypocrite
- Miracle
- Moses
- Tabor
- Transfiguration

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

In some icons of Christ, you can see the picture of Jesus with a kind of bright star around Him.

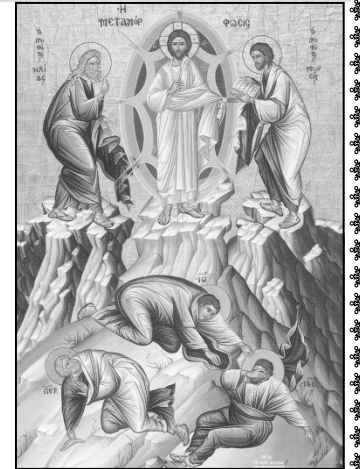
This is called a *mandorla*. It shows the greatness of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Can you point to it in the icon of the Dormition and the Resurrection? How about in the icon on page 3?



RISE AND HAVE NO FEAR

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Have you ever been afraid of something... but you wanted to see it anyway? Maybe a movie with a scary part? Something in real life even?



This week we hear about a time the disciples were afraid. On Tuesday, we celebrate one of the 12 great feasts of our Church—the Transfiguration. That’s the day Christ took three of his disciples up on a high mountain, Mount Tabor. When they got to the top, Jesus’s face shone like the sun. All of a sudden, His clothes were bright white. Then they saw prophets (Elijah and Moses) who had died many, many years before. They were definitely amazed. These grown men were even afraid! But still, they wanted to be with the Lord. They were afraid, but they didn’t want to leave. St. Peter even wanted to make a special place for them to stay and watch.

On Transfiguration, Jesus showed that He is God. The disciples were so afraid they fell on their faces! But Jesus told them to get up. “Rise and have no fear,” He said. This is how Christ treats us too! He is God and can do anything! But even though He is so powerful, He still tells us not to be afraid. We can still come close to Him. We can still talk to Him in our prayers. We can still ask Him to help us with anything. Rise and have no fear!

We celebrate the Transfiguration on Tuesday, August 6th (OC: August 19th).