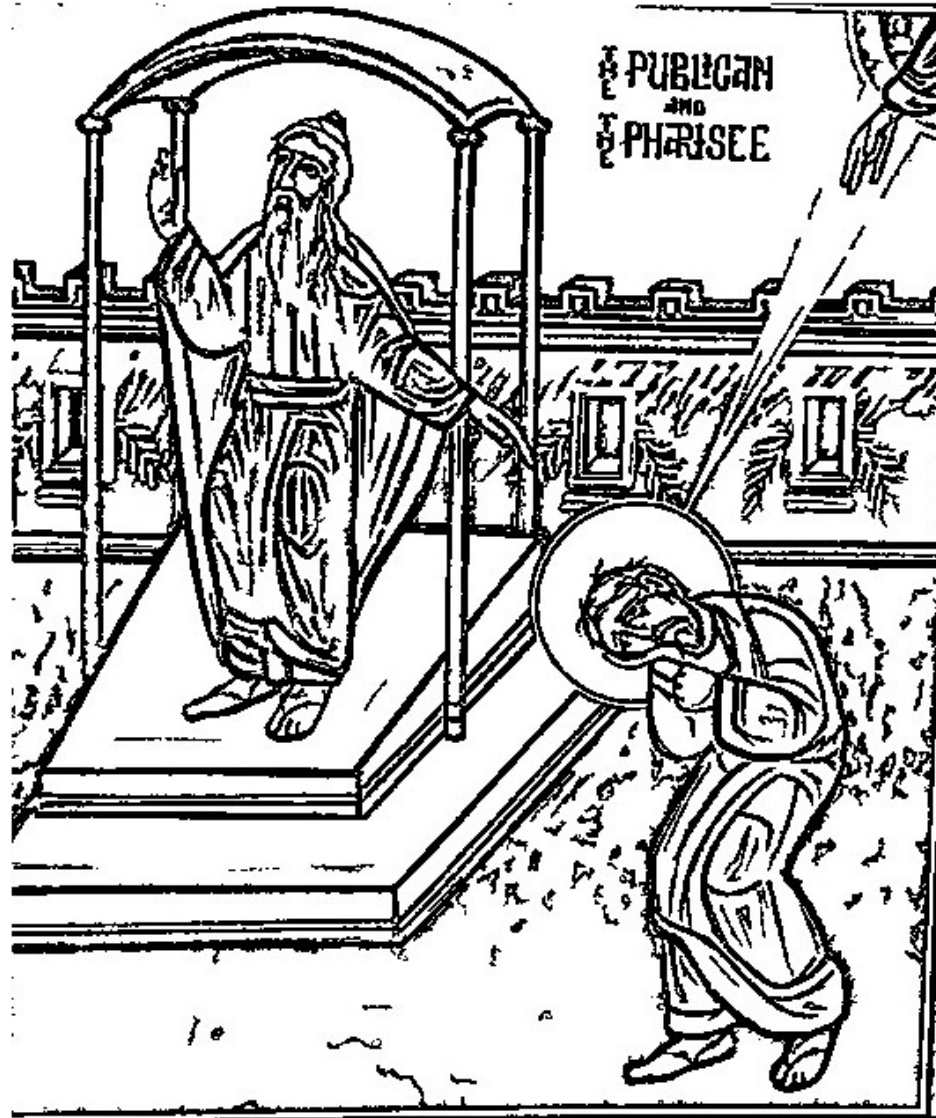


God, be merciful to me, a sinner!



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

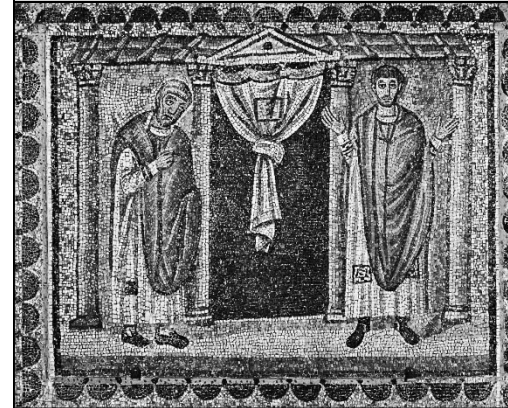
Sunday, February 5, 2023

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A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



## Take your "medicine"!



The proud man and the humble man

**Did you hear the Gospel** today? It's the story of the two men who went into the temple to pray. One bragged to God about all that he did. The other looked down at the ground. He asked God to forgive him. He asked God to have mercy on him.

We have a great saint in our church who died only about 35 years ago. His name is Saint Justin, and he tells us something important about being proud and about being humble.

Saint Justin tells us that everything we do wrong comes from being too proud. Even good things we do can turn bad when we are proud about them! We can be proud of giving to the poor. We can be proud of being nice to people. We can even be proud of being humble! We show off and think we're great because we are nice or generous or humble. Pride causes all these good things to turn into wrong things.

But what should we do? Saint Justin says that being humble is the answer. It's the only medicine for our pride. So take your medicine! Be humble. We can ask God to forgive us. We can ask God to have mercy on us. We can ask God to keep loving us even though we make mistakes.

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Faith
- Gafencu
- Humility
- Imitate
- Medicine
- Pharisee
- Pride
- Publican
- Triodion
- Valeriu

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

# THE SAINT OF THE PRISONS

## ST. VALERIU GAFENCU OF ROMANIA

**Have you ever tried to copy somebody?** Maybe you've tried to be like an older brother or sister. Or maybe you try to imitate somebody on TV, like a sports star or an actress. When we see something we like about somebody, we might try to be like him or her!



God wants us to copy somebody too. You know who, don't you? His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! We read about how Jesus acted, and we want to try to copy Him, to be like Him!

Today we remember a saint who really tried to copy our Lord, to be like Him. Saint Valeriu was born less than 100 years ago, in Romania. At that time, the country of Romania was being taken over by leaders who hated the Christian Church. When Valeriu was a teenager, he was part of a group for Christian young people. That might sound okay to us, but to the cruel people in power, it wasn't okay. In fact, Valeriu was sent to prison—for 25 years!

So that's where this young man went...to spend the rest of his life in prison. But even in prison, Valeriu tried to imitate our Lord, Jesus Christ. He was kind to other prisoners. He prayed with them and told them about God's love for them. Once, Valeriu gave up his medicine so that another man would live. Saint Valeriu is such a great example for us because when he copied Christ, other people wanted to copy him too!

**We celebrate the nameday of St. Valeriu today, Feb. 5th (OC: Feb. 18th).**

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a very new icon of Saint Valeriu.

When we read about this saint's life, we know how cruel and awful the Communist rulers were to him.

But in the icon, doesn't he look peaceful? We remember he is now at peace in heaven, with the best Ruler of all!

