

Holy saints, pray for us!



Saint Macrina, Saint Theosevia, Saint Emmelia, Saint Peter of Sebaste, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Naucratis, Saint Basil the Elder, and Saint Gregory of Nyssa

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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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Heaven on earth

Have you ever won-

dered what Heaven is like?
It's easy to be curious about it because we hear about it so much in church!



Our Lord in Heaven wants us to repent!

In today's Gospel lesson, we hear about how our Lord, Jesus Christ started His work, His ministry. The first thing He told the people was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." But what is this kingdom of heaven? Sometimes we hear stories or jokes about heaven, maybe about the "pearly gates" and other things.

But today we hear how Christ says, "the kingdom of heaven has come near." As Orthodox Christians, we believe that that "kingdom of heaven" is being with God. Did you know you can start to have this heaven here on earth? We can feel a little bit of heaven when we are close to God. We can grow closer to God when we repent, when we say we are sorry for things we have done. We can ask God to help us change, to do better.

One of our great saints, Saint Ephraim the Syrian, once said, "Through repentance, earth has become heaven, for it has become filled with saints." That's how we can have heaven on earth! When we repent, we grow close to God!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Baptism
- Family
- Gifts
- Ministry
- Peter
- Repent
- Sebaste
- Service
- Theophany

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

THE LITTLE BROTHER

SAINT PETER OF SEBASTE

What would you do if your older brother or sister grew up to be really famous? Would you be jealous? Would you wish *you* could be that way too?

Saint Peter (of Sebaste, in the country of Armenia today), was the youngest brother in a big and holy family. His older brother was Saint Basil the Great. (You know him!) Saint Peter has lots of holy saints in his family, but for some reason, we don't hear too much about Peter. But that *isn't* because he didn't do anything important!



Here is Saint Peter with some of his brothers and sisters. He is the second one from the right.

Just as we learned in the epistle today, when God gives us a spiritual gift, we can use it to help build up the church of Christ. And *that* is just what Saint Peter did. He helped his older brothers with their writing—and we still read Saint Basil's and his brother Gregory's writing today. Saint Peter helped his mother and his big sister start a convent for holy women—and lots of people grew closer to God because of his work. And later, Saint Peter became a bishop, and he helped the people know the right way to worship God. Sometimes *helping* is just as big a deal as doing it all yourself. And that's how we remember Saint Peter of Sebaste!

We celebrate St. Peter tomorrow, Monday Jan. 9th (OC: Jan. 22nd).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Yesterday we celebrated the feasts of Saint John the Baptist.

Lots of times we see icons with Jesus, His mother, and also Saint John.

Saint John was so close to the Lord, and that's why he is such a special saint of our Church!

