

Rejoice! To you, who has shown Christ as the loving Lord!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck.
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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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Making progress

If you are in school, you might have gotten something called a "progress report." Do you know what a progress report is? Your teacher shows your parents how well you are doing in math or reading or spelling or even at getting along with others. Your teacher always wants you to "progress" or get better.



Today is the 4th Sunday of Lent. Today we remember a Saint John who wrote a book about a ladder to heaven. It isn't a real ladder, of course, but it is a way to see if we Christians are making progress, to see if we are growing closer to Christ in heaven.

We can ask ourselves if we are growing closer to Christ. Are we really trying to stop doing the wrong things, and start doing the right things? Or are we stuck with bad habits?

The funny thing is that *all* Christians can make progress. All Christians can move forward to Christ... not just kids, but also very, very old people. Not just school kids, but mothers and fathers, priests and bishops, and monks and nuns. We can all keep growing closer to Christ. We can all keep progressing!

Let's always think about that. What would a progress report say about us?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Christ
- Crimea
- Encouragement
- Faith
- Fourth Sunday
- John
- Larissa
- Lent
- Love
- Martyrs
- Progress
- Saints

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

THE GOOD KIND OF PEER PRESSURE

THE 26 MARTYRS IN THE CRIMEA

Do you ever hear about peer pressure? Sometimes kids pressure their friends to do the wrong kind of thing. You know, things they probably didn't want to do in the first place.



But did you know? Sometimes we can help our friends and family do the *right* kind of thing too. We can guide them and influence them in a good way. Or maybe they can help influence us too!

Many years ago (in the year 375), a group of Christians who lived in Crimea did just that. They were in trouble because they wouldn't worship idols, and they knew they were going to be punished. But these Christians encouraged each other. They helped each other stay strong in their love for Jesus Christ.

Finally, the idol-worshipping ruler had had enough. The 26 Christians were having a church service in a tent, and he brought an idol by on a chariot. When they still wouldn't worship it, he set fire to the tent, and the Christians died in the fire.

We don't know the names of all the saints who died that day, but we remember and celebrate them all. And we pray to God that if we ever had to make a choice like that, we would follow the example of these 26 brave Christians, too!

We celebrate these special martyrs today, March 26th (OC: April 8th).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Larissa was one of the 26 saints we celebrate today (see page 3).

Do you see what she is holding in her hand? We can see that she was a martyr because she is holding a cross in her hand!

