

This is the faith of the Orthodox!



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

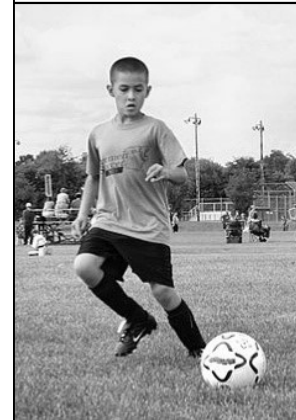
Sunday, March 5, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 10

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Who are you?



How would you describe yourself?

If somebody asked you to describe yourself, what would you say? I have brown hair. I'm tall. I like to play soccer. I love pizza and ice cream. Is this who you are?

Today is the Sunday of Orthodoxy! Today we remember how, many, many years ago, many good Orthodox Christians fought hard so that we could keep icons in our churches. Now we keep them in our houses and our cars and wherever else we want to put them. We look at our icons and they help us pray to God and to the saints. These good Orthodox Christians fought hard so we could do this. Some people even died for their faith!

Let's say you could go back in time and ask those good Orthodox Christians to describe themselves. "Who are you?" you'd say. And they would say, "I'm an Orthodox Christian!" That's how *they* would describe themselves.

In the Gospel today, we hear about some of the first apostles, and how they first began to follow Christ. They followed Him all their lives, and they even died for their faith. Their love for God was the most important thing about themselves.

When somebody asks you who YOU are, always remember that being a Christian is the most important thing about you. That's what shapes everything about you...just like it did for those good Orthodox Christian saints long ago!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostles
- Bold
- Emperor
- Faith
- Iconoclast
- Icons
- Orthodox
- Protect
- Theophylactos

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Can you find all the icons *inside* of this icon?

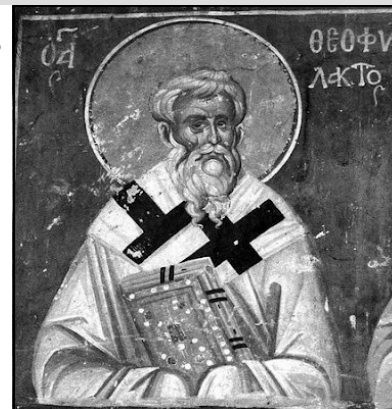
These saints are showing that icons are part of our Orthodox faith!



SAINT THEOPHYLACTOS

A BOLD DEFENDER

Do you ever wonder what names mean? Sometimes we might hear a strange one, and we might wonder where it comes from. This week, we celebrate a Saint Theophylactos. Saint Theophylactos knew the meaning of his name!



“Theophylactos” means “God-protected,” and this saint knew that God would protect him and take care of him, even when things were very hard. Saint Theophylactos was a bishop who lived during the terrible years of an iconoclast emperor (813-820). This Emperor Leo wanted to get rid of all icons. To do that, he didn’t mind getting rid of priests and bishops and faithful believers too!

Theophylactos boldly faced the emperor. He told the emperor, to his face, that he was doing the wrong thing, he was going against God’s will, and that one day, God would punish him. The emperor, of course, was furious. He sent Saint Theophylactos away, and out of sight, where he wasn’t allowed to serve as bishop. He lived there in bad conditions for 30 years, growing sicker and sicker until his death.

But Theophylactos knew that God would protect him! He knew that God would reward him for his strong faith and love for Him, and of course, He did.

A hymn we sing for Saint Theophylactos says, “You lived a life hidden in God, but Christ showed you to be a shining light.” God protects Saint Theophylactos, and He protects all of us who love Him!

We celebrate St. Theophylactos on Wed., March 8th (OC: March 21st).