

Saint Olga, pray for us!



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

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Praying for unbelievers

Do you have a friend who is not a Christian? Probably! Some of our best saints (like Saint Basil the Great) had friends who were not Christian. Did you know that in the United States and Canada, there are 1,584 religious groups? Chances are, you have friends who are not Orthodox Christians, or maybe not even Christians at all.

Today, in the epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us his own thoughts about people who don't believe in Christ! He writes, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." Saint Paul spent years and years preaching to people about Jesus Christ! We know that he put up with a lot to spread the message about the Lord. He was stoned and beaten and put in prison and much more! But still, Saint Paul shows his love and concern for the people who still wouldn't believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We can follow Saint Paul's example too. When we know someone who isn't a Christian, we can pray for him or her. We always want God to save that person and keep him or her close. Sometimes we might want to win an argument with an unbeliever or show that we know a lot, but let's follow Saint Paul and his "heart's desire and prayer to God"!



Saint Paul preaching to unbelievers in Athens, Greece

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

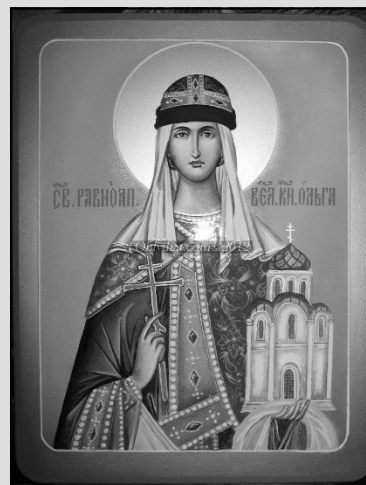
- Believe
- Epistle
- Good News
- Gratitude
- Kiev
- Mission
- Olga
- Patience
- Princess
- Salvation

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Do you remember what Saints Peter and Paul were holding together in their icon?

Here is Saint Olga. Do you see what she is holding in this icon? She is holding a church too! Can you guess why?



SAINT OLGA

A PRINCESS WITH A MISSION

If you were a princess or prince, what would *you* do? Maybe the first thing you might think about are the fancy clothes, the fancy dinners, the fancy trips. But this week we remember a saint who saw past these things.



Saint Olga was the princess of Kiev more than 1,100 years ago. She ruled over what is now Russia, Ukraine, and more. Now, the people there are almost all Orthodox Christians. But then, things were different. Most people were pagan— they did not worship our one, true God.

Once, Saint Olga visited the great city of Constantinople. She learned about the Christian Church and wanted to be baptized. Then, she went back to Kiev (where she lived), and took care of her grandsons. Many years later, one of her grandsons, Vladimir, became emperor. He remembered the faith of his grandmother, and then Vladimir was baptized, too! Thousands of people were baptized with him.

We know that Saint Olga had a great mission in life—to teach others about the true faith she knew. But what would have happened if she had had a different mission, a mission to have fancier clothes and jewelry, fancier dinners, and more?

Over the years, millions and millions of people have worshipped God as Orthodox Christians, thanks to this princess with a mission—St. Olga!

We celebrate the nameday of Saint Olga on Tuesday, July 11th (OC: July 24th).