

Saint Silouan, pray for us!



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

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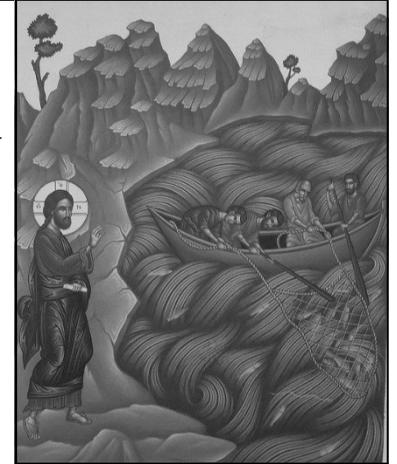


Our way, or God's way?

Do you like to do things *your* way?

Well, we all do, don't we? You might have a good idea or a good plan, and when somebody tells you to do it another way, you might get kind of angry! Sometimes we can all be stubborn.

When you hear today's Gospel reading, you will remember it right away. We hear about how Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him. Jesus saw Peter (Simon) cleaning his nets after he had just gone fishing, and He told him to go out into the lake again and fish some more. Peter might have wanted to do things *his own* way, but he answered, "Master, we worked all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the nets." When he did, he caught so many fish he couldn't even pull it all in!



Look at all the fish!

Our way might seem like a good way, but let's try not to be too stubborn. Remember what happened when Peter listened to his Master, Christ Himself! We can try to listen to God's way when we find a quiet time to pray by ourselves. We can find God's way when we come to church and pray with other Orthodox Christians. We can find God's way when we talk with our good and faithful priest. We can find God's way when we take time to read the Bible. Let's try hard to know God's way, and then follow it!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Enemies
- Faithful
- Fishing
- Love
- Monk
- Mount Athos
- Obedience
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Silouan
- Stubborn

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Silouan. Look closely! Can you find his monastery in the background? Once, Saint Silouan had a vision where he saw Christ! Can you find Him in the icon, too?



SAINT SILOUAN OF MOUNT ATHOS

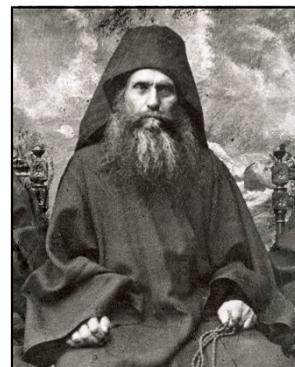
“LET US LOVE OUR ENEMIES”

When do you pray? At church? When you wake up? At bedtime? Before you eat? That’s great! But did you know that the Bible tells us to pray *at all times*? Yes. We can try to always keep Jesus Christ in our hearts.



Lots of holy people have been able to do this—to pray at all times—but they sure had to practice at it. One saint is Saint Silouan. He lived less than 100 years ago, so we have a real photograph of him! This saint was from Russia, but he became a monk and lived on the holy mountain of Mount Athos, in Greece.

Saint Silouan hardly knew how to read, but he did know how to pray at all times. And what did he pray for? Well, so many things. One of his students wrote down things that Saint Silouan said. Again and again, Saint Silouan said how important it is for us to love and pray for our enemies. He said, “Whoever will not love his enemies cannot know the Lord and the sweetness of the Holy Spirit.”



Is there somebody you don’t like, or somebody who is mean to you? Can you remember Saint Silouan’s advice? Can you pray for him or her?

We celebrate Saint Silouan today, September 24th (OC: October 7th).