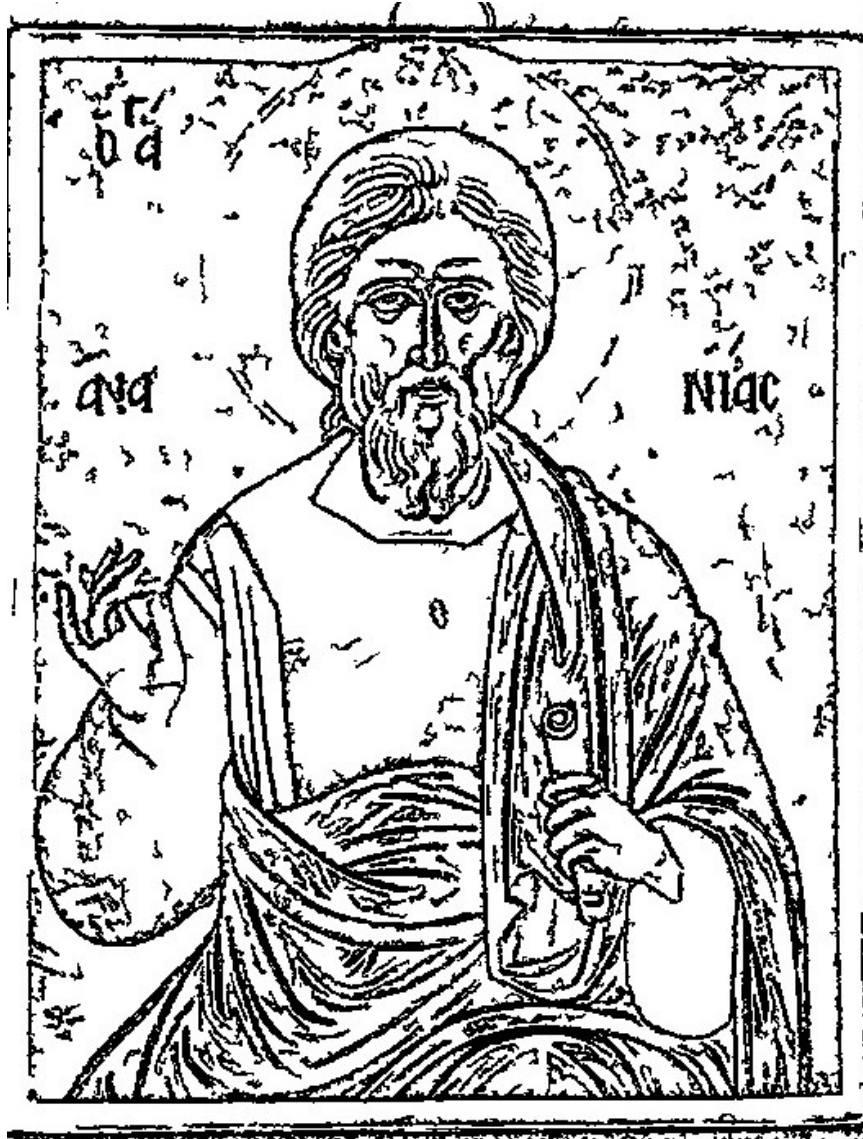


Saint Ananias, pray for us!



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

Sunday, October 1, 2023

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A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



How can you love an enemy?

Has anybody ever asked you to do something that sounds impossible? Maybe you had to do something that you thought, "There's no way!"

In today's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus' words, "Love your enemies." How can we do that? An enemy is somebody we're supposed to hate, right? No, not when we are Christians.

One of our most beloved saints, Saint John Chrysostom, told his church something many years ago. He said, Jesus did not say, "Do not hate," but He said, "love." That sounds impossible!

But happily, we have lots of Christian saints who have gone before us. They have given us good examples of how we can really love our enemies. Saint John Chrysostom said we can follow 9 steps, so that one day, we can really love our enemies. The first step is "Don't start the fight." That's not so hard, is it? We can do that. The second step is "Don't get back at somebody who did something wrong to you." We can work at that. Saint John tells us we can keep getting better at loving our enemies. Finally, we can reach step nine. That last step is to pray for our enemy, asking God to help him or her.

Do you think you can try hard to follow Saint John's advice? Can you learn to love an enemy, somebody who hurts you?



Jesus loved His enemies!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Ananias
- Anoint
- Apostle
- Baptize
- Chrysostom
- Enemies
- Love
- Mercy
- Seventy

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Do you know what is happening in this icon of Saint Paul and Saint Ananias? St. Paul is being baptized!

This icon is from the famous Decani Monastery. The icons there are some of the most beautiful in the world!

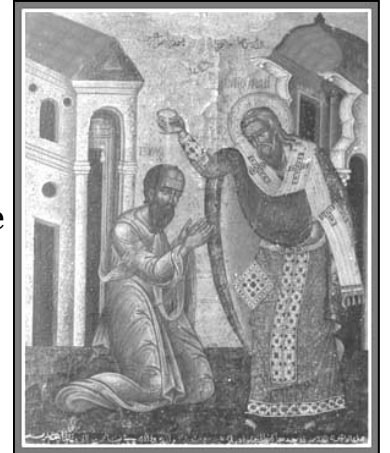


APOSTLE ANANIAS

ONE OF THE 70 APOSTLES

You know Saint Paul, don't you?

He is one of the greatest saints the Church ever had! Why? Because he worked so hard to help the Church grow and grow. But did you know Saint Paul once worked against the Church? He even hurt some of the first Christians because he thought they were doing the wrong thing! Saint Paul turned around and soon became one of the greatest helpers for the Church. But he couldn't make that change by himself.



Apostle Ananias anoints the Apostle Paul

Today we remember another saint, the Apostle Ananias. He helped Saint Paul change his life to follow Christ! He heard about Paul in a vision, and he put his hands on him, and he baptized him. Even Saint Paul needed somebody else to help him grow close to Christ. He couldn't do it by himself.

When we are part of the Church, we depend on each other. We need each other to help us grow close to our Lord! Saint Paul needed Ananias to help him grow close to the Lord too.

Even as a kid, you know, you are a full member of the Church. What can you do to help others grow closer to Christ? How can you help another person know the Lord even better?

We celebrate Saint Ananias today, October 1st (OC: October 14th).