

Saint Peter, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 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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Giving away our gifts

Have you ever given one of your presents away? Maybe you didn't like it in the first place, or maybe you thought a friend or a family member would like it even more than you did.

In the epistle today, we hear what Saint Paul says about giving away our gifts. Should we do it? Of course! That is exactly why God gave these gifts to us. The gifts Saint Paul is talking about are our spiritual gifts. We know that God let some people be "apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers."

Those gifts—teaching or preaching, helping others in some way or another—aren't for us! God wants us to give those gifts away, so that we can "build up the body of Christ." That means that we can use our gifts to help others and to help the Christian church grow.

Our beloved Saint John Chrysostom once said that very thing! When we get one gift and another person gets another gift, we can't be jealous and we can't think we're better than somebody else. God wants us to give these spiritual gifts away—to help others! Can you think of something you are good at, and can you think of a way you can give that gift away?



Saint Paul had a gift for preaching—and he gave it away!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Angel
- Apostles
- Chains
- Evangelists
- Gifts
- Miracle
- Pastors
- Peter
- Prayer
- Prophets
- Rome
- Talents

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THE CHAINS OF SAINT PETER AND THE POWER OF GOD!

Have you celebrated a saint's day? Your nameday, or a friend's? Did you know that sometimes we celebrate feastdays for events, things that happened in our Church's long history?



You can still pray in front of the chains of St. Peter if you go to a church in Rome, Italy.

Have you heard the story of St. Peter's chains? St. Peter was busy in Rome, telling people all about Christ—and lots of people were becoming Christians. Lots of people were learning to believe in Jesus Christ and getting baptized, too.

The king did not like this, and so he threw St. Peter into prison. He was chained up, with a prison guard on each side of him. Did he have *any* chance of escaping? Not at all! But during the night, an angel told St. Peter to get up. The chains fell from him, and St. Peter left the prison cell!

But what happened to the chains? Christians knew that these chains were special because they had once touched St. Peter. They were all a part of this big miracle that God had let happen. So they brought sick people to touch the chains, and they were healed!

You can still find these chains at a church in Rome, Italy. Don't miss them! If you see them one day, you'll remember this wonderful miracle. And you'll remember that nobody can stop the power of God!

We celebrate this miracle on Tues., January 16th (OC: January 29th).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Can you find the chains of Saint Peter in this icon?

Do you see who is helping him escape?
An angel!

