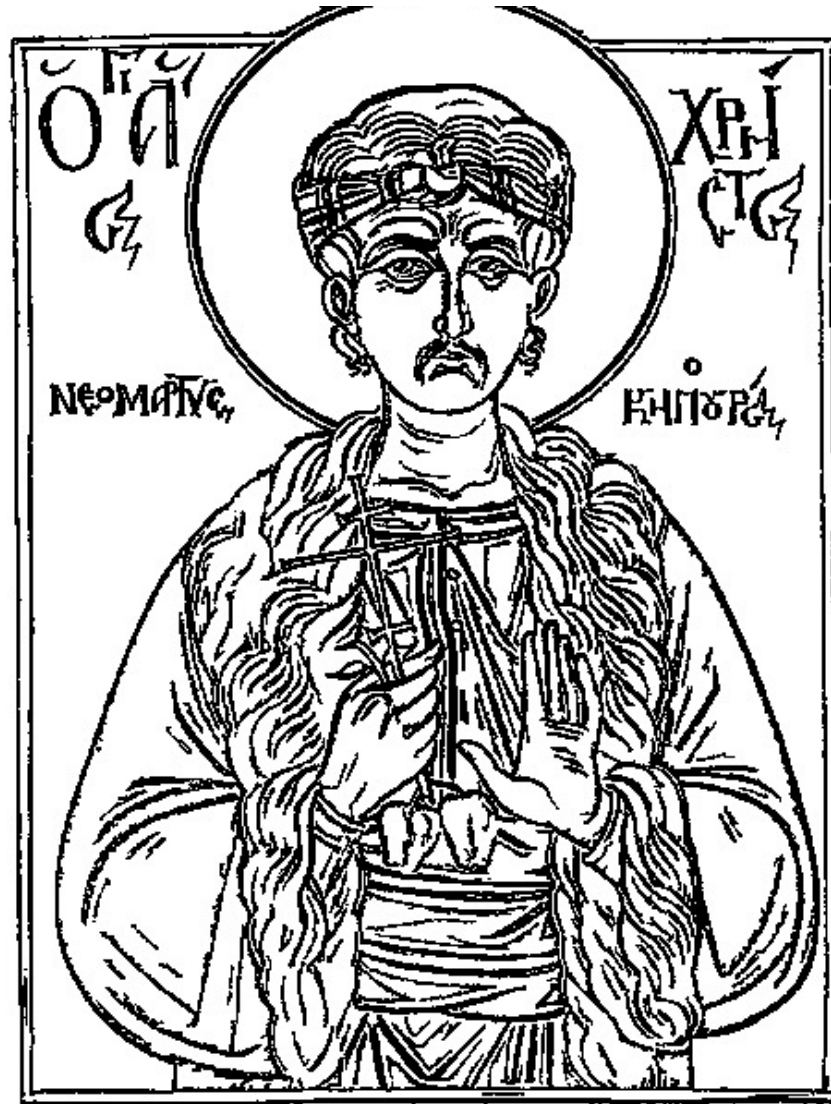


Saint Christos, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 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, February 11, 2024

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A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Don't hide your gifts!

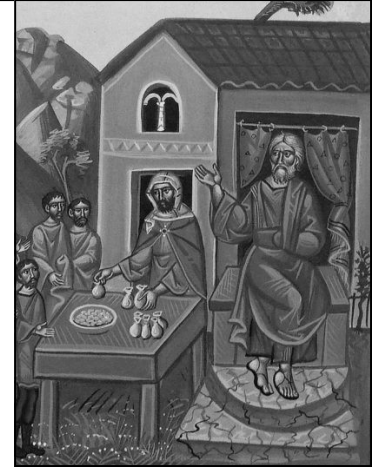
What would you do if somebody

gave you a ton of money, and he told you to use it in a good way? Would you be afraid to spend it? Would you hide it in your room, where it would be safe? What would you do with it?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a man who gave some money to three people, and he trusted them to use it in the right way. Two of them did just that, but one of them was afraid to use the money. He hid that money in the ground, until the man came back for it!

A parable is a story that tells us a lesson. What's the lesson we can learn? God has given us all special gifts too. He has given us our Orthodox Christian faith. He wants us to grow close to Him and to know Him better. He even wants us to be with Him in heaven, and He tells us how to get there. We have teachers and parents who help us grow in our faith, and we have a country that protects our rights to be Christians. We have a lot of gifts—It's like we have been given a ton of money!

Let's not be afraid to spend that money! In other words, let's share our faith with others so that it can grow. Let's help other people who need our help, so that they can know the love of Christ too. Let's not hide our gifts, like the man in the parable hid his gifts!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

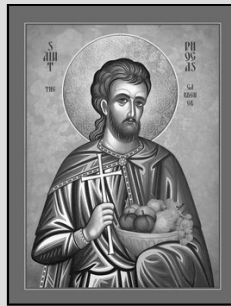
- Christos
- Faithful
- Gardener
- Martyr
- Master
- Parable
- Servants
- Sharing
- Talents

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

We have a few gardener saints in our Church!

Here are Saint Tryphon, Saint Phocas the Gardener, and Saint Christos.



SAINT CHRISTOS

THE FAITHFUL GARDENER

Have you ever noticed that a saint can have almost any kind of job? A saint can be a faithful priest or bishop. A saint can be a faithful cook, or a faithful teacher, or a faithful mother, or a faithful carpenter, or a faithful king or queen. A saint can be a faithful person with no job at all!



Tomorrow we celebrate a saint who was a faithful gardener. Saint Christos lived in Albania, but he later moved to the city of Constantinople for a job. He tended the gardens of the sultan, who was the ruler of the land. In those days, Constantinople was part of the Ottoman empire, so the rulers were not Christian, but Muslim. Christos knew that, of course, but he also knew he would always be a Christian. He would always love and serve Christ.

Once, Christos was selling fruit that he had grown in the garden. A man came to buy some of the fruit, but he didn't like the price. He was angry, so he lied about Christos. He told the authorities that Christos had promised to become a Muslim, and to deny Christ.

Christos was sent to prison, and a monk came to give him food. But Christos said, "Why should I eat? I do not expect to live, so I may as well die hungry and thirsting for Christ." Later, the Turkish leaders did kill Christos, but the faithful gardener never gave up his faith. He loved Christ to the end of his life, and he still loves Him in heaven today!

We celebrate Saint Christos on Monday, February 12th (OC: Feb. 25th).