

Saint Polycarp, 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

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Jesus is for everybody!

Are you a member of a club?

Clubs are for people who share some kind of interest. If you're on a sports team or in scouts or a chess club or dance group, you share something with the other members, don't you? It's a special group just for people like you.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear how our Lord came to save *everybody*, not just people in a special club, not just people like Him. In the story, we hear how a woman begged Jesus to help her sick daughter.

The problem was that she wasn't Jewish, like Jesus and His disciples were. "Send her away!" the disciples said. But our Lord did not send her away. She begged Him again to help her, and He listened to her. He knew she was a faithful woman. And He healed her daughter instantly!

Let's always remember that Jesus Christ came to save everybody—not just a special group or a special club. When we see somebody who is different from us, let's remember that our Lord came to save him too. Let's remember how, "God so loved the world"—the whole world, not just a special little part of it!



Christ came to save us all!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Canaanite
- Disciples
- Elder
- Healing
- Martyr
- Persistence
- Polycarp
- Salvation
- Smyrna
- Witness

P	A	J	M	D	S	E	P	L	H	F	G	S	K	M
G	O	X	O	M	N	V	Z	I	C	T	N	A	M	B
H	M	L	Y	O	O	J	I	B	N	F	I	L	U	W
W	A	R	Y	E	Z	W	Q	F	V	X	L	V	W	W
S	N	W	P	C	R	T	J	G	T	Q	A	A	Z	J
A	E	T	I	N	A	A	N	A	C	N	E	T	R	U
T	F	L	S	E	M	R	E	T	S	I	H	I	M	A
Y	C	N	P	S	Y	H	P	M	K	T	I	O	A	J
P	E	R	S	I	S	T	E	N	C	E	W	N	R	O
R	D	L	N	X	C	O	F	W	W	I	Q	S	T	I
C	W	M	D	B	Y	S	T	C	T	F	N	A	Y	U
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V	A	W	N	Y	R	K	E	D	Z	T	B	F	U	L
O	H	U	S	V	K	S	D	U	Q	T	A	C	X	B
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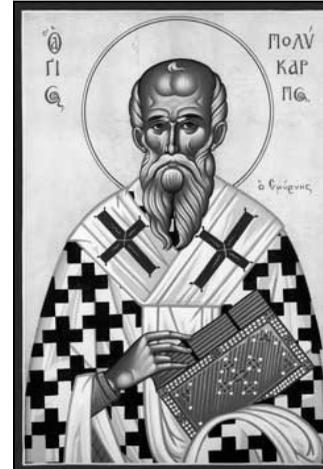
WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of Saint Polycarp, when the emperor ordered him to be killed! He is called a martyr—he died because he wouldn't give up his Christian faith. A martyr means a witness...do you see the other saints watching him, witnessing his strong faith?



SAINT POLYCARP

LEARNING FROM OUR ELDERS



Have you ever asked a grandparent or another older person about what life was like 50 or even 75 years ago? Maybe you asked about a war long ago, or even about how he lived and played as a child. We can always learn interesting things from people who are much older than we are—they've seen things and done things we never have!

This week, we celebrate the nameday of a saint who learned from his elders too. Saint Polycarp was born about 70 years after Jesus was born. St. Polycarp learned from St. John, the Apostle and friend of Christ. And you know, St. John learned from our Lord Jesus Christ Himself! Polycarp learned to love God very much, even when he was little. Later on, he became a priest and then a bishop. He was very close to God, and people came to him because they knew God heard his strong prayers!

Polycarp died about 150 years after Christ's birth. The emperor at that time hated Christians, and he killed many faithful people. Polycarp stayed close to Christ though—and now he is still close to Him in heaven!

We still have some things that Polycarp wrote, and this is almost 1900 years later. So if you read them, you are listening to somebody who lived just after the time of Christ!

We celebrate Saint Polycarp on Friday, February 23rd (OC: March 7th).