

Saint Thekla, 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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Crowding around Jesus

Have you ever tried hard to hear something, so you crowded closer and closer until you could hear? Maybe you crowded in closer to somebody singing or somebody telling a story or even to a speaker attached to a CD player. When we *want* to hear something, we do what it takes to hear it!



Our Lord Jesus Christ spent a lot of His ministry preaching to people, telling them the right way to act and telling them how to grow close to God. People would listen to Him, sitting around so they could hear Jesus speak.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about one time Jesus was preaching to the people. "One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around Him and listening to the word of God." They were pushing so close to Him, that He went out into a boat and taught the people from the boat.

The people wanted to hear the word of God! Do we want to hear the word of God too? Well, we can! Every time we read the Bible, we hear the word of God. Every time we come to church and listen to the Gospel, we hear the word of God. Every time we go to Sunday School and learn about the Bible with our friends, we hear the word of God. Let's crowd in close to Jesus, just like the people in today's story did. Let's try to hear the word of God more and more!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostle
- Bible
- Boat
- Crowds
- Jesus Christ
- Learning
- Martyr
- Pagan
- Saint Paul
- Scripture
- Word of God
- Thekla

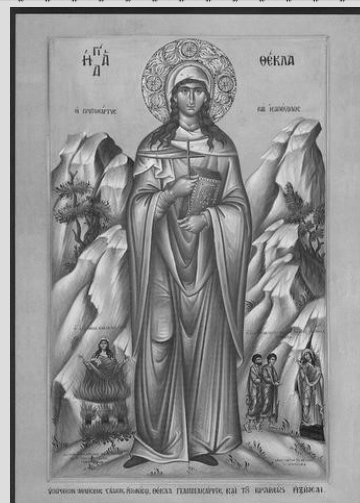
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T	R	U	L	W	U	J	H	U	S	A	W	O	C	V
E	A	Y	C	E	R	C	U	A	Q	U	P	P	I	E
B	S	J	W	E	E	R	P	E	B	C	I	A	Y	R

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

In this icon of Saint Thekla, you can see she is out in the wilderness.

When she was older, Thekla lived a very simple life.

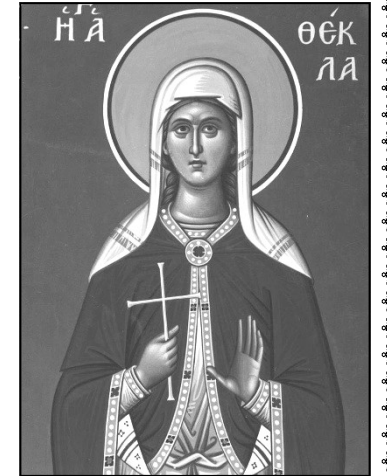
She could have been rich on earth, but instead she has something better— life with Christ forever!



SAINT THEKLA

THE FIRST WOMAN MARTYR

What would you do if your parents really, really wanted you to do something? Well, usually we'd do it. We love and respect them, don't we? But this week, we celebrate the nameday of a saint whose parents just couldn't understand why she wanted to be a Christian.



Saint Thekla lived 2,000 years ago. She came from a rich family, and her parents really, really wanted her to get married to a pagan man (he didn't believe in our one, true God). But Saint Thekla lived when Saint Paul lived, and she had a chance to hear him speak! She knew that she only wanted to follow Christ. She didn't care about being rich, and she didn't care about being married and being comfortable. She just wanted to learn more about her Lord. She wanted to follow Him. She wanted to tell other people about Him, too!

Saint Thekla's family did not like this idea. Her own mother wanted her to be burned! Saint Thekla left with Saint Paul and his helpers and went to Antioch to help teach the people about Jesus Christ. She lived a long life, and she was always faithful to God.

In our church, we remember Saint Thekla for her strong faith. She was the first woman martyr we know about—the first woman who died for her faith in Christ.

We celebrate St. Thekla on Tuesday, Sept. 24th (OC: October 7th).