

This is my beloved Son!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2025 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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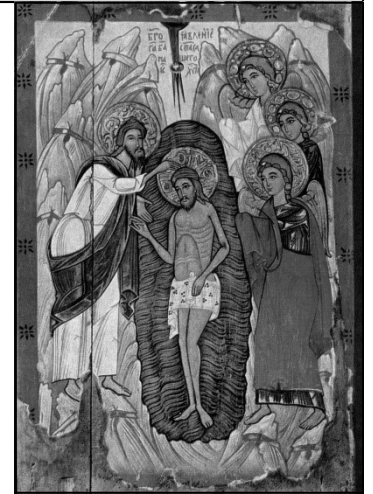


Prepare the way of the Lord!

What do you do when you get up every morning? When you have school, how do you get ready to go? What do you do first? You probably have a little routine. Maybe you get dressed, have some breakfast, brush your teeth, and so on (but maybe in a different order). We all have ways to prepare for our days.

Tomorrow, we will celebrate the great feast of Theophany. That's the day our Lord, Jesus Christ, was baptized! And today, the Gospel tells us all about it. Before Jesus was baptized, Saint John the Baptist went all over the place. He was baptizing people, and he was telling them to "Prepare the way of the Lord." Jesus was coming to start His work, and all the people had to prepare for Him. And how did they prepare for Him? They repented. They said they were sorry for the wrong things they had done. That is how they prepared.

We can prepare for the Lord too! We can prepare to receive Communion by saying sorry to God and to others for the wrong things we have done. We can prepare for bed by repenting again. Repenting, and saying we are sorry, is the way we get ready for the Lord...just like the people did with John!



St. John prepared for the Lord!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Angel
- Baptist
- Celebration
- Feastday
- Forerunner
- Gospel
- John
- Jordan
- Prepare
- Repent
- Theophany

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Did you ever notice that Saint John sometimes has wings in his icon? Can you find them?

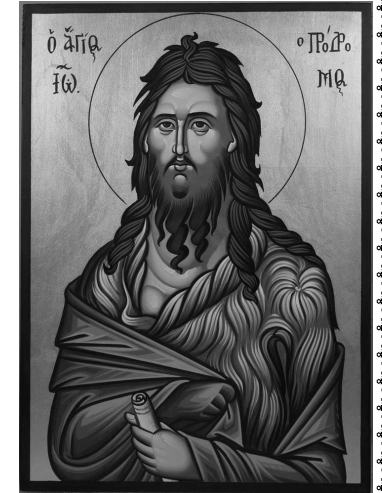
Saint John has wings in the icon, because he is a messenger. He gives messages from God, just like angels do!



SAINT JOHN

THE BAPTIZER AND FORERUNNER

Have you ever played a guessing game, where you could hear somebody, but you couldn't see him or her? Maybe you were blindfolded, and then you had to guess who it was who spoke.



Tomorrow, we celebrate the feastday of Saint John the Baptist. He's called the Baptist, because he baptized Christ. But he's also called the Forerunner, because he came **before** Christ. He preached to people before Jesus did, because he wanted to get them ready for Jesus.

Some people didn't get it though! Some people just wanted to follow Saint John, not Jesus. Another saint of our Church, Saint Augustine, explained it like this, "John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever."

Sometimes people get mixed up about who is speaking though. They thought Saint John was the most important one. They thought Saint John was the one who was going to save them.

Let's celebrate this great saint tomorrow, and remember how Saint John was the one speaking the voice, but He was telling people about the Word, and that is our Lord, Jesus Christ!

We celebrate St. John on Wednesday, January 7th (OC: Jan. 20th).