

The Prodigal 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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Wasting things

What would you do if you had an hour free to do whatever you wanted? How about a week-end, or even a whole summer break? How would you spend your time? Reading books? Napping? Playing video games? Sometimes we might want to spend our time in a good way, but when it comes down to it, we waste our time on silly things.



Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. You remember that Gospel reading, don't you? The young man wasted all his money on things he shouldn't have. He might have wanted to spend his money on good things, but when he had the money in his hands, he wasted it all, every single bit of it! He didn't even have any money left for something he really needed—like food.

You'd probably never do what that young man did, but sometimes we do waste things, don't we? We might waste food, clothes, or money, but the biggest thing we waste is TIME! God wants us to spend our free time in a good way, but lots of times we waste it. We might spend too long watching TV, or playing video games, or other things. (Your parents might waste time too, but just on other things!) Then, we don't have any time left to use on something we really need—like praying to God and trying to grow closer to Him.

Let's try to use our free time on things that God likes—like reading the Bible, praying to our Lord, helping and visiting others, and more!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostle
- Bible
- Charity
- Faithful
- Follower
- Gospel
- Grow
- Mariamne
- Philip
- Prodigal
- Waste

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of the St. Philip, one of Jesus's special helpers and friends. Saint Mariamne was his sister.

He was an apostle, but so was she!



SAINT MARIAMNE

THE SISTER OF THE APOSTLE PHILIP

Do you know what an apostle is?

An apostle is somebody who is sent out. Remember, after Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead, He sent out His disciples. He sent His disciples out to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. These disciples and friends became His apostles!



You've heard about the 12 apostles, who are all men. (You know, Peter and Andrew, and James and John, Philip, and more.) But remember, God wants all of us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

After the resurrection, Saint Philip told many people about Christ, and he went lots of places with his sister Mariamne. Together with the apostle Bartholomew, they worked hard to spread the Gospel. Once, the governor's wife was bitten by a snake, and the three saints prayed for her to be healed. When the governor's wife was healed, she decided to become a Christian. The governor (who was not Christian), was not happy about this, so he arrested the three saints. The apostles Philip and Bartholomew were later killed in the same way Christ was—on a cross. Saint Mariamne never stopped telling people about Christ, and she later died in peace.

Saint Mariamne wasn't one of the 12 apostles, but in a way, she was an apostle too! We are all "sent out" by God to spread the news of love and hope of Christ!

We celebrate St. Mariamne tomorrow, February 17th (OC: March 2nd).