

Saint Mary of Egypt, the 5th Sunday of Lent



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck.
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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, April 6, 2025

Volume 13, Issue 14

How do you serve?

Have you ever tried really hard to be first in line? Have you even pushed people out of the way to get there? Even Jesus' disciples made that mistake once!

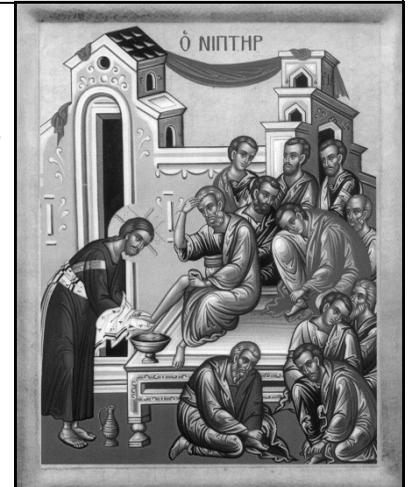
Today's Gospel reading tells us about two of Jesus' disciples, who wanted Jesus to give them a special place in his kingdom. They thought Christ was going to be some kind of king on earth, so they wanted to be close to the King!

After all, wouldn't it be nice to be served, like a king and his helpers? You wouldn't have to work so much. You could be entertained and fed and you certainly would never have to clean your room!

But Christ told them that even He, Jesus Christ, the King of all, "came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

If even our Lord, Jesus Christ came to serve, we should also try to serve too! That means looking out for other people first. That means thinking of ways you can help people with their needs. That means letting others have the special treatment that *we* actually want for ourselves.

Let's try to think of ways that we can *serve*—not *be served*...at home, at school, and all around us.



Christ came to serve! Can we serve too?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

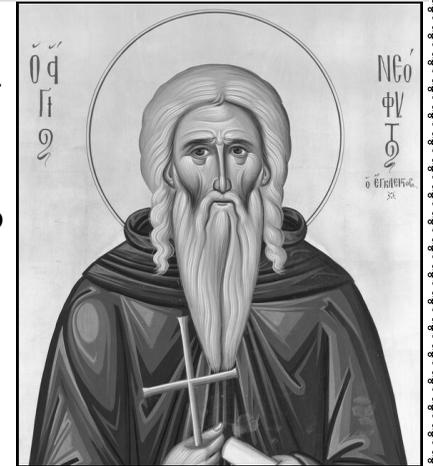
- Blessing
- Cyprus
- Great Lent
- King
- Mary of Egypt
- Monastery
- Neophytos
- Recluse
- Saints
- Servant

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

OUR BLESSINGS COME FROM GOD SAINT NEOPHYTOS OF CYPRUS

Can you think of something

you're really good at? Maybe soccer or basketball? Maybe playing an instrument? Maybe cooking? Maybe math? Sometimes when we get good at something, we start to feel proud, and we start to think it's all because we're so great.



Saint Neophytos got to be really good at something too, but he always knew his gifts came from God. Saint Neophytos

grew up in Cyprus and his parents were poor farmers with 8 kids all together. Neophytos never went to school, and he did not learn to read and write as a kid.

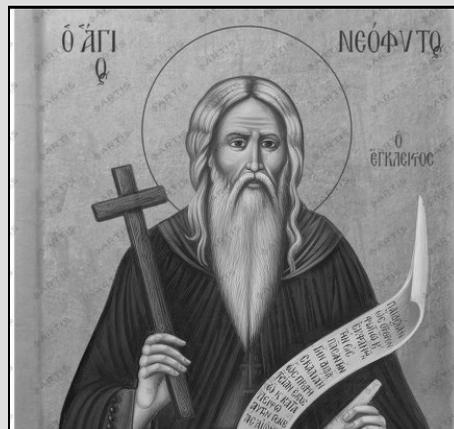
Later on, Neophytos really wanted to become a monk. He tried very hard to do this, and at last he got what he wanted. In the monastery, Neophytos finally started to learn to read and write. Neophytos began to live off by himself, away from the other people. That's why he is called a "Recluse" because he lived all alone. He got really good at prayer, talking to God.

St. Neophytos never went to school, but he got so good at writing that we still have more than a thousand pages that he wrote! He always knew his talent was a gift from God (just like ours are too). Saint Neophytos is a special saint of Cyprus, and he is a gift to them too!

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of St. Neophytos the Recluse.

Do you see the long scroll he has in his hand? Can you believe he wrote so much but he never went to school?



We celebrate St Neophytos on Saturday, April 12th (OC: April 25th)