

Saint Anthony, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 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

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The same story



Have you ever gotten some advice from one person...but then you heard it from another person too? Maybe your parents told you one thing, and then your grandparents or your teachers said it too.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about the very beginning of our Lord's work, His ministry. When Jesus began to preach and to teach, He said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He told the people to say they were sorry for the wrong things they had done. He told them to get ready for God to be with them. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus wasn't the first person to say this. Just last week, we heard that Saint John the Baptist said the same thing! Saint John told the people, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Get ready, he told them. Saint John and Jesus told the same advice, the same story.

The saints of our church tell the same story that Christ did. The saints are all on the same page. They tell the same message. They know what God wants from us. Our Lord wants us to get ready for Him. Our Lord wants us to be with Him! We hear the same story from Saint John that we hear from Christ. We hear the same message from all the faithful saints of our Church. Let's try to listen to all of them!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Anthony
Apostles
Desert
Gifts
Great
Humble
Prophets
Teachers
Thanksgiving

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Anthony.

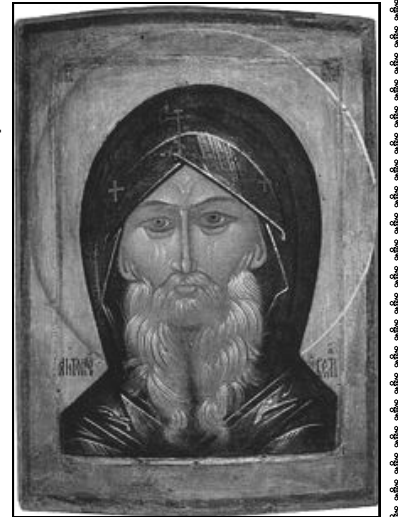
He is standing outside his home...a cave in the desert!

How would you like to live there?



SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT "HUMBLE YOURSELVES"

Have you ever heard of somebody called "the Great"? Alexander the Great conquered huge lands, and he won battles left and right. Wayne Gretsky was called "the Great One." He was a hockey player who could score goals better than anybody else. Catherine the Great was an empress who made Russia a very powerful country.



But what about a poor man living in the desert? A man who had no money or power? Why does our Orthodox Church call this man, "the Great"?

Saint Anthony once had lots of money, but he sold all of his things and gave his money to the poor. He went out of the city to live in the desert, in Egypt. He left so that he could be close to God, in prayer and by fasting. He remembered what the Bible tells us about being important. It says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Saint Anthony humbled himself. He tried not to be important and famous and powerful. He knew that God would make him important if He wanted to! We remember Saint Anthony as "the Great" because he is a *great* saint, and a *great* example to us!

We celebrate Saint Anthony on Saturday, January 17th (OC: January 30th).