

Saint John Climacus, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (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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Chutes and Ladders



Have you ever played Chutes and Ladders? It's a fun board game for really little kids. You move your pieces up a ladder and try to get to the end of the game. But sometimes, you might land on a spot that makes you go all the way back to the beginning!

Today, in our Church, we remember Saint John. There are lots of Saint Johns, you know, but this one wrote a book about a ladder, a ladder that goes all the way to heaven. Of course, there isn't a *real* ladder, but a ladder is a good way to think of how we all want to come closer to God. In his book, Saint John tells us how we can do this!

God does want us to be close to Him. But sometimes, when we do the wrong thing, we go the other way, *away* from God. Instead of going up, up, up, climbing closer to God at the top, it's like we are sliding down the chute, *away* from God. All our life, we are kind of in this Chutes and Ladders game! As Christians, we have to always try to climb closer to our Lord. But then there are the wrong things we do sometimes. Always watch out for them because they make us slide away from Him!

When we follow the guides of our Church, we can do what God wants us to do—climb the ladder to Him.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

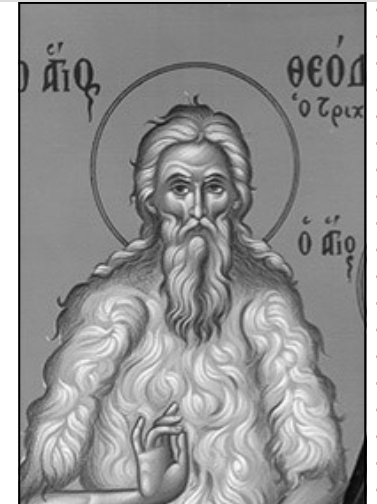
- Climacus
- Compassion
- Constantinople
- Fourth Sunday
- Hairshirt
- John
- Ladder
- Prayer
- Theodore

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

SAINT THEODORE TRICHINAS

THE HAIR-SHIRT WEARER

Usually when we're uncomfortable, we try to make ourselves comfortable again, don't we? If we're cold, we get a jacket to be warmer. If we need a pillow at night, we get another. We try to make things easy.



On Saturday, we celebrate the nameday of a saint who did the opposite. When he was uncomfortable, he tried to make himself more uncomfortable! Saint Theodore grew up in Constantinople in a rich family who had everything. But Theodore wanted to give up all that to try to grow close to his Lord. He joined a monastery, and he lived a hard life. When it was cold, he'd sleep outside. When it was hot, he'd wear a scratchy shirt made out of animal fur, a "hair shirt."

Why did Theodore do this? Because every time he thought of being uncomfortable, he would think of praying to God. He would think of what God did for us.

When we read about the saints, we always try to learn from their lives. Nowadays, we probably wouldn't walk around with a hair shirt, but we can remember that things can be uncomfortable sometimes. We can remember to think of others. We can remember to pray to God for them. We can thank God for what He did for us. Let's look to Saint Theodore the hair-shirt wearer as our example!

We celebrate St. Theodore Trichinas on Saturday, April 20th (OC: May 3rd).

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here's another icon of Saint Theodore Trichinas.

This saint was so humble and pure, that God gave him the gift of seeing angels.

