

St. Olympiada, pray for us!



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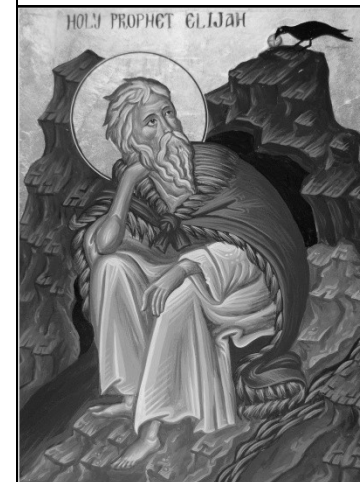
The Children's Word

"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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Pray for each other!



Do you ever ask your friends to pray for you? Do you pray for your friends and family? Sometimes we might feel a little shy to ask for prayers.

Today's epistle reading tells us we should all pray for each other! When we need something, we pray for each other. The epistle says, "The prayer of a righteous man has great effects." In other words, praying works!

Today we remember the holy prophet Elijah. God worked through Elijah because he was such a holy man. Once, the people were suffering because there was a big drought. All the crops and the animals were going to die because there was not enough water. But when Elijah prayed, "the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit." The rain poured down when this good man prayed. The epistle tells us today that Elijah's praying worked!

Let's remember today's simple advice. When we need something, we ask our friends and our family to pray for us. When other people need something, remember to pray to God for them. God doesn't leave us alone here to fight everything by ourselves. He wants us to stay connected to Him, and He wants us to stay connected to each other too. He wants us to ask for help, and He wants us to help each other too. Pray for one another!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Connect
Constantinople
Deaconess
Elijah
Epistle
Fair
Olympiada
Pray
Prophet
Righteous

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

In this icon, you can see that Saint Olympiada was not a poor lady. Her clothes show that she came from a noble family.

But remember, St. Olympiada gave so much to help the Christians, especially the poor! Even St. John Chrysostom was impressed!



SAINT OLYMPIADA THE DEACONESS



Have you ever been treated unfairly? Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't do? What did you do about it? Did you complain or did you just keep it to yourself?

This week, we celebrate Saint Olympiada (or Olympia), a saint who was definitely treated unfairly! Saint Olympiada was a friend of Saint John Chrysostom, a great saint of our Church (he was also the patriarch).

St. Olympiada came from a rich and important family in Constantinople, and when her husband died, she gave so much of her time and money to help the Christian church. With her own money, she built lots of churches in the area. She also built an orphanage and a hospital. Olympiada was also a deaconess, a special servant of the church.

After a while, St. John was sent away from Constantinople because the emperor was angry with him. St. Olympiada was upset that her friend and patriarch had been treated so unfairly. Soon after St. John left the city, the great church in Constantinople was set on fire! Even worse, some people thought that Olympiada had done it! She was put on trial, and she tried to explain she was innocent. She said, "I, who have helped build so many churches, am not in the habit of burning them down." Still, the authorities didn't like Olympiada, so they sent her away too. Saint John Chrysostom wrote to her, and helped her. He told her she was taking it all as a Christian should. Saint Olympiada died after some time. We remember for her courage and also for her friendship to Saint John!

We celebrate Saint Olympiada on Friday, July 25th (OC: August 7th).