

Sunday of All Saints



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 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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The last shall be first

Have you ever had to stand in line?

Maybe you were waiting for something really great, like an ice cream sundae. Can you imagine if, when you got to the front of the line, you let somebody else go first? Maybe you'd let somebody go ahead of you.

In the Gospel today, we read about how we should put other people in front of us. That's not just when we're standing in line, but at lots of other times too. Jesus said, "Many that are first will be last, and the last first." Sometimes we might do things for other people, even when it might make things harder for ourselves.

Jesus tells us that we have to make sacrifices in our lives. Often, we might try to make things easier for ourselves, or more fun, or more comfortable. But we should always be thinking about other people, because when we think about other people, we think about our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Can you think of something you can do for somebody else, even if it makes it a little bit harder for you? Can you spend some time helping somebody this summer? Can you make something or do something that will put somebody else first?



The saints put others first!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

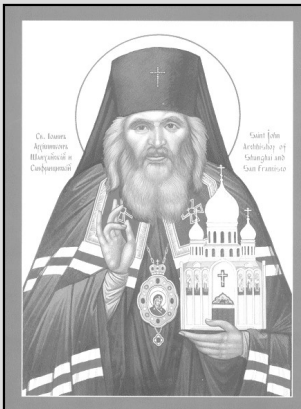
- All Saints
- Apostles
- Children
- Faithful
- First
- Gospel
- Helping
- Humility
- Last
- Sacrifice
- Saint John
- San Francisco
- Wonderworker

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Do you see what Saint John is holding in his hands? It is the church where he served in San Francisco.

And here is a picture of that church!

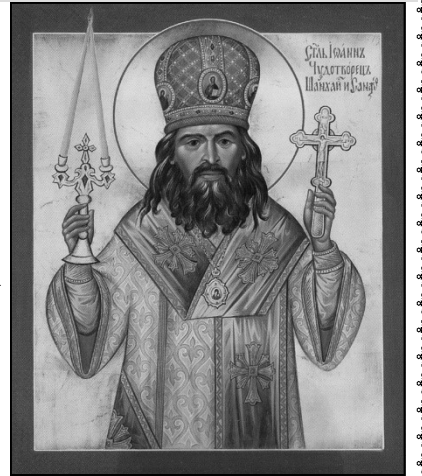


SAINT JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO

THE WONDERWORKER

Do you have any idea how many Saint Johns we have?

Hundreds and hundreds! Last week, we remembered the birthday of Saint John the Baptist. Then we have Saint John the Russian. Saint John the Theologian. Saint John Chrysostom. Saint John the Hairy. Saint John the Dwarf. And many, many more!



But this week, we will celebrate a special Saint John who lived and died in our own country. Even though he was an important bishop with tons to do, Saint John really loved children. When he was a bishop in China, Saint John started an orphanage for the children. And everywhere, he looked out for the children. He helped them with food and clothing, but he also helped teach them about the love of our Lord, too! Even today, there are grown men who, when they were boys, served as altar boys with this great saint. Even today, they still talk about what a loving man Saint John was, and how he especially loved children.

Now, Saint John is still with us because he prays for us from heaven. Many, many miracles have happened because of his prayers. If you ever visit San Francisco, California, ask your parents to take you to his church. The people there will give you some holy oil. By God's power, this holy oil has healed people who are very sick. Your family can keep it in your house if you especially need Saint John's prayers.

We celebrate Saint John on Tuesday, July 2nd (OC: July 15th).