

Holy youths, pray for us!



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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A full house

Do you have any friends or relatives who live far away from you? Do you visit sometimes or talk on the phone? Maybe you wish they lived closer to you so you could be together more!



In the Gospel reading today, we hear how our Lord also wants His friends to be with Him! We read how a man throws a big party, and He invites lots of people. The problem is that nobody comes to it! They all give excuses. They all say they are busy with something else. But the man still wants to have his party, so he invites even more people. He tells his servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled." The master (Who is really God) wants His friends to be close to Him. He wants His house to be filled!

So, just as we might miss our friends or family when they live far away from us, our loving Lord misses His children too. He wants us to help Him, too. We can be like the servant in the Gospel story today, inviting other people to be close to the Master too. Sometimes we can invite people with words. But we can always try to be good Christian examples so others will *want* to know more about our Lord. Remember, God wants *all* of His children to be close to Him!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

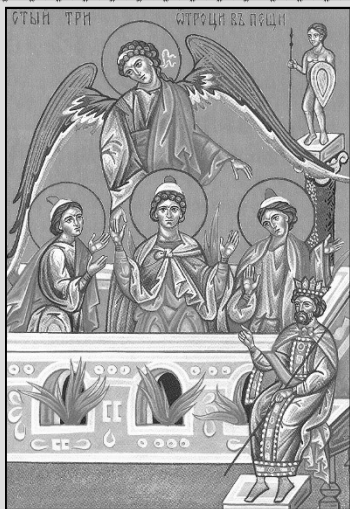
- Banquet
- Daniel
- Faith
- Fire
- Heaven
- Invitation
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Salvation
- Youths

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of the three holy youths. You can see the angel cooling them.

Can you see King Nebuchadnezzar? He is ordering his servants to make the fire even hotter!



DANIEL AND THE 3 HOLY YOUTHS

FAITH, NO MATTER WHAT!



Have you ever traded something you had for something you wanted? Did you trade a toy that you had for a toy a friend had? You give something, and you get something.

Sometimes we might think we can trade something with God too. We might think that if we pray a lot, or we

do something for Him, God will always give us what we want. Maybe we think we can trade what *we* do for something that *God* does. But that's not how it works, is it? God is ready to help us, but He does what He wants, when He wants, and how He wants.

On Tuesday, we remember Daniel and the Holy Youths. Do you remember hearing about them during Holy Week? They are the boys who were supposed to bow down and worship the idol of the king. But they only worshipped God! Why should they worship the idol of the king? When they refused, they were thrown into the super-hot fire.

If you read the story from the Old Testament, you'll find that these boys never made a deal with God. They never said, "We'll pray, and you'll save us." They never told the king that God would save them from the fire. But they knew they only worshipped God. They had faith in God—no matter what!

We celebrate Daniel and youths on Tuesday, December 17th (OC: December 30th).