

Saint Sarah, 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

Sunday, December 22, 2024

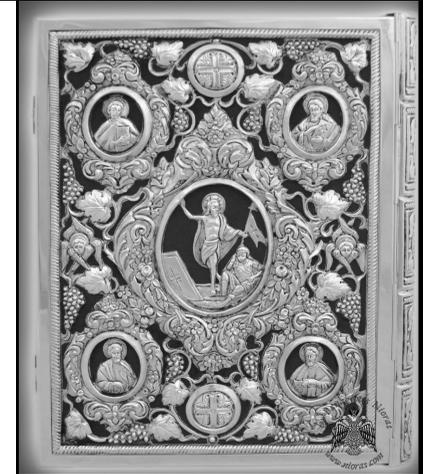
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The most important book

Do you know where the word "Bible" comes from? Well, it comes from the Greek word, "biblos," which means "book." And today's Gospel reading starts with that very word. It starts "The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ." The words "the book" are the very beginning of the New Testament, when we learn about our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Why do we call this book just "the book"? Because it's the most important book in the world! It's the book that tells us the whole history of how God has helped us, how God has helped the whole world. That's why we call it "the book," or "biblos." It's the most important one. It's THE book.

Today the Gospel tells us the whole family tree of our Lord Jesus Christ. It tells us where Jesus came from. When we hear all of the names like Abraham and Isaac and Ruth and David and Josiah and Joseph, we think about all the Bible stories we have heard that happened before Christ was born. We think about all the ways that God helped the world, even before Christ was born.

But now we get to read why this is called THE book. We get to read about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and how He came to save the world forever!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Abraham
- Ancestors
- Bible
- Birth
- Christmas
- Genealogy
- Righteous Sarah
- Shepherds
- Visitors

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

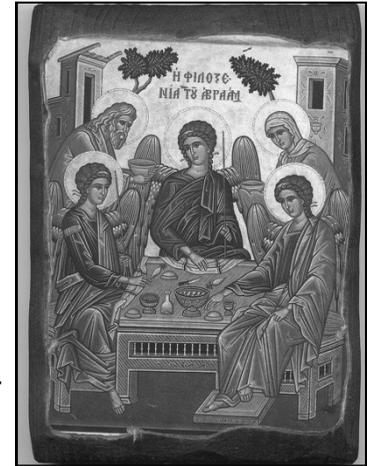
How long have we had pictures of the Christmas story? For a long, long time!

Here is a carved picture of the Nativity from 1,700 years ago! Can you find Jesus in the manger? Can you find Mary and the animals?



RIGHTEOUS SARAH THE HOLY FOREMOTHER

Have you ever had visitors at your house? Did you make them feel welcome? Did you talk to them and give them food and something to drink? Welcoming visitors is called “hospitality,” and today we celebrate a saint who welcomed some very special visitors.



Sarah was the wife of Abraham. We call Abraham a forefather of our Lord, Jesus Christ, because he came before Jesus. He was like a great-great-great...grandfather. So, his wife Sarah, was a foremother of the Lord!

Once, three visitors came to see Abraham and Sarah. The old husband and wife welcomed the visitors, even though they were strangers to them. Abraham and Sarah took care of the visitors, and the visitors told them that Sarah would have a baby. Later on, Sarah did have a baby, Isaac, and that was a special miracle. Abraham and Sarah were faithful to God. If you go to a wedding, you will hear their names in the wedding prayers. We remember them because they were married to each other, but they were faithful to God *together*.

The icon up above is called “The Hospitality of Abraham” but we know that Sarah showed hospitality and love for the visitors too! And God knows it too!

We celebrate St. Sarah today, the Sunday before Christmas.