

Saint Dionysios, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2025 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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Christ is all, and in all!

When you look around your church, what do you see? Does everybody look the same? Do *you* look the same as everybody else?

No, probably not, and that's exactly what we hear about today in the epistle reading. Saint Paul tells us that we have to remember that Christians are Christians. We try not to find differences among us within the Church. He writes, "Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all." Lots of those words we might not know, but Saint Paul wants to tell us to stop finding differences among us within the Church. We are all one, together in Christ!

Now, look around your church again. You might know some kids who were baptized as Orthodox Christians as babies, and you might know another kid who was just baptized last week! You might know some poor Christian and you might know a rich one. You might know a Greek and you might know a German. In the epistle today, Saint Paul urges us all to stop seeing divisions within the Church community. Remember, he writes, "Christ is all, and in all!"

Can you say hi to somebody today at church, somebody you don't know?



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

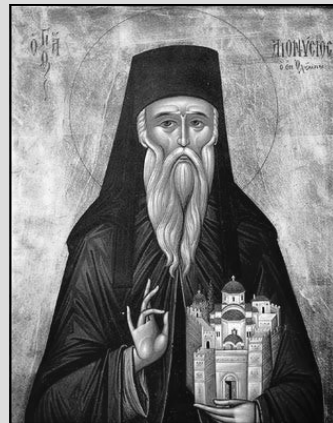
- Christ
- Dionysios
- Division
- Fasting
- Greek
- Humility
- Monastery
- Monks
- Olympus
- Peace
- Prayer

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Can you see what Saint Dionysios is holding in his arm? It is a whole monastery!

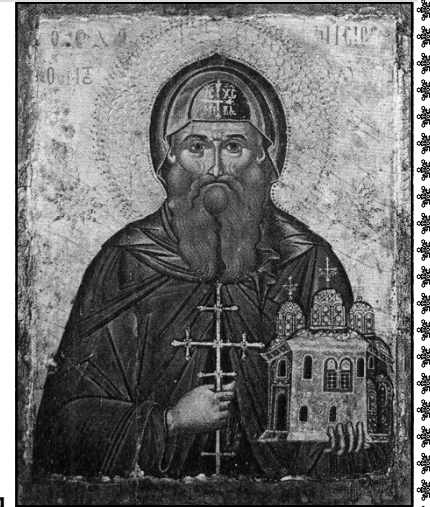
He is showing the monastery that he started on Mount Olympus.



SAINT DIONYSIOS OF MOUNT OLYMPUS

A SAINT WHO LOVED PEACE

Have you ever learned about the ancient Greek gods? You know, Zeus and Hera and Aphrodite and all the others? Well, before people knew about our one true God, many people believed in these false gods. And they believed their home was Mount Olympus, in Greece.



Of course, now Greece is a Christian country. Do you know what is on that same Mount Olympus? A special monastery that honors a special saint, Dionysios, who loved and worshiped our one, true God.

Even as a young man, Dionysios worked hard to grow close to God. He prayed and fasted hard, and soon became a monk. He loved the peace and quiet of time with God. Lots of people came to visit him because they wanted his good advice. Later on, the monastery wanted Dionysios to be in charge, but some people disagreed. Dionysios didn't want any fighting, so he left to go live way up on Mount Olympus.

Still, people found him there, and Dionysios helped the people as much as he could. Even though he loved peace, he also knew that God wanted him to use his special gifts. He started a monastery there, and many men came to live there. They came to worship our one, true God on Mount Olympus, right where ancient Greeks had worshiped the many false Gods long ago.

We celebrate St. Dionysios on Thursday, January 23rd (OC: Feb. 5th).