

The Presentation of our Lord



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2025 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, February 2, 2025

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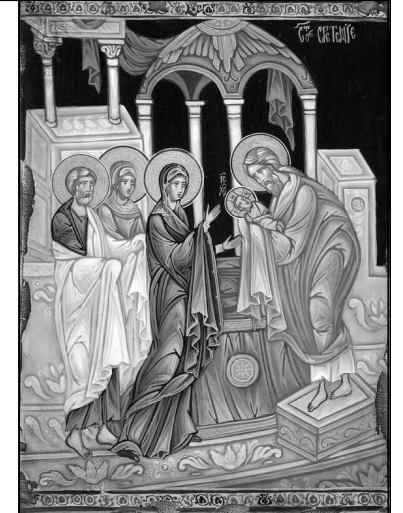
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Leading you to church

Who takes you to church? Do you go with your parents or your grandparents? Do you sometimes go with a friend or with your God-mother or Godfather?

Today is one of the 12 great feasts of our Church. We celebrate the day that Mary and Joseph brought the 40-day-old baby Jesus into the holy Temple. They brought Him there for the first time because they knew it was a special place to be close to God. This was a custom for Jewish families, and it is a custom in our Orthodox Church too. Have you seen a little baby being brought to the Church for the first time?



It's a very special thing for parents (or grandparents or Godparents) to bring their children to church—not just that first time, but all the time! God wants children to be close to Him. He wants children to be with Him in His house. Saint John Chrysostom once told parents, "Fathers and mothers, Go and lead your child by the hand into the church." St. John's advice is still good advice today, of course! We know that God wants fathers and mothers (and other grown-ups) to bring children to church. We know that when they do, they are doing exactly what God wants.

Can you thank God for the people who bring you to church? Thank *them* too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Church
- Constantinople
- Feastday
- Great
- Lead
- Light
- Patriarch
- Photios
- Presentation
- Saint
- Symeon

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

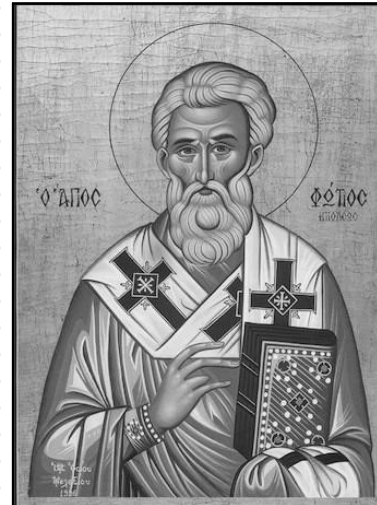
Here is another icon of Saint Photios. It is from the special shrine of Saint Photios in Saint Augustine, Florida.

Can you see St. Photios teaching the young saints Cyril and Methodios?



SAINT PHOTIOS

A GREAT LIGHT FOR THE CHURCH



Can you think of a “great” saint? We call St. Basil “the Great,” we have St. Katherine the Great Martyr, St. Makarios the Great, St. Euthemios the Great and lots more. What made them great? They did really great things for the Church!

This week we celebrate another saint whom we call “the Great.” Saint Photios the Great was a special saint who lived more than 1,200 years ago. He was a patriarch, the leader of the Church of Constantinople.

What made Saint Photios great?

Well, St. Photios did some really great things for the Church. He sent missionaries (Saints Cyril and Methodios) to spread the Christian Church to the Slavic people. Today, there are millions of Orthodox Christians who are Slavic. Saint Photios is the patriarch who first made this happen.

St. Photios did so much to keep the Church on the right path. He wrote lots of theological works so that bishops and priests and the faithful people would know what the Church teaches. He knew how important it was to keep the Church together, and teaching the truth. We have lots to thank Saint Photios for. His name, “Photios” means “light,” and he is still a great light for the Church, even today!

We celebrate St. Photios on Thursday, February 6th (OC: Feb. 19th).