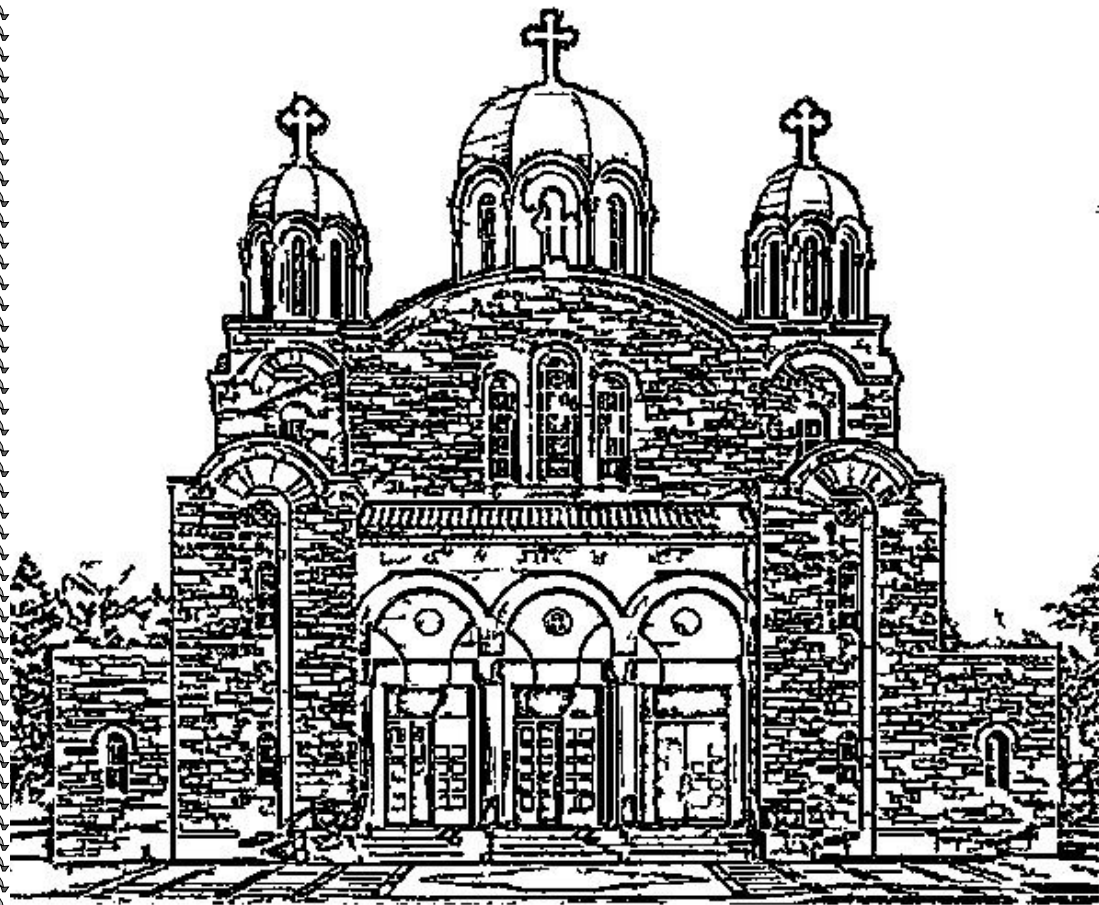


Stay on track! Go to church!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2018 Alexandra Houck.  
Email is [orthodoxchildrensword \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com). Find it each week at [myocn.net](http://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 11, 2018

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## Staying on track

**Have you ever taken a train,** or have you watched a train chugging down the tracks? A train has to stay on the tracks to get to where the people want to go.



Next week, we will start a journey too. Where do we want to go? We want to get to our Lord's Resurrection on Pascha (Easter). We start Lent so that we can stay on track, so we can get to Pascha, and so we can grow closer and closer to God. We will pray more, go to church more, help each other more, and read our Bibles more, but hurt people less, and eat fancy foods less. We do these things so that we can stay on track. If we go off track, maybe we won't get to where we want to go!

We know we want to stay on track and grow closer to God, but did you know we want to help *other* people to stay on track too? In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells the new Christians to help other Christians stay on track too. Christians should help others grow close to God too. We have to always think about other people. We have to make sure we are setting a good example for others. We have to remember that other people might be watching us to see what we do and what we don't do during Lent. So, let's all try to stay on track this Lent, and we can help our friends stay on track too!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- HELPING
- JUDGMENT
- LENT
- LOVE
- SAINT PAUL
- SECRET CHRISTIAN
- TRACK
- VALENTINE

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

# VALENTINE'S DAY IN JULY?

## ST. VALENTINE OF ROME



**This week, you'll probably have lots** of heart-shaped candy, flowers, and balloons, but did you know Valentine's Day is a feastday in our Orthodox Church? You and your school class will have your parties on February 14th, but our church celebrates this great saint on July 6th!

Who is St. Valentine, and why do we think of hearts and flowers and cards and love when we hear his name? Well, St. Valentine lived hundreds of years ago, in the 3rd century, in the city of Rome. We don't know a lot about him, but here is one story about the saint.

Valentine lived during a time when many people lived as secret Christians. They had to hide their faith because if they didn't, they would be hurt or killed by the emperor. One emperor, Emperor Claudius, made a rule that said that soldiers could not be married. He wanted the soldiers to be loyal to him, not to their wives and children.

St. Valentine, who was a priest, did not think that was fair. He secretly performed marriages for young Christians who wanted to get married. When Emperor Claudius found out about all this, he was furious! Before long, this evil emperor sentenced Valentine to die. St. Valentine was a great Christian, who knew what true love really is. He was happy that he would finally be with Christ in Heaven.

**We celebrate St. Valentine in July, but we can remember him this week too!**

# What's in an icon?

Here is the icon you might see for today, Judgment Sunday.

Do you see all the people who are trying to stay on track to grow closer to God?

