

Christ calls the first disciples.



# The Children’s Word

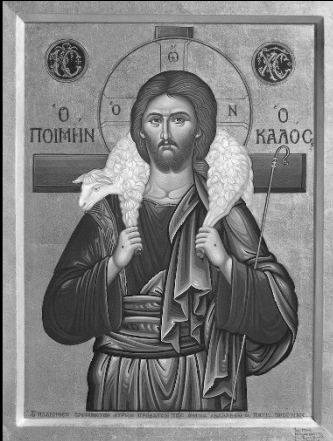
“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Mark 10:14

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## Getting clean

**Have you ever gotten really, really dirty?** Maybe you played outside in the mud. Or maybe you ran around in the woods on a hot and sticky day. Well, after that, did you take a shower or a bath? It feels so good to get clean after being so dirty. Sometimes we might not even *want* to get clean, but afterwards, we feel great!



Today, in the epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us about a different kind of clean. He tells us how God makes a promise to us. When we are clean on the inside, when our souls are clean, God says, “I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Saint Paul tells us, “Let us cleanse ourselves...and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.”

God makes this wonderful promise with us. We can get clean on the inside. We can try to do the right thing. We can try to love God and our neighbor so much. We can ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done. If we are clean on the inside, God will welcome us. He will be a loving father to us. God wants us to be clean on the inside!

Just like when we take a nice, refreshing bath or shower for the *outside* of us, it feels so good to get clean on the *inside* too. And when we do, God promises us the best thing ever!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

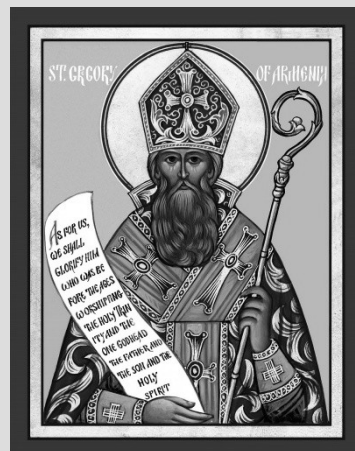
- Armenia
- Baptize
- Clean
- Disciples
- Epistle
- Fishing
- Follow
- Forgive
- Gregory
- Illuminator
- Promise

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# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Sometimes in icons, saints hold a scroll showing something they said or wrote.

Here is Saint Gregory of Armenia. His scroll says, "As for us, we shall glorify Him who was before the ages, worshipping the Holy Trinity."



# THE FIRST CHRISTIAN COUNTRY

## ST GREGORY OF ARMENIA

**Sometimes saints' lives are filled with wild adventures!**

Saint Gregory was a saint who lived around the year 300. His family were nobility, and once, his father did a very wrong thing. He wanted more power, so he killed the king. Gregory was going to be in trouble too, so he escaped and went off to live somewhere else.



Saint Gregory of Armenia

Gregory learned how to be a strong Christian. And later, he wanted to try to make up for what his father had done. Gregory decided to go all around his country of Armenia to tell the people about Jesus Christ. (The people there still worshipped idols at that time). He became bishop and baptized many, many people.

Saint Gregory even baptized the new king! Then even more people wanted to become Christian. Armenia became the very first Christian country. We call this Saint Gregory "the Illuminator." That means that he brought light to the people of Armenia. He showed them the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Do you see how Saint Gregory also "made many rich"? He followed the example of Saint Paul too!

**We celebrate St. Gregory on Wednesday, September 30th (OC: October 13th).**