

St. Theodora, pray for us!



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The Children's Word

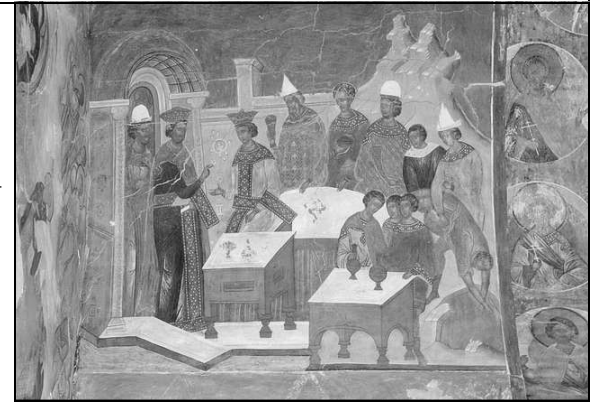
"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Accept the invitation!

Have you ever been to a wedding? Weddings are happy times! You have a special service at Church, and then there is fancy food and music and sometimes dancing. You get to see lots of other people, and everybody is joyful. It's a celebration!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear how Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a marriage feast. He doesn't compare it to something sad or boring, because who would want to go there? He compares it to a marriage feast, because those are great. Everybody wants to go to a wedding!

Our Lord wants us to be joyful with Him in heaven. He knows that if we knew how wonderful it is, we would want to be there too! He wants us to answer the invitation to the "wedding." How do we say "yes" to the invitation? We say "yes" to the feast when we follow Jesus's commandments. We say "yes" when we come to Church and receive Holy Communion. We say "yes" when we try to be good Christians every day, not just on Sundays.

Just like in the parable today, Jesus has a feast ready for us. But He doesn't force us to come. Our Lord invites us to come. Will you say "yes" to His invitation?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Brave
Feast
Heaven
Joyful
Marriage
Martyr
Sacrifice
Theodora
Trees
Vasta

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

On page 3, you can see a picture of the church of Saint Theodora of Vasta.

Here is an icon of her. You can tell she was a martyr who died for Christ, because she is holding a cross in her hand. In your church or home, can you find an icon of another martyr?



“LET MY BODY BECOME A CHURCH”

ST. THEODORA OF VASTA

You’ve played with blocks, haven’t you? You might build a tower or another structure. It might look good at first, but it collapses if you don’t build it right! Do you want to know how God used a building to tell people about one of His saints, Saint Theodora?



Can you see the huge trees poking out of the amazing church of St. Theodora?

St. Theodora lived a thousand years ago, in a little town called Vasta, in southern Greece. When she was a young woman, lots of robbers came into her town to steal things and hurt people. St. Theodora wanted to help her town and her neighbors, so she dressed as a soldier and tried to fight. She died on the field there. When she was dying, she said, “Let my body become a church, my hair a forest of trees, and my blood a spring to water them.”

Now, if you visit the little town of Vasta, you can see an amazing church. It has 17 big trees that poke through the roof! A spring flows under the church and waters the trees. Scientists have tried to explain how this works! The trees are so heavy, and the church is so small. Anybody would think the church would topple over like that. But people come from all over to visit this church and to pray to Saint Theodora. With this interesting church, God shows faithful Christians how His saint is holy! Many people have learned how amazing Saint Theodora was, just by seeing her amazing church!

We celebrate St. Theodora on Friday, September 11th (OC: September 24th).