

BYZI KIDS

ByziKids
January 2022



PG.19

Saint
Emmelia

WATCH
A VIDEO!



PG.18

Be Holy
Family!



PG.07

SAINT
AELIA



PG.16

HOLY

Families



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ByziKids Magazine is brought to you
by the moms @ ByziMom.com

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Glory to Jesus Christ!
Dear ByziParents,

Happy New Year to you and your family! Have you made your resolutions yet? Inspiration abounds this month as this issue is all about holy families. We'll discuss some wonderful examples and how our families can become more like them in our quest to grow in holiness and become the saints that God intended us to be.

The New Year is also the perfect time to make a fresh start and implement the little changes that can make all the difference.

That said, you'll notice with this new year there will be a few changes here at ByziKids. We are saying goodbye to our layout editor, Mrs. Lillian Baron, who is moving into a new area and is taking on some new challenges. She has inspired me to begin this ministry by surprising me one day with a dressed-up version of her lesson plans I had shared with her for her children. They were so lovely and we began to talk about how our children needed lessons that appeal to their senses and invite them to read and learn about our faith. Her hard work and dedication to her craft and faith have inspired me to inspire our readers so much more. As we worked together, we became like family, encouraging each other to be better writers, artists, and most importantly better Christians, and we all will miss her terribly.

God is so very good to our team and has blessed us with two new and very talented graphic artists. Patric Peters and Denise Talley will join us as the newest members of our ByziKids Design Team, and we warmly welcome them to our publication family.

Family encourages us to holiness. It gives us structure in which to display and grow in our faith. We hope our ByziKids family will inspire your family to be like the holy families showcased this month!

Enjoy the issue!

-Written by Lynne Wardach

Grace in Argentina



Tucked in the foothills of a South American mountain, a dirt road winds through an open gate leading to The Byzantine Catholic Monastery of the Transfiguration. The monastery is isolated and quiet, surrounded by lush vegetation, scenic landscapes, and water. Families come from far distances, sometimes leaving their homes at 5 in the morning, to attend Divine Liturgy in the Curamalal mountains in Argentina.

"It is a curious thing to see," said Maria Gapueto, "In the congregation, there are truck drivers, engineers, and people who do many different things. We are all native Spanish speakers, but here we are chanting the Liturgy in Slavonic and Greek."

Founded less than 20 years ago, the monastery is home to two priests and a monk. They grow their own food and medicine, study iconography, and welcome a steady stream of guests. This is a paradise, and children especially love to spend time here.

Last year, the monks asked Miss Maria and her husband to help with the children who visit. "You should see the children attend liturgy," she said. "They all sing! Even the 2-year-old! He sings!" Miss Maria believes it is important for the children to be happy and to feel at home. The children in response love attending Divine Liturgy.

"Catechesis is not something that happens in a moment," Miss Maria said, "but must be drunk like mother's milk in every moment. Children must live in the catechism and not be taught something in a little lesson as if they are done when it is over. They suckle like mothers milk."

Of course, she knows that children learn their faith first at home. However, all of the families who come are of Latin rite origin and are new to Byzantine traditions. They need some help when teaching their children.

The first lesson is to stand. This is how they learn what is important, and about reverence, and about presenting yourself before God. So the first catechism is attending Liturgy. Miss Maria said the little girls like to turn their backs to the altar. "They want attention. They twirl or chatter. But we teach them to face the altar. To be present to the mysteries," she said. This leads the children to a deep love and sense of belonging in the presence of God.

One girl's grandmother could not believe how much the children love attending liturgy: "They go there, and they are just so happy!"

Thirteen children regularly attend Liturgy, although others frequently visit. Most of these children are cousins. One young man was adopted by his parents at age 7. He received Baptism and Chrismation at the monastery and now serves as an acolyte. It seems as if the children would not rather be in any other place.

"Children can be easily distracted," Miss Maria said, "but not when they are in liturgy. In liturgy, they stand, and they sing, and they do not want it to end."

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

Grace in Argentina CONT.

Miss Maria smiles when she talks about two girls (ages 10 and 13), who endlessly ask Miss Maria for more lessons. When parents are unable to attend Liturgy on feast days, one of the girls asks someone to bring her to church. So Miss Maria picks her up and brings her to the Monastery for the day.

The monks also love the children and do special things with them. "Let's all go for a walk," said Fr. Dionisio Flamini one lovely morning after celebrating Divine Liturgy and sharing a meal. So they all walked together, letting their souls drink in the peace and joy near the water and tranquil landscapes.

Fr. Dionysius often reminds Miss Maria that the child's body is small but has a soul. "The soul understands all. Speak to the soul," he says.

Following that advice, the priests and monks lavish the children with playfulness and love. For example, a rainstorm threatened to ruin a much-anticipated celebration planned for the Feast of St. Nicholas last year. Instead, Brother Johnathan Garbalena, who is an excellent baker, saved the day. He made cookies with elaborately frosted decorations, placed them in a trunk like a treasure box, brought them out after liturgy, and surprised the children.

These are the simple ways to speak to the child's soul. It is in the love and in the joy and in taking mutual delight in each other. And in response, the children know they are loved, and they come to Liturgy to share that love with Christ and each other.

-Written by Judith Jolma

co-ops BYZIKIDS

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT OUR BYZIKIDS CO-OP IN IRVING TEXAS WAS UP TO AT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING!



Glory to Jesus Christ,

We had a great time at our co-op, once again. Someone brought a very long sari to represent the veil of the Theotokos and it was just perfect, every one fit underneath and it seemed to just stretch on and on until it reached the end of our tables, all 3 tables long.

Nobody found the milk/juice jugs referenced in the craft but we used a simple cardboard background and cut it into a house shape or added the crafting sticks. I think it was also probably easier for our age/gender group (mostly boys under 10 this time).

The riza game was beautiful and we all learned a lot.

But the icon dress up was the biggest hit. The kids could not get enough. They want to make it a monthly occurrence, and I think we should, they paid attention to all the details and loved every minute of it.

Would you like to start a ByziKids Homeschool Co-op in your area? Send us a message and we'll help you get started! ByziKids@gmail.com!

A FEAST DAY RECIPE FROM BYZIMOM.COM
FOR JANUARY 1

St. Emilia's Crockpot Fondue



St. Emilia was a very busy mommy! She raised ten holy children, five of whom became great saints in the Church! She must have spent a lot of time with them, talking about God and life and exactly what was expected of them as God's servants. Mealtime is a wonderful time to talk with your family. This crockpot meal is perfect for snowy evenings when a family can just gather around the table and enjoy being together in their little domestic church.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups dry white wine or soup stock
- 1 ½ lbs cheese, shredded (use your family's favorite blend, or a traditional mixture of Gruyere, Swiss and/or Jack cheeses)
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
- ½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2-3 drops of your favorite hot sauce (optional)

Dipping things: bread, soft pretzels, apple/pear slices, ham, blanched broccoli, cauliflower florets, potatoes, asparagus, baby carrots

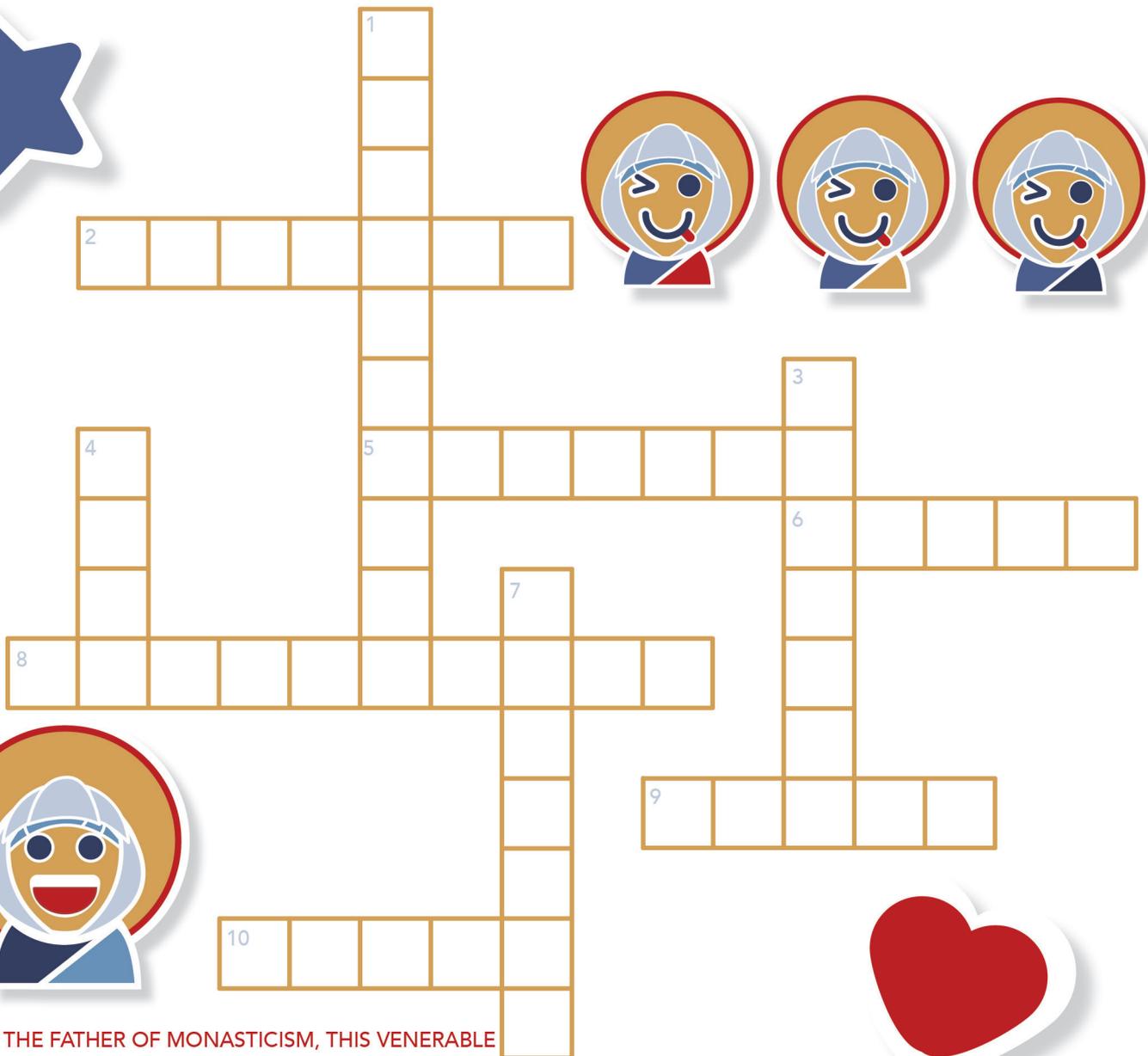
PREPARATION

Shred all the cheeses directly into your crock-pot and set them aside. Then, in a skillet over medium heat, melt your butter slowly. Toss in the crushed garlic cloves and allow them to get toasty and lightly browned, and then remove them from the pan. Add your flour and whisk to make a roux. Once this is heated through, add the wine, Worcestershire sauce, and hot sauce and simmer until lightly thickened. Pour this hot mixture over the shredded cheese in the crock-pot, stir to combine, and bring the temperature up to higher heat, only until the cheese is melted, then turn it to low until your family is ready to gather around for dinner. In the meanwhile, you can prepare things to dip into your fondue. Squares of good bread or soft pretzels work nicely. Apple or pear slices and chunks of ham are favorites too. You can also lightly blanch some broccoli and cauliflower florets, asparagus spears, baby carrots, or new potatoes for dipping. When mealtime arrives, everyone can gather around the pot, grab their own fork and dip whatever they like into our St. Emilia's Crockpot Fondue, and share some good conversation.!

-Written by Lynne Wardach

WWW.BYZIMOM.COM 05

January Saints Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

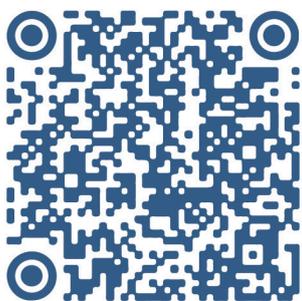
2. CALLED THE FATHER OF MONASTICISM, THIS VENERABLE AND GOD-BEARING SAINT IS KNOWN AS 'THE GREAT.'
5. ST. NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES, BROUGHT AND HELPED ESTABLISH THE FAITH IN THIS COUNTRY.
6. HOLY WOMAN AT WHOSE FUNERAL A CROSS SURROUNDED BY A WREATH OF STARS APPEARED IN THE SKY.
8. ST. ATHANASIUS AND ST. CYRIL, COMMEMORATED ON THE SAME DAY IN JANUARY, WERE BOTH PATRIARCHS OF THIS CITY.
9. SON OF ST. EMILIA, AND FAMOUS BISHOP AND THEOLOGIAN WHO IS KNOWN AS 'THE GREAT.'
10. IN THE BOOK OF ACTS WE HEAR ABOUT THE IMPRISONMENT OF ST. ____, FROM WHENCE WE VENERATE HIS PRECIOUS CHAINS.

DOWN

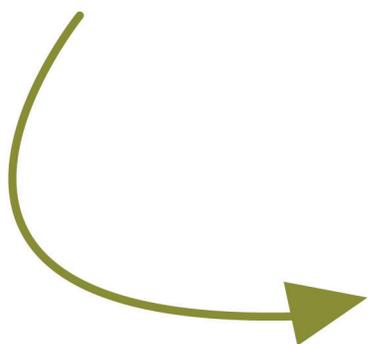
1. ST. GREGORY NAZIANZUS, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND GREAT TEACHER OF THE CHURCH, IS ALSO KNOWN AS GREGORY THE ____.
3. KNOWN AS 'THE CONFESSOR,' THIS MONK IS WELL-RESPECTED THEOLOGIAN AND SCHOLAR.
4. THE APOSTLE TIMOTHY OF THE SEVENTY WAS CONVERTED TO CHRIST BY THE APOSTLE ____.
7. THIS BISHOP OF NYSSA WAS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT, AND A ZEALOUS TEACHER AND DEFENDER OF THE FAITH.

F-A-M-I-L-Y

Music and Lyrics by Kh. Sylvia Dorham
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SCAN TO HEAR



LYRICS

Why did God make it so 
That we would in a family grow
From family we would come to know
How to serve God and be Holy

F is for formation of our values
A is against being all alone
M is how 'me' becomes a 'we'
I is the icon of the Church you see
L is learning to live holy lives
Y is you practice serving neighbors

Why did God make it so
That we would in a family grow
From family we would come to know
How to serve God and be Holy

Be holy, family, holy
Be holy, family, holy 



KNOW YOUR FAITH

How to Have a Holy Household

We should all try our best not only to become saints but to help those we love to achieve that goal too! God wants us ALL to be holy, and it is so much easier when everyone else in your home shares the same goal. Let's explore what the scriptures and the early Church Fathers had to say about the subject and gather some awesome advice!

First of all, we see that God gives His people, the Israelites, instructions to not only love Him deeply but to pass that love on to their children every day and in every circumstance. God wants His people to raise their children in the faith. He said so!

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Your parents have a tremendous responsibility to give you instructions to become as holy as you should be when you grow up. It's their job to teach you not only how to tie your shoes, how to write your name, and cross the street, but to live according to God's plan for us too! They will do their best to make you aware of God's presence in every circumstance and situation and will teach you to look for signs of Him in all things so that you can glorify Him in all things. Your parents hope that if they show you how to live this way as children, you will do the same as adults and teach your children to do so as well. This way, God will be glorified in our families forever!

Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

You see, it is so important to God that your parents give you instruction about Him and His will for you, but these teachings will only be successful if YOU do your part! What is your part? You just have to be respectful and listen to them! This is what God told the people of Israel:

Exodus 20:1 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."*

Proverbs 20:20 *If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.*

It is extremely important to God that you be obedient to your parents so that you can learn all you can about Him. In the New Testament of Scripture, St. Paul gives these instructions as well:

Colossians 3:20 *"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."*

Ephesians 6:1-3 *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

So if you want a holy household, you definitely must honor your mother and father, but what about your siblings? What does God say about getting along with them? Jesus gives us some pretty strong instructions about what to do. In fact, He says that before you even go to see Him at Liturgy, you should make peace with them!

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and reconcile to them; then come and offer your gift."*

1 John 4:20-21 *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

What if your family members live far away? Do we still have to work on our relationship with them to be pleasing to God? St. John Chrysostom thinks so. He explains that love is much more powerful and far-reaching than we can imagine, and it has nothing to do with how near or far we live from those we love, or even if they are still in this world or have passed to eternal life! Here is what he tells us:

"For such is the power of love, it embraces, and unites, and fastens together not only those who are present, and near, and visible but also those who are far distant; and neither length of time, nor separation in space, nor anything else of that kind can break up and sunder in pieces the affection of the soul."

Love for your family is something that is necessary for us to grow in love for God. If we practice love and respect in our household it only makes sense that holiness will follow.

- written by Lynne Wardach

SAINT SOPHIA



Saintly Siblings

THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS HELPED EACH OTHER TO BECOME SAINTS! BUT HOW DID THEY DO IT? LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THESE FIVE PAIRS OF SAINTLY SIBLINGS AND SEE HOW WE CAN FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.



Enjoy each other's company!
Benedict & Scholastica

**TWINS, BORN IN NURSIA,
ITALY IN 450 AD.
COMMEMORATED**

MARCH 14 (BENEDICT) & FEB 10 (SCHOLASTICA)

When Benedict left to found his monastery on Monte Casino, his twin sister founded a women's monastery nearby. They each took vows so that they were not permitted to visit each other's monasteries, so they only saw each other once a year. Once during a visit, Scholastica enjoyed her brother's company so much that she asked him to stay one more day, but he refused. As he and his companions were preparing to leave, Scholastica became upset and cried to God that her brother would change his mind. Suddenly, a storm arose which was so violent that the men were forced to stay and wait it out. God had answered her prayer!



Share!
Peter & Andrew

**BROTHER APOSTLES
COMMEMORATED JUNE 29
(PETER) & NOVEMBER 30 (ANDREW)**

Brothers from the town of Bethsaida, they were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee who were also followers of John the Baptist. One day Andrew heard John the Baptist point to Jesus and say that He was the One who was to be known as the Lamb of God. John said he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Him when he baptized Him and Andrew made up his mind to follow Christ from that moment on. Scripture tells us that the first thing he did was share this good news with his brother Simon and introduce him to Christ.

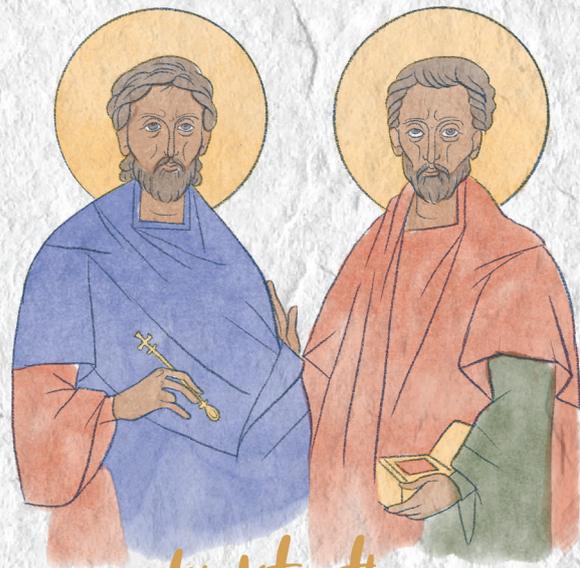
It was then that Jesus welcomed Simon to follow Him and changed his name to Peter, or Cephas, which means "the Rock."



Be a good example to each other!
Eulampia & Eulampius

**BROTHER AND SISTER;
 FROM FOURTH-CENTURY NICOMEDIA.
 COMMEMORATED OCTOBER 10**

St. Eulampius was exposed as a Christian during the time of persecution and was arrested. He was so brave before the emperor and refused to renounce Christ and offer worship to idols. After a time he asked to be brought to the pagan temple and the soldiers thought he had changed his mind. The judges were horrified when Eulampius cried out before a statue of the god Mars, "In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I command you to fall to the floor and crumble into dust!". The statue did just that and all who saw it were terrified! His sister, Eulampia, was so encouraged by her brave brother that she joined him in confessing Christ as her God and the brother and sister went to martyrdom together.



Work together!
Cosmas & Damien

**BROTHERS BORN TO A
 WIDOW, ST. THEODOTA
 IN EPHESUS IN THE 3RD CENTURY.
 COMMEMORATED NOVEMBER 1**

These brothers were educated in the art of healing and medicine and worked together to cure people of both physical and spiritual illness. They never accepted payment for their services, but instead encouraged their patients to accept Christ, confess their sins, and be baptized! Even after their passing into eternal life, many who invoke their help in prayer still report miraculous healing!

Be creative together!
Cyril & Methodius

**BROTHERS BORN IN 9TH
 CENTURY THESSALONIKA.
 COMMEMORATED MAY 11**

Cyril was ordained a deacon and Methodius entered a monastery on Mount Olympus. In 862 AD, the brothers were invited by Prince Rastislav to preach Christianity to the Slavic people. As a way to help them understand the scriptures and the liturgical services, the brothers invented the Cyrillic alphabet and translated these into the language of the people so they could read it for themselves! When they returned home, the Church was so impressed at their work that the brothers were greatly commended. Methodius was ordained a bishop, and Cyril took orders in a Greek monastery in Rome. To this day we consider them "Equal to the Apostles" for their work in spreading the Gospel.



CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

WITH KH. SYLVIA DORHAM



January 2

1

GOSPEL: MARK 1: 1-8

Jesus raises a girl from the dead in today's Gospel. He is more powerful than death! John the Baptist was the Forerunner of Jesus. John came first to prepare the way for the Messiah. He baptized people in the wilderness telling them to do something.

What did John tell them to do? Do the word "math" below to find out!

RED -D + SPEND - S - D +T = _ _ _ _ _

January 9

2

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4: 12-17

When John the Baptist went to prison, Jesus left his home in Nazareth and moved to Capernaum, a town in another region.

What was the name of the region to which Jesus moved?

Do the word "math" below to find out!

GOAL - O + INK - NK + LENTEN- NTN =. _ _ _ _ _

CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

January 16

3

GOSPEL: LUKE 17: 12-19

Jesus loves everyone, no matter their nationality.

Today, he heals ten people with leprosy – the equivalent of taking away a death sentence! Even so, the only one to come back and say thank you to Jesus and give glory to God was a man from another country. In fact, he was from a country that most Jewish people hated!

What was his country of origin?

Do the word “math” below to find out!

US – U + AIM – I + ARE - E + PIANO – PNO = _ _ _ _ _

January 23

4

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18-27

Some things in life seem impossible. Some things Jesus said seem REALLY impossible. In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks about a camel going through the eye of a needle. Unscramble the sentence to read what Jesus says about things that seem impossible.

God. impossible is is man
possible What with with

January 30

5

GOSPEL: LUKE 18: 35-43, MATTHEW 5:14-19

When Jesus heals people, he likes them to do something. In the first part of today’s Gospel, we read about what the blind man and the crowd do after Jesus heals him.

Follow the instructions to find the words.

Starts with ‘T’ and rhymes with “may” _____

Starts with ‘P’ and rhymes with “graze” _____

Starts with a capital letter ‘G’ and rhymes with “awed” _____

A Family Who Prays Together...

From the time of the apostles it has been noted in scripture that the home is a seamless extension of the Church. Christians often held church services in private residences. They would open their homes and share the liturgy and their fellowship with all who would come. Our homes are lovingly referred to as "Domestic Churches" because they are the birthplace of Christian living, vocations, and catechesis.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.



In the wedding ceremony in the Byzantine Church this point is made known when the priest places crowns on the heads of the couple, crowning them as the leaders of the newly-established domestic church which is their family. As the leaders of the domestic church, parents guide their little congregation of saints toward their salvation by performing all their daily duties in harmony with the will of God.

As a sign of the family's prayerful consecration, they set up a designated place in their home in which they can gather themselves spiritually and offer daily worship, just like a little private chapel of their very own! This is called an "icon corner" or a "home altar".



Setting Up the Home Altar

Every family should have such a place in their home! It can be fun and easy to create and doesn't have to be at all expensive. It should be in an accessible spot where morning and evening prayers can be offered, or individual family members can go to spend some quiet time with the Lord.

Traditionally, the icon corner was placed in a prominent place in the home, preferably facing east. Some choose to place it on a blank wall space, some in a cozy corner. It can be a large one in the main room of the house or a variety of small ones in every room! There is no wrong way to do it.

Byzantine homes traditionally center the main icon corner around icons of Christ the Teacher (on the right) and the Theotokos (on the left), just as on the iconostasis in the church. You may choose to place patronal icons, images of the family's namesakes, above these main icons in generational. The icon of the family patron is placed above these.

The family's patronal icon, or a crucifix could also be used as a focal point, and a shelf could be installed there to accommodate favorite devotional material, a copy of Scripture, prayer ropes, medals, relics, and other sacramentals. Often, a votive lamp is hung just in front of the icons or a blessed candle mounted on the wall, and a holy water font can be placed there as well.

Children love to place flowers in front of the icons, as an offering to Christ, His Mother, or a favorite saint. They love to change the linens too, which can be made and collected in all the liturgical colors, to reflect the feast of the day.

In order to make the icon corner a valuable teaching tool, the family may opt to purchase an inexpensive 11x14 frame and print copies of various icons to display for the feasts, changing them throughout the year as necessary.

Another way to allow the children to enjoy the icon corner is to use a battery-operated votive candle which would allow it to remain lit 24 hours a day. This is especially helpful to have as a nightlight, keeping bad dreams at bay.

How to Do It

___Begin collecting items to set up a home altar, or add to an existing one.

Consider:

- Picture frame for icon prints (11x14)
- Icon prints of major feasts, patron saints, etc. (these can be searched and printed from an online source, and placed inside the frame for each feast!)
- Hanging votive lamp, blessed candle, battery votive, etc.
- Holy Water font, or dish, and holy water, holy oil, blessed salt, etc.

- Hook for hanging rosaries, chotki or chaplets
- Bible, prayer books, devotional material (in a basket or on a shelf)
- Other sacramentals, relics
- Shelf, kneeler or pillow upon which to kneel.

___Research various colors used for feasts in your rite and make linens for your home altar. Purchasing individual cloth napkins in various colors works well, or you can use remnant fabrics to sew your own. The colors would be changed before Vespers on the eve of the day being commemorated. During Great Feasts, the color is changed before the vespers service that begins the first day of a fore-feast, and remains until the apodosis (final day of the after-feast). Check your Church calendar or typicon to see specific dates for each feast in your jurisdiction.

___Prepare floral sprays and wreaths with which to decorate the cross and icons on their special feast days. You may opt to purchase silk flowers and ribbons from your local craft store or make some flowers of your own from felt or recycled ribbon!

___Begin to commit yourself to the practice of greeting the Lord at your home altar.

At these times, you may venerate the icons by making the sign of the cross and giving a kiss to those depicted in them:

first thing in the morning when saying special prayers, like matins, vespers, etc. at times of stress, storms, arguments, even light a candle there. when something wonderful happens, thank God there by offering the gift of flowers or an extra prayer at the end of the day, just before bed.

- written by Lynne Wardach

MEANWHILE...



Imagine being left in charge of caring for your younger sisters and brother, but your 7 year old brother was also the future Byzantine Emperor! In 414 AD, when her remaining parent passed, St. Aelia

Pulcheria was given the title of Augusta after she and

her sisters Acadia and Marina took vows of Holy Virginity. She advised her brother, St. Theodosius II, until he came of age and afterwards continued to give him both political and religious council.

She was also a very pious woman, focused on her faith, who contributed to the development of Nicene Christianity in Byzantium. It is said of this Saint and her sisters that they attended services in Constantinople, gave charity to the poor, fasted two days a week, and sang praises to God both day and night (Sozomen, "Ecclesiastical History"). Her charity to the poor included building churches and hospitals throughout sections of the city, one area was even renamed Pulcherianai in her honor.



SOURCES: NOBILITY.ORG (R) WIKIPEDIA (L)

St. Aelia Pulcheria also helped in the spread of Nicene Christianity by summoning the Bishops together in the Council of Ephesus and the Council of Chalcedon. In 438 AD she had the exiled relics of St. John Chrysostom placed in the Church of the Apostles within the city. St. Aelia Pulcheria reposed in 453 AD and was mourned throughout Constantinople because of her almsgiving and services to the poor. May we all hope to be or have a big sister who cares so much for others and the Faith!

-Written by Katie Reetzke



JANUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

7. GREGORY

4. PAUL

3. MAXIMUS

1. THEOLOGIAN

DOWN

10. PETER

9. BASIL

8. ALEXANDRIA

6. XENIA

5. GEORGIA

2. ANTHONY

ACROSS

ANSWERS



I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I"CON

ST. SOPHIA AND HER FAMILY

Have you ever heard of the tradition of giving a newlywed couple an icon on their wedding day? Traditionally,

the parents of the bride and groom present the newly married couple with the first icons for their own icon corner in their new home- one of the Holy Savior and one of the Mother of God. In more recent times, the tradition has evolved to include any icon of special meaning to the couple. Often, the name saints of the bride and groom will be combined into a unique icon written just for them.

At the heart of the Holy Mystery of Marriage is the creation of a new family, and God willing, a new HOLY family. Fathers and mothers are called to create a domestic church for their family to dwell in at home. With the saints as our example, we can grow closer to God as a family.

This month's icon is an example of a wedding icon. Two name saints-St. John the Soldier and St. Sophia are depicted together. At the top of the icon, Christ extends his hands in blessing over the couple, just as the bishop extends his hands over us to bless us in the Divine Liturgy.

In this icon, St. Sophia is depicted with her children and together, they serve as an exceptional example of a holy family. St. Sophia was a widow and lived with her children, Faith, Hope and Love, in Italy around the year 126. The girls were only 12, 10, and 9 when their family was turned in to the Emperor Hadrian for being Christians. As they were taken to Rome to face their charges, they prayed for strength to endure the challenges that lie ahead for them. When brought before the Emperor, the children were asked to sacrifice to a pagan goddess. With deep composure, each of them refused to sacrifice despite terrible tortures that they were forced to endure. Their mother stood by their side and prayed for and encouraged them all along. In the end, the girls remained steadfast and never denied our Lord. They were beheaded and their bodies were given to St. Sophia for burial.



SAINT SOPHIA AND HER FAMILY//
BY FR VLADIMIR LYSAK

She took their bodies and buried them on a hill and stayed by their graves for three days. At the end of three days, she laid down to sleep and gave up her soul to our Lord. St. Sophia is given the crown of a martyr by the Church. Although she did not physically suffer herself, the torment of having to watch her children suffer as they did created immeasurable suffering in her heart.

Many of you reading this article are the same age as Faith, Hope, and Love. We are all called to build up our own family into a holy family, no matter our age. Let us ask for St. Sophia's intercession that we may be as composed as her own children were should our faith be challenged someday as well.

-Written by Kh. Jocelyn Abyad



IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

WITH GUEST FATHER SEBASTIAN

HOLY FAMILIES

This month we ponder the example of holy families. The Greek word for "family" or "household" is *oikos*. This word comes into English in many compounds, e.g., *economy* (law of the household), *ecosystem* (organization of the household), *ecology* (study of the household), and, the now familiar yogurt "Oikos."

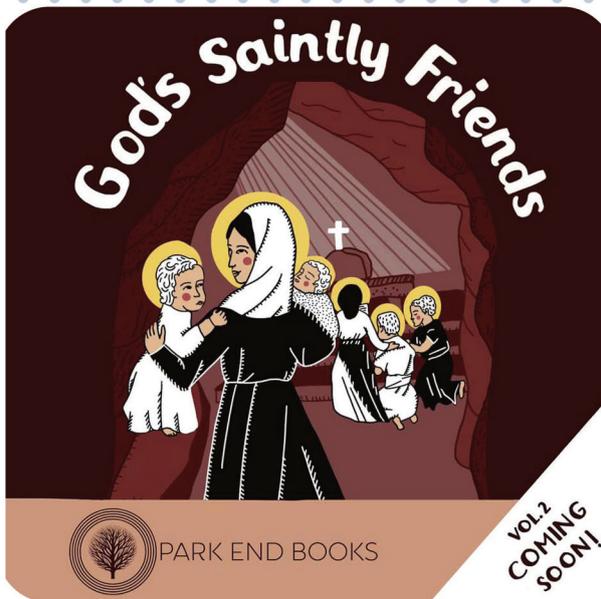
A family or household is an organization that works together for common good and there is no better example than the holy families that we study this month together!



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GOD'S SAINTLY FRIENDS VOL. 2 OUT SOON @ PARKENDBOOKS.COM

THE SECOND IN THE BOARD BOOK SERIES BY KATHRYN REETZKE AND ABIGAIL HOLT. THIS BOOK SHOWS EXAMPLES OF SAINTS WHO DID HOLY DEEDS AND WERE ALSO FAMILY MEMBERS.

See you later,

I have been your lead graphic designer, illustrator, and layout editor since December 2018, making everything pretty and engaging for your Byzi Kids! In the beginning, when it was only .pdf's, I sourced some graphics, but as we grew the magazine, I decided it would be best to create all the graphics myself. The style has evolved a lot over the years. I've put my all into this in the last two years of printed issues especially. Until July of 2021, I was doing all the visuals on my own! (pew) Since 2018 God has added a 4th child into our home; through prayerful consideration, I've decided my family needs me now more than ever, and the time I devote to the magazine is unbalanced. I hope you've all enjoyed the materials I've been beautifying for the last three years! God Bless you all, and please pray for me. May all your Guardian Angels watch over you, and may God grant many blessed years to Byzi Kids Magazine!

Lillian Barton @ Celestial Vespers



BYZIKIDS EXPRESS SUBMISSIONS

ST EMMELIA-THE HEART OF HER FAMILY

LUCIAN ANDREI ROȘCA, BÂRLAD, ROMÂNIA

O! SAINT EMMELIA, YOU, FLOWER
WERE TOUCHED BY THE ETERNAL SUN!
YOU BLOOM AND EMANATE CHRIST'ODOUR,
CHASTE MOTHER WITH A HEART OF NUN!

YOU SACRIFICED FOR FAMILY IN EVERY DAY,
THUS, ALL YOUR PETALS FELL AWAY.
THIS HAD TO HAPPEN, SINCE WITHOUT MEEKNESS
YOU COULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT FRUITS TO JESUS.

AND, FROM THE ICONS, THEOTOKOS
REFLECTED IN YOUR TEARFUL EYES.
YOU WANTED IN YOUR HEART THE LOGOS;
YOUR THOUGHT WAS PIOUS, KIND AND WISE.

'TO YOU I GIVE MY DARLING CHILDREN!
PLEASE, PROTECT THEM FROM EVERY ENEMY!
AND PLANT THEIR SOULS IN THE ETERNAL GARDEN
MAKE THEM REJOICE IN THE SAINTS' FAMILY! '

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED THROUGH YOUR BRAVE SONS!
ANGLES WERE FASCINATED BY YOUR DAUGHTERS!
YOU, MOTHER OF FIVE WONDER-WORKERS,
PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES AND HOMES!

THE VIRGIN MARY WAS YOUR MUSE AND HELPER;
CHRIST WAS AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR SONS!
YOU, FAMILY, WERE LIKE A MIRROR :
REFLECTING TRINITY AND HER INNOCENCE!

THREE HOLY HIERARCHS TURNED MANY HEARTS TO CHRIST:
BASIL THE GREAT-THE FIRST PHILANTHROPIST,
GREGORY OF NYSSA-EXPLANATOR OF PSALMS
AND PETER OF SEBASTE- THE GIVER HAND OF ALMS.

THE HEREMITS AROUSED FROM YOUR BLESSED WOMB:
MACRINA EMANATED JESUS' PARFUME
AND NAUCRATIUS WITH HIS FIERY PRAYER
BROUGHT FROM THE LORD MERCY AND GLARE.

O! FLOWERS OF HEAVENLY KINGDOM
INTERCEED FOR US AND BEG OUR SALVATION!
PLEASE, STRENGTHEN OUR WEAKENED FAMILIES
AND HELP US LIVE AS YOU: IN BLISS!

AMEN!

SUBMIT SUBMISSIONS TO BYZIMOM.COM OR TO LYNNE WARDACH ON FACEBOOK



BYZIKIDS//calendar



2022 JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
30 ★ 3 HOLY HIERARCHS// ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY	31 ● HOLY HEALERS CYRUS & JOHN	1 ● CIRCUMCISION HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT	2 ● HOLY FATHERS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL	3 ● HOLY PROPHE T MALACHI	4 ● SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES	5 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	6 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA
32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	2 ● HOLY FATHERS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL	3 ● HOLY PROPHE T MALACHI	4 ● SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES	5 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	6 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	7 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	8 ● HOLY MARTYR BONIFACE
32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	2 ● HOLY FATHERS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL	3 ● HOLY PROPHE T MALACHI	4 ● SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES	5 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	6 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	7 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	8 ● HOLY MARTYR BONIFACE
28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9 ● GREAT MARTYR JULIANA	10 ● 10 HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE	11 ● GREAT MARTYR ANASTASIA	12 ● HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE	13 ● HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE	14 ● HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE	15 ● HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE
33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9 ● HOLY FR GREGORY OF NYSSA	10 ● 10 HOLY MARTYRS OF CRETE	11 ● VEN FATHER THEODOSIUS	12 ● MARTYR TATIANA	13 ● MARTYRS HERMYLLUS & STRATONICUS	14 ● MARTYRS HERMYLLUS & STRATONICUS	15 ● MARTYRS HERMYLLUS & STRATONICUS
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	10 ● 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA	11 ● HOLY INNOCENTS	12 ● HOLY INNOCENTS	13 ● MARTYR ANYSIA	14 ● MELANIA THE ROMAN	15 ● MELANIA THE ROMAN	16 ● MELANIA THE ROMAN
34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST// VEN CHAINS OF ST. PETER	17 ● ★ VEN FR ANTHONY THE GREAT	18 ● HOLY FATHERS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL	19 ● HOLY FATHERS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL	20 ● VEN FATHER MACARIUS OF EGYPT	21 ● VEN FATHER EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT	22 ● VEN FATHER EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT	23 ● VEN FATHER EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	18 ● SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES	19 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	20 ● HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONA	21 ● THEOPHANY	22 ● THEOPHANY	23 ● THEOPHANY	24 ● THEOPHANY
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	24 ● VEN WOMAN XENIA OF ROME	25 ● HOLY FATHER GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN	26 ● HOLY FATHER GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN	27 ● VEN FR: XENOPHON & HIS WIFE, MARY	28 ● TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM	29 ● TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH	30 ● TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	25 ● VEN. FATHER THEODOSIUS THE GREAT	26 ● MARTYR TATIANA	27 ● MARTYR TATIANA	28 ● MARTYRS HERMYLLUS & STRATONICUS	29 ● VEN. MARTYRS SLAIN AT SINAI & RAITHO	30 ● VEN. MARTYRS SLAIN AT SINAI & RAITHO	31 ● VEN. MARTYRS SLAIN AT SINAI & RAITHO

○ : GREGORIAN FASTING DAYS
 ○ : JULIAN FASTING DAYS
 ● : BOTH FASTING DAYS
 ★ : ACTIVITY ONLINE
 + : FEAST DAY