

# What Makes the Kids All Right



This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



**On September 17 we remember Saint Sophia and her martyred daughters Faith, Hope and Charity. They lived in Rome, and spoke openly about their Christian faith even in a time of severe persecutions.**

The four family members were arrested and ordered to worship the goddess Artemis, but refused. Sophia, a widow, encouraged the girls (not yet in their teens) to stay strong and face whatever might come. The girls were tortured and killed. Sophia, in pain from torture, was allowed to bury their broken bodies. She prayed over the graves in deepest grief, then died, anticipating a reunion with her daughters in God's Kingdom.

Sophia had taught her family not to be afraid of proclaiming the faith. Their willingness to die rather than renounce Jesus Christ surely encouraged fellow believers to do the same. Their life and death were a reaching out to others.

In the recent movie "The Kids Are All Right" there is no reaching out; everything is turned inward. The story is of a lesbian couple, Nic and Jules, who have two teenage children, a boy and a girl, both by the same sperm donor.

When Nic questions the boy, Laser, about a friend she doesn't like, her words show that she is raising the son to look at everything in terms of personal benefit. She asks him what he "gets" from the friendship. She tells Laser that the friend is undesirable because he seems "untended." It doesn't occur to her that she and her family might reach out to him, and have a part in "tending" him..

Laser and his sister Joni secretly meet their biological father, Paul. They develop a relationship with him, and finally bring him home to meet Nic and Jules. It seems that Paul may belatedly have a place in their lives, but this possibility is ruined by his immoral behavior. Nic, who is terrified of losing her primary place in the children's lives as they get closer to Paul, seizes the chance to banish him from their lives. She angrily calls him an "interloper" as she slams the door of the family's house in his face, telling him never to come back.

To Nic, Paul is an interloper because he threatens her desire to shut the world out and enclose her family safely behind that door she slams on him. But he is also Joni and Laser's father, and she will never really be able to shut that fact out.

Saint Sophia didn't try to shut the world out. She taught her family members to face the world, and to be concerned for others' salvation as well as their own. She urged them not to fear suffering for Christ. That is the only way to raise truly Christian children: by readying them to put Christ first, not by trying to shut the world out or, certainly, by trying to deny biological truth. That is also the only way it's possible to feel that the kids really are all right.

#### Troparion - Tone 4

The Church celebrates and rejoices  
In the feast of the three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love  
And their Mother Sophia, named for her wisdom:  
For in them she gave birth to the three godly virtues.  
Now they eternally behold their bridegroom, God the Word.  
Let us rejoice spiritually in their memory and cry:  
O our three Heavenly Protectors,  
Establish, confirm and strengthen us  
In Faith, Hope and Love.  
Kontakion - Tone 1  
The holy branches of noble Sophia,  
Faith, Hope, and Love,  
confounded Greek sophistry through Grace.  
They struggled and won the victory  
and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all

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Bulletin for Sunday, September 15, 2013  
Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost • Tone 3  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Matthew 19:16-26

**Commemorations:** Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (3rd c.). Martyrs Theodotus, Asclepiodotus, and Maximus, of Adrianopolis (305-311). Martyr Porphyrius the Actor (361). Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (415). St. Philotheus the Presbyter, in Asia Minor (10th c.). Ven. Joseph, Abbot, of Alaverdsk in Georgia (570). St. Joseph the New of Partos, Metropolitan of Timisoara (1656).

#### Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy and services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Feel free to ask questions before or after the services. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found at the candle desk. Please sign our guest book and join us for refreshments and fellowships downstairs after Liturgy.

**Please pray for:** Robert, Vera, Richard, Sarah, Alla, Olga, June, Nina, Joan, Luke, Alex, Nadia, Glenn, Kathryn, and Evelyn.

**Many Years!** to Luba Martins on the occasion of her Name's Day and to Lee and Mary Ella Luft on the occasion of their Anniversary and to Melissa Josefiak on the occasion of her birthday.

### Upcoming Events and Services

Wednesday, Sept 18th  
Open Doors at 4:30p and the Soup Kitchen  
Bible Study: Hebrews at 6:30p

Thursday, Sept 19th  
Choir Rehearsal at 6:30p

Saturday, Sept 21st  
Great Vespers at 5:30p

Sunday, Sept 22nd  
Divine Liturgy at 9:30a  
Church School to follow

Monday, Sept 23rd  
Parish Council Mtg at 6:00pm

Tuesday, Sept 24th  
Akathist to Sts of North America at 6:30p

Wednesday, Sept 25th  
Open Doors at 4:30p  
Bible Study: Hebrews at 6:30p

Thursday, Sept 26th  
Choir Rehearsal at 6:30p

Saturday, Sept 28th  
Memorial for Nadine Faro at 2pm  
Great Vespers at 5:30p  
General Confession to follow

Sunday, Sept 29th  
Divine Liturgy at 9:30a  
Church School to follow  
Orthodox Youth Mission Team  
Presentation

#### Choir Practices

We are beginning weekly choir rehearsals, Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30p, in preparation for the upcoming Nativity Feast. We are also meeting at 9:10a on Sunday's to practice the music for the day's service. If we are to make progress with area of Stewardship, it is essential that everyone who wishes to sing attend these rehearsals.

Thank You for your participation and commitment.

### Announcements

We have about 400 plus bricks. Most are in front and there are some by the back door and there are a couple dozen under the front steps. If you would like them, help yourself.

Our Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 10th. We have two Council of Stewards positions to be filled. If you are interested, please see the nominations committee: Natalie, Greg or Raymond.

We are also in need of a nomination for representative for the Diocesan Assembly.

#### TWENTIETH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

sponsored by

The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut

Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

St. Dimitrie Romanian Orthodox Church Hall

504 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT

Nina Kosowsky 203-924-0936 or Bill Balamaci 203-876-2379

Proceeds of this dinner provide major funding for FORCC programs.

"LYRA, an a cappella group of four professional vocalists from St. Petersburgs, Russia will present a concert of Russian choral music on Saturday, Sept 14 at 7:30 pm at St Therese Church, 105 Leets Island Road, Branford. The first part of the concert--sacred chants of the Russian Orthodox church will include works by famous Russian composers. The second part of the program will consist of Russian folk songs--comic, lyric, dancing, and love songs. This concert is open to the public. There will be a free-will offering. For more information, call St. Therese Church at 203-488-2998.

To the Orthodox Faithful:

The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, in the hospital, or at home, for any member of the Church Community who is sick, no matter how severe. This is not a "once a year" sacrament, nor a "last rite." Please see Fr Steven if you have any questions.

More information about Orthodoxy in New England can be found at [www.dneoca.org](http://www.dneoca.org).

things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

*and for the Exultation - Mark 8:34-9:1*

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!  
You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,  
who, though untilled, have brought forth Christ;  
through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth.  
Now at its Elevation,  
as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)  
The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord. (Ps 4/5:6)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost  
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Tone 3      Troparion      (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

Tone 1      Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people  
and bless Your inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Your Cross,//  
preserve Your habitation!

Tone 3      Kontakion      (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 4      Kontakion of the Cross

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;  
make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries//  
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

**Reader:** And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone.

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps 98/99:5)

Choir: (The Choir repeats the Prokeimenon in the proper Tone.)

**Reader:** The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps 98/99:1)

Choir: (The Choir repeats the Prokeimenon.)

**Reader:** Extol the Lord our God...

Choir: (The Choir completes the Prokeimenon.)

Deacon: Wisdom.

**Reader:** The Reading from the first Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.  
(15:1-11)

Deacon: Let us attend.

**Reader:** Brothers and Sisters:

Moreover, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of

God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

*for the Sunday after the Exaltation (Galatians 2:16-20)*

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Priest: Peace be unto you.

**Reader:** And to your spirit, and in the 1st Tone, Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia 3x

**Reader:** Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!  
(Ps 73/74:2)

Choir: Alleluia 3x

**Reader:** God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. (Ps 73/74:12)

Choir: Alleluia 3x

*The Gospel According to St. Matthew (19:16-26)*

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “ The young man said to Him, “All these