

# Saints, Literature and Children's Stories

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## Section A

### FOCUS Study Themes

Particular Story Selections Organized by Theme  
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*Being Orthodox in Today's World*  
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### Theme Books for Children

*People*, written and illustrated by Peter Spier. [ISBN 0-385-24469-X Large paperbound, ISBN 0-385-13181-X Trade]. *All Ages* An excellent resource book to use throughout this study, this large (and fairly intricate) picture book emphasizes the differences/individuality among the four (to six) billion

people on earth. Can be used for discussions on how we are the same and different, and what the implications are "for the peace of the whole world...."

**A Picnic in October**, by Eve Bunting. illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. [Harcourt Brace & Co. ISBN 0-15-201656-2 hardcover] **Ages 7-10.** A boy finally understands why his grandmother insists on taking the family to Ellis Island each year to celebrate Lady Liberty's birthday. A story about the Statue of Liberty, and the significance of Ellis Island, where so many immigrants entered America.

**The Prairie Train**, by Antoine Ó Flatharta, illustrated by Eric Rohmann. [Crown Publishers, Inc.-Random House. ISBN 0-517-70988-0 hardcover]. **Ages 7-10** As a young Irish immigrant boy travels by steam engine across the American prairie to a new home, he loses a favorite toy made by his grandfather. Distraught about his loss and the uncertainty ahead, he falls asleep, but a meeting with his grandfather in a dream prepares him for the new experiences that await him at the end of his journey.

**The Keeping Quilt**, by Patricia Polacco. [Aladdin Paperbacks, NY. ISBN-0-689-84447-6 paperback; ISBN 0-671-64963-9 hardcover. Illustrated] **All Ages** A homemade quilt sewn together from scraps of a young Russian-Jewish emigrant girl's dress becomes a family keepsake that ties together four generations, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith. A good story about keeping family traditions.

**Uncle Vova's Tree**, by Patricia Polacco. A touching story about Russian Orthodox immigrants to America.

**Dancing with Dziadziu**, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. [Harcourt, Brace and Co. [ISBN 0-15-2-675-5]] Polish story set around Easter about how grandparents met and courted. Love and family oriented. Charming illustrations.

**Bravo Maurice!**, by Rebecca Bond. [Little, Brown & Company. ISBN 0-316-10545-7 Hardcover] **All Ages** A delightfully illustrated book about the first 6-8 yrs. of a boy's life with his family, as his relatives think he will take up their careers (for he seems so good at and interested in each), until one day they discover he has a special gift of his own.

**Families Are Different**, written and illustrated by Nina Pellegrini. [A Holiday House Book, ISBN 0-8234-0887-6] **Age 4-12** Nico lives in a large town with her family. She and her sister look a lot alike, but neither resembles their mom and dad. Nico looks around and realizes that families *are* different. Some have stepsisters or step-brothers, one or several parents and grandparents. Some all look alike, but that isn't what's important. These Korean girls are adopted, but their family is one that is built on love.

**The Wall**, by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ronald Himler. [A Reading Rainbow Book, Clarion Books. ISBN 0-395-51588-2 hardcover, ISBN 0-395-62977-2 paperback] **All Ages** A young boy accompanies his father on a visit to his "grandfather's wall"—the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. While there, he gets a "sense" of the wall's significance for so many people. Excellent illustrations.

**I Look Up To My Dad**, by Cedric I. Hurtt. [A Leathers Publishing Production, (Phone 1-888-888-7696) ISBN 1-890622-82-6] **Ages 3-6** A modest paperback book for Dads to read with their sons (or daughters) that sets a good example of relationships and commitment for both.

**Something to Remember Me By**, by Susan V. Bosak, illustrated by Laurie McGaw. [ISBN 1-896232-01-9 hardcover, 10896232-02-7 paperback] **Ages 7-Adult** The story of the relationship between a grandmother and her granddaughter over the years, illustrating the many gifts that each can give to one another. This award-winning book is a celebration of the gift of love, memories and legacies across generations.

**Love You Forever**, Robert Munsch. [ISBN 0-920668-37-2A] tender story of the love of a mother for her child, even as he grows up and becomes a man. The story reverses when she needs his love and care. For all ages.

**Crazy Lady!**, by Jane Leslie Conly. [Harper/Collins Publishers. ISBN 0-06-021360-4] The story of Vernon, a junior high boy who befriends a neighborhood woman and her mentally challenged son. Unconditional love and overcoming loss.

**Read for Me, Mama**, by Vashanti Rahaman [Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 1997] A young mother is too ashamed to admit to her 6 or 7 year old son that she cannot read

**Why?** by Nikolai Popov [North-South Books, NY ISBN 1-55858-534-6] A wordless picture book that shows how simple aggression can escalate into violence (involving a mouse and a frog) that quickly results in ruin. Striking illustrations.

**North Star: St. Herman of Alaska** by Dorrie Papademetriou. [ISBN 088141-223-6 hardcover] A charming story of the life of St. Herman, the first saint of North America, interwoven with northern lights, Kodiak bears, giant cabbages and angel's wings that are part of the stories about this saint who loved children.

**If A Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks**, by Faith Ringgold. [Simon & Schuster: Books for Young Readers. ISBN 0-689-81892-0] A well-illustrated and simply-told story of the life of the African-American girl Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The story, told by a city bus, introduces students to Martin Luther King and other key persons and events in the life of the civil rights movement in America.

**The Story of Passover**, by Norma Simon. [HarperCollins Publishers; Trophy Picture Book ISBN 0-06-443491-5], *Ages 7-12*. A soft-cover book with good illustrations that provides a very readable review of the biblical story of the first Passover, with additional material on how the Jewish people have celebrated this feast up to the present day. Teachers and parents can use whatever portions are relevant for the age of their children.

**For Every Child: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in words and pictures**. Text adapted by Caroline Castle, Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. [Published in association with UNICEF: Phyllis Fogelman Books (Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers) ISBN 0-8037-2650-3 hardcover] *Age 6-Adult* Impressively illustrated by 15 world famous artists, this is an book based on a selection of 14 of the 54 principles in the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, related in simple language. (The full text of each principle is printed in an appendix.)

## **Theme Books for Teens & Adults**

**Orthodox America: 1794-1976; Development of the Orthodox Church in America**, by Constance J. Tarasar, General Editor, and John H. Erickson, Associate Editor. [The Orthodox Church in America, Department of History and Archives, Syosset, New York 1975.] The commemorative volume of the history of the Orthodox peoples and churches in North America, published by the OCA on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the United States. *Click on title for access to text.*

**Orthodox Christians in America**, by John H. Erickson. [Oxford University Press, *Religion in American Life* Series, ISBN 0-19-510852-3] A good introduction for teachers and high school students. Much of the material (between the first and last chapters) is a condensed and updated version of material that appeared in *Orthodox America 1794-1976: Development of the Orthodox Church in America* (OCA, 1975. *Out-of-print*; see oca.org for text). Contains a helpful Appendix with a current listing of Orthodox Churches worldwide, a glossary of terms, a brief chronology of the history of the Church in North America, and bibliography.

**The Orthodox Church**, by Bishop Kallistos (Ware)

**The Orthodox Way**, by Bishop Kallistos (Ware)

**Celebration of Faith, Vol. 1: I Believe** by Alexander Schmemmann. [ISBN 0-88141-111-6 paperback]. The first volume of a trilogy of short sermons, edited in English (delivered originally in Russian on Radio Liberty to believers and searchers for the faith in communist Russia) focuses on the Nicene Creed. An excellent text for small group discussions in connection with baptism and Christian life.

**For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy**, by Alexander Schmemmann. [ISBN 0-913836-08-7]. One of the most popular introductions to Orthodox faith and life. Originally written for a

National Student Christian Federation conference, its relevance and impact on youth and adults across the generations has led to its translation into more than 15 languages worldwide. Confronts contemporary issues such as "secularism" and Christian culture in the modern age, but from within the perspective of worship and the liturgy of the Church.

**Of Water and the Spirit**, by Alexander Schmemmann. [ISBN 0-91

**Church, World, Mission: Reflections on Orthodoxy and the West**, by Alexander Schmemmann. [ISBN 0-913836-49-4]. Twelve essays on issues and reflections on the Orthodox witness in today's world, relating to history, theology, liturgy, canonical order, mission, and dialogue with other churches.

**Witness to the World**, by John Meyendorff. [ISBN 0-88141-069-1 paperback] A collection of editorials from *The Orthodox Church* newspaper that focus on the Church's responsibility in education and mission, Orthodox participation in ecumenical dialogue, and spiritual developments in Russia.

**Vision of Unity**, by John Meyendorff. [ISBN 0-88141-068-3 paperback] A collection of relevant editorials from *The Orthodox Church* newspaper that focus on Orthodox unity in North America and basic principles of Church structure.

**The Meaning of Icons**

**Christ and the Church** (Afonsky)?

**Toward An American Orthodox Church** (Bogolepov)?

[Look also for related themes in books listed in the sections below]

## **Holy Week** **The Journey to Pascha**

### **Theme Books for Children**

**The Story of Easter**, by Aileen Fisher. [HarperCollins Publishers; Trophy Picture Book ISBN 0-06-443490-7], **Ages 6-10** This soft-covered book with good illustrations tells the biblical story of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus with references to different ways of celebrating the feast throughout the world. A few adjustments in vocabulary/practice may be necessary (e.g., change all adjectives for days of Holy Week to "Holy" Thursday for Maunday Thursday, Holy Friday for Good Friday, etc. where necessary.) Teachers and parents should easily recognize and adjust where needed.

**The Story of Passover**, by Norma Simon. [HarperCollins Publishers; Trophy Picture Book ISBN 0-06-443491-5], **Ages 7-10**. A soft-cover book with good illustrations that provides a very readable review of the biblical story of the first Passover, with additional material on how the Jewish people have celebrated this feast up to the present day. Teachers and parents can use whatever portions are relevant for the age of their children.

**Celebrate: A Book of Jewish Holidays**, by Judith Gross. [Platt & Munk; "All Aboard Books" series, ISBN 0-448-40302-1], **Ages 4-8**. This is a brief introduction to Jewish Holidays with references to Biblical events. Can be used as a reference for younger children when speaking of New Testament Feasts that fulfill Old Testamental events. Delightful illustrations by Bari Weissman.

**God is With Us**, by Sophie Koulomzin. [OCA –OCPC]. **Ages 4-10**. A soft-cover book of Bible stories for children, with iconographic illustrations covering basic stories from Creation to Pentecost. Stories for the Journey to Pascha study unit are found in pages 82-105. (*Out of print, but available in many parish libraries.*)

**The Tale of Three Trees**, retold by Angela Elwell Hunt. [Lion Publishing, Elgin, IL ISBN 7459-1743-7] **Ages 4-10 & above**. Three little trees on a mountain exchange their dreams of what they wish to become when they grow up, not knowing that their expectations are exceeded as each has an important role in the life of God's Son. Beautifully illustrated by Tim Jonke. 16pp. Audio cassette also available

**The Book of Jonah**, by Niko Chocheli. [SVS Press ISBN 0-88141-207-4] *Ages 7 & above*. A wonderfully illustrated story of Jonah, the reluctant messenger God sent to Nineveh to call the people to repentance. (The biblical story is one of the 15 Old Testament readings read on Holy Saturday.)

**A Child's Story of Easter**, by Etta Wilson. [Ideals Children's Books, Nashville; Hambleton-Hill Publishing, Inc. ISBN 1-57102-107-8. *Ages 6-10*. Large picture book with a good, brief narrative on Jesus' life, and teaching, with emphasis on the last days in Jerusalem. Illustrations are geared more to younger children.

**The Easter Story**, by Carol Heyer. [Ideals Children's Books, Nashville; Hambleton-Hill Publishing, Inc. ISBN 0-8249-8439-0. *Ages 6-10*. Striking illustrations (which never show the face of Jesus, but focus on the events of which he was a part) summarize the highlights of Jesus' life, and the drama of his suffering, death and resurrection.

**The Very First Easter**, by Paul L. Maier. [Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis. ISBN 0-570-07053-8]. Written by an historian, this book is a conversation between a 10-11 year-old boy and his parents that tells the story of events from the Entry to Jerusalem to the Ascension. Questions asked by the boy are answered with reference to the Church, the Eucharist, Christ's humanity and divinity, in simple terms and with reference to the historical context. Good for middle-school children. Major weakness is the "realistic" Hollywood style of the illustrations.

**Rechenka's Eggs**, by Patricia Polacco. A delightful Easter story set in Orthodox Russia about Babushka and her prize-winning pysanki. Themes of love, caring and birth. The author is known for her books about ethnically diverse neighborhoods and is also an illustrator. Ukrainian and Georgian, she has studied iconography, which is evident in her books.

**The Giving Tree**, by Shel Silverstein. [Harper/Collins Publishers. ISBN 0-06-025665-6] The story of a tree that is friend to a boy throughout his life. An example of unconditional love and giving as the tree continues to give his life for others' needs. This book has become a classic for all ages.

**Dancing with Dziadziu**, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. [Harcourt, Brace and Co. ISBN 0-15-2-675-5] Polish story set around Easter about how grandparents met and courted. Love and family oriented. Charming illustrations.

## **Section B**

### **Stories for Children of All Ages**

**With a Focus on Attitudes, Values, Behaviors and Relationships**

#### **Selected Children's Literature Depicting Themes in Relation to Christian Life**

Themes and selections based on the work of Drs. David and Mary Ford, with additions by other contributors.

#### **Accepting/Loving Those Who are Different**

***Chicken Sunday***, by Patricia Polacco [N.Y.: Philomel Books, Putnam and Grosset Group], 1992) A delightful story about a Ukrainian Orthodox girl of about ten who is close friends with two black boys; she comes to deeply appreciate the love and faith of the boys' very devout Baptist grandmother, who sang the church hymns with a voice "like slow thunder and sweet rain"

#### **Accepting Sad Circumstances**

***Letting Swift River Go***, by Jane Yolen. A ten-year-old girl learns to accept the flooding of her hometown and the whole valley when Swift River is dammed to form a huge lake to provide water for Boston.

#### **Appreciating Grandparents and the Elderly**

***Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)***, by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard, with paintings by James Ransome [N.Y.: Clarion Books, 1991] A story about an elderly black auntie relating stories about her life in Baltimore (each hat inspires a different story)

**Oliver, Amanda, and Grandmother Pig**, by Jean Van Leeuwen. The youngsters gain a whole new appreciation for their grandmother.

**The Patchwork Quilt**, by Valerie Flourney. A dying grandmother is helped by her young grand-daughter in making a patchwork quilt full of memories.

**Willie and May**, by Judith Schachner

### **Bible-Related Picture Books**

**To Every Thing There is a Season**, illustrations by Leo and Diane Dillon. Illustrations of the texts of the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, utilizing styles from a variety of cultures and traditions. Parents or teachers should read first the explanations of the cultural symbols to communicate properly the meaning of the text and illustrations. ISBN 0-590-47887-7.

**Psalm Twenty-Three**, Illustrations by Tim Ladwig. [Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. ISBN 0-8028-5163-0] A contemporary interpretation of Psalm 23, set in an urban black environment. A good book for understanding the different contexts in which others live and how the Psalm applies as a support and guide. Good basis for discussion in helping children to relate such texts to their lives.

### **Bravery and Courage**

**Mirette on the High Wire**, Emily Arnold McCully [New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1992] A girl of about 12 learns to walk the high wire and dramatically helps a high wire veteran overcome his fear to go back on the wire

**The King's Fountain**, by Lloyd Alexander [New York: E. P. Dutton, 1971] - a great tale of humble bravery

**Desert December**, by Dorian Haarhoff [New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 1992] - a Christmas tale set in southwest Africa, in which a ten-year old boy, with his grandfather's permission, travels alone into the desert to find his parents in a mining village

**The Bravest Dog Ever - The True Story of Balto**, by Natalie Standiford. An Alaskan husky and his dogsled driver heroically bring life-saving medicine to Nome, Alaska, through a raging blizzard.

**To the Top! Climbing the World's Highest Mountain**, by S. A. Kramer. The true story, dramatically and briefly told, of Sir Edmund Hillary's and Tenzing Norgay's ascent of Mt. Everest in 1953.

**The Emperor and the Kite**, by Jane Yolen. A quiet, brave little princess rescues her father from a prison-tower.

**The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter**, Arielle N. Olson. A girl of about 12 bravely keeps the lighthouse light burning during a long winter storm.

**Clara Barton**, by Rae Bains. Her true story, focusing on her childhood; she showed remarkable courage and vision as she overcame great shyness to dramatically serve her fellow man.

**Ride on the Wind**, by Alice Dalgliesh. A wonderful recounting of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927.

### **Cheerful Cooperation and Industriousness**

**The Boxcar Children** series, by Gertrude Chandler Warner. Examples of cooperative, hard-working, virtuous children - though perhaps taken to an unrealistic extreme.

### **Courage and Repentance**

**The Rag Coat**, by Lauren Mills [Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1991] A beautiful story set in Appalachia, about a poor eight year old girl who gets terribly teased by her schoolmates over her first coat, made of rags contributed by neighborhood ladies and sewn together by them. When she bravely returns to the school and tells the stories about the rags, there is great repentance by her schoolmates.

**The Royal Bee**, by Frances and Ginger Park [Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2000] A very poor Korean boy is so determined to learn to read and write, he stands outside the school, which is only for rich boys, day after day, and wins the support of his teacher and the students (based on a true story).

***The Boy Who Held Back the Sea***, retold by Lenny Hart, with magnificent oil paintings by Thomas Locker [New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1987] A mischievous boy learns responsibility unexpectedly when he realizes it's up to him to block the hole in the dike until help arrives.

### Faith, Kindness, Inner Illumination, Transfiguration

***Small Acts of Kindness***, by James Vollbracht [Paulist Press, 1995. ISBN 0-8091-6629-1] **Ages 3 & above.** A children's picture book that illustrates how one simple act of kindness may be passed on to affect many people along the way. Illustrated by Christopher Fay.

***Tell Me The Secrets: Treasures for Eternity***, by Max Lucado [Crossway Books, 1993 ISBN 0-89107-730-8] **Ages 12 & above.** Stories from life about seven "secrets": forgiveness, peace, victory, growth, love, greatness, life and death are revealed by a wise neighbor who helps three students to discover something good about themselves in their own process of growth. All are useful as good discussion starters.

***Tales of Virtue: A Book of Right and Wrong***, as told by Carolyn Nabors Baker. [Little Moorings, Ballantine Publishing Group, Random House, 1995. ISBN 679-87637-5] **Ages 4-8.** Part of the Beginner's Bible series, ten simplified stories from the Old Testament illustrate the themes of forgiveness, loyalty, responsibility, friendship, courage, obedience, sharing, patience, work and honesty. 96pp.

***Tell Me the Story***, by Max Lucado. Stories in the form of modern parables, related to biblical events and themes that are useful for reflection and discussion among young people, or with their parents or teachers.

***Rechenka's Eggs***, by Patricia Polacco. An Easter story set in Orthodox Russia.

***Uncle Vova's Tree***, by Patricia Polacco. A touching story about Russian Orthodox immigrants to America.

***The Velveteen Rabbit***, original text by Margery Williams, and original art by William Nicholson [New York: Doubleday, 1991] An all-time, very touching classic about a stuffed animal that becomes "real."

***The Princess and the Goblin***, and ***The Princess and Curdy***, by George MacDonald Magnificent tales with much spiritual wisdom.

***The Narnia Chronicles***, by C. S. Lewis. Incomparable allegorical tales with deeply Christian content, with four English schoolchildren as the heroes and heroines.

***The Christmas Miracle*** of Jonathan Toomey, by Susan Wojciechowski, and illustrated by P. J. Lynch [Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1995] A story about the inner transformation of a gloomy woodcarver.

***A Lion for the King***, by Meryl Doney. A young Chinese boy and a wise man follow the star in the West, leading them to the Christ-Child.

### Doing What One is Good At for God, No Matter What It Is

***The Clown of God***, retold and illustrated by Tomie DePaola [San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1978] At the end of his life, a juggler gives his best for God.

### Finding One's Calling/Vocation in Life

***Hatti and the Wild Waves***, Barbara Cooney. A girl of about 12 gains courage to pursue her dreams.

***Boris and His Balalaika***, by Esphyr Slobodkina [London and New York: Abelard Schuman, 1964] A very poor Orthodox boy finds his calling in life, playing his father's balalaika in the Russian army

***Snowflake Bentley***, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. The true story of a Vermont farmboy who devotes his life to making photographs of snowflakes.

### God's Miraculous Protection and Guidance

***The Story of the Trapp Family Singers***, by Maria Augusta Trapp [original edition published by Lippincott, in Philadelphia, in 1949] The amazing true story that is the basis for the play and movie called *The Sound of Music*

***The Children's Book of Faith***, by William J. Bennett. [Randomhouse Books. ISBN 0-385-32771-4] Selections on faith from "Daniel in the Lion's Den" to "The Little Lost Lamb." A collection of stories and prayers, lives of saints, advice to parents. PK-8

***How the Monastery Came to be on the Top of the Mountain***, by Alvin Alexsi Carrier.

### Good Triumphant Over Evil/Falsehood

***Papa Gatto***, by Ruth Sanderson [Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1995] A very beautiful story and pictures

### Joy of Friendship

***Best Friends Together Again***, Aiki

***Betsy-Tacy and Tib***, by Maud Hart Lovelace [N.Y., Harper Trophy, 1979; originally published in 1941] A first novel, about 5 year olds; very delightful and insightful; set in Wisconsin around 1900.

***The Milly-Molly-Mandy Story Book***, by Joyce L. Brisley [N.Y., Kingfisher, 1996; originally published in 1928] Another delightful first novel; and the sequel, ***More Milly-Molly-Mandy*** (set in an English village and the surrounding countryside)

***Amber on the Mountain***, by Tony Johnston, with paintings by Robert Duncan [New York: Puffin Books, Penguin, 1994] A story about the special friendship of two girls about eight or nine years old; set in Appalachia

***The View from Saturday***, by E.L. Konigsburg. [Simon and Shuster. ISBN 0-689-80993-X] The story of a group of gifted children thrown together to help a team for an academic competition. A story of friendship and love.

***Tanya and Emily***, by Patricia Lee Gauch

### Learning to Share: Kindness and Selflessness

***The Rainbow Fish***, Marcus Pfister (N.Y.: North-South Books, 1992) - about an exceptionally beautiful fish who learns to share his rainbow scales; at a quite elementary level

***The Cobbler's Reward***, by Barbara and Ewa Reid (New York: MacMillan, 1978) - based on a Polish folk tale about a young man who breaks a witch's spell and rescues a maiden, with dramatic help from some animals and insects whom he has helped; many folktales have this basic theme, such as: ***Androcles and the Lion***, retold by Tom Paxton - a runaway slave helps a lion, who helps him in return in a time of desperate need

***The Brand New Kid***, by Katie Couric. [Doubleday, ISBN 0385-50030-0] The story of a new kid at school who, being different, becomes the target of tauntings. A girl decides to befriend him and finds he has many talents, especially soccer! A story of compassion and acceptance. 3-8

### Love and Care

***Love You Forever***, Robert Munsch. [ISBN 0-920668-37-2A] tender story of the love of a mother for her child, even as he grows up and becomes a man. The story reverses when she needs his love and care. For all ages.

***Crazy Lady!***, by Jane Leslie Conly. [Harper/Collins Publishers. ISBN 0-06-021360-4] The story of Vernon, a junior high boy who befriends a neighborhood woman and her mentally challenged son. Unconditional love and overcoming loss.

***Read for Me, Mama***, by Vashanti Rahaman [Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 1997] A young mother is too ashamed to admit to her 6 or 7 year old son that she cannot read

### Nature's Harmony: God's Creation and Care for All

***Old Turtle***, Douglas Woods. A beautifully illustrated story about the Creation of the world that focuses on a discussion by animals about who God is, the coming of people and the disintegration of unity and wholeness in the world—with a surprise ending! For all ages. ISBN 0-938586-48-3

***Grandad's Prayers of the Earth***. Douglas Woods. A boy learns about God's world and something about prayer during walks with his grandfather, finally understanding the wisdom of his grandfather's words with a return to the forest many years after his death. For all ages.

***The Wonderful Feast***, Esphyr Slobodkina [N.Y., Greenwillow Books, 1993; originally published in 1955] A number of creatures end up getting fed from the feed a farmer gives to his horse (at a quite elementary level).

***Ice Bear and Little Fox***, by Jonathan London, with illustrations by Daniel San Souci. [N.Y., Dutton's Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 1998] The story of the mutually helpful relationship between a silver fox and a polar bear through the year; includes a glossary of Inuit (Eskimo) words and other terms relating to the Arctic, and an afterword giving more information about Arctic wildlife

### **Repentance: Overcoming Embarrassment**

***Read for Me, Mama***, by Vashanti Rahaman [Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 1997] A young mother is too ashamed to admit to her 6 or 7 year old son that she cannot read

### **Repentance: Overcoming Selfishness/Self-centeredness**

***Candy Floss***, by Rumer Godden; illustrated by Nonny Hogrogian [New York: Philomel Books, 1991; first published in 1959] A powerful story about the profound repentance of a very spoiled girl of seven; set in England at a coconut shy booth at a traveling country fair

***Miss Hickory***, by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey. A novel about a figurine made of hardwood who learns painfully not to be so hardheaded.

***King Midas and the Golden Touch***. A new edition by Charlotte Craft, and illustrated by K. Y. Craft (beautifully done).

***The Bad Hat***, by Ludwig Bemelmans (in the *Madeline* series)

***Zinnia and Dot***, by Lisa Campbell Ernst. A humorous tale of two bickering hens who finally put aside their squabbles to heroically drive away the weasel who is after their eggs.

### **Steady Faith, Endurance, and Sacrificing for Others**

***Leah's Pony***, Elizabeth Friedrich. A girl of about 11 is willing to sell her beloved pony so her nearly bankrupt farm-family will not have to lose their farm.

***Silver At Night***, S.C. Bartoletti. A very touching story about an immigrant from Italy working in the coal mines of northeastern Pennsylvania, slowly earning enough money to send for his girlfriend/fiancee back in Italy.

***The Little Boat***, K. Henderson. (at an early elementary level)

***The Long Winter***, Laura Ingalls Wilder. A pioneer family living in a new town on the South Dakota prairie survives a seven-month winter filled with blizzards.

***More than Anything Else***, Marie Bradley. Beautifully and poignantly describes how Booker T. Washington learned to read at about the age of 10.

***Wanda's Roses***, by Pat Brisson. [Honesdale, Pa.: Boyd Mills Press, 1998] A girl's faith in a scraggly bush inspires a whole neighborhood to beautify their surroundings.

***The Miracle of Saint Nicholas***, by Gloria Whelan. [San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1997] A beautifully done story, about a church in a Russian village being reopened after sixty years, through the initiative of a ten-year old boy, and by the patient faith of the whole village

***The Black Falcon***, by William Wise (*retold from Boccaccio's Decameron*); illustrated by Gillian Barlow [New York: Philomel Books, 1990]

***Miss Fanny's Hat***, by Jan Karon. A plucky 100-year-old becomes willing to offer her favorite hat for her church's fund-raising auction.

### **Steady Faith, Endurance and Love, Victory over Tribulation**

***When the Monkeys Came Back***, by Kristine L. Franklin. After the rainforest is chopped down near her home, a woman plants trees her whole life, to woo the monkeys back.

**Miss Rumphius**, by Barbara Cooney. An old woman in New England finds joy in spreading lupine seeds everywhere!.

**The Glorious Flight - Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot**, by Alice and Martin Provinsen. A story about the first solo flight across the English Channel, in 1909, and about building the plane that made the flight.

**Eleanor**, by Barbara Cooney (based on the true story of Eleanor Roosevelt's difficult childhood)

**Dragon in the Rocks**. The true story about the English girl of about 12 who chipped out and assembled a great dinosaur skeleton in the early 19th century; another version of this story is **Rare Treasures, Mary Anning**, by Don Brown

**A Little Princess**, by Frances Hodgson Burnett. A young girl from a wealthy family humbly and heroically endures the scorn, hatred, and jealousy of the headmistress - and some of the other students - at her English boarding school.

**The Little Match Girl**, by Hans Christian Andersen. A young girl from an impoverished family freezes to death as she faithfully sells matches on a city street.

### Thankfulness and Gratitude

**Pages of Music**, by Tony Johnston, and illustrated by Tomie de Paola [New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1988] A composer always remembers a summer he spent as a boy on the island of Sardinia, and he returns there one Christmas morning with a magnificent gift of music

**Silver Packages**, Cynthia Rylant [N.Y., Orchard Books, 1997] Based on the true story of the Christmas Train coming to the Appalachian Mountains every Christmas beginning in 1943; one of the children who received a present each year returns to his Appalachian hometown years later to serve as a medical doctor.

**O Christmas Tree!** A story about Christmas in the Caribbean

**What a Wonderful Day to Be a Cow**, by Carolyn Lesser

**Merry Christmas, Old Armadillo**, by Larry Dane Brimner, and illustrated by Dominic Catalano

### Truth Triumphant Over Falsehood

**Papa Gatto**, by Ruth Sanderson (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1995) - very beautiful story and pictures

### Yielding to Temptations and Passions

**The Wind in the Willows**, by Kenneth Grahame (1908). Ch. 1, Mole insists on paddling the boat, and capsizes it.

**By the Banks of Plum Creek**, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. When Laura goes to the flooded river and is almost swept away after she ventures in just to see how it feels)

**The Story about Ping**, by Marjorie Flack and Kurt Wise [NY: Puffin/Penguin, 1977; originally published in 1933] A little duck gets lost on the Yangtze River in China after deciding not to return to his houseboat where he will be punished for being late.

**Frog and Toad Together**, Arnold Lobel [New York: Harper and Row, 1971] The chapter about Toad on stage, getting carried away with thoughts of fame and grandeur.

**Peter Rabbit, Mr. Samuel Whiskers** (or **The Roly-Poly Pie**), and some others by Beatrix Potter. Stories revealing dangerous consequences for over-curiosity and disobedience.

**The Hundred Dresses**, by Eleanor Estes [N.Y., Harcourt Brace, 1972] Very powerful lessons about peer pressure, and not making fun of people; first published in 1944.

**Miss Penny and Mr. Grubbs**, by Lisa Campbell Ernst. A gardener is nearly consumed by jealousy over his neighbor's thriving garden, and everything he tries to do to subvert her success backfires)

**Why?** by Nikolai Popov [North-South Books, NY ISBN 1-55858-534-6] A wordless picture book that shows how simple aggression can escalate into violence (involving a mouse and a frog) that quickly results in ruin. Striking illustrations.

## Periodicals & Series for Children and Families

### **General Concepts, Biblical and Sacramental Themes:**

**Little Falcons** (Liturgy & Life themes), **Arch Books** (Biblical Stories),

**Saints for All Ages** (Lives of Saints 8 yrs.-Adults),

(May be used as a reference for any theme)

**Little Falcons** A modest little magazine for children with an excellent mix of stories, feasts and celebrations, lives of saints, and articles related to a special theme of each issue. Many of the materials are taken from previous publications now out of print, while others (such as Natalie Ashanin's excellent introductions to the theme of each issue) are new. The theme of issue #18, **The Way**, features stories and activities for the period of Lazarus Saturday to Thomas Sunday, with articles on Christ's ministry (with a map of Palestine), His Entrance to Jerusalem, a Journey Game, the journey of Tobias, and an excerpt from C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."  
(See also #3, 6,7,8)

*Published by the Office of Diocesan Education, Serbian Orthodox New Gracanica Metropolitanate, Diocese of America and Canada. Editor: Fr. Thomas Kazich. 4 issues per year. For subscriptions or information write to: Little Falcons, P.O. Box 371, Grayslake, IL 60030. Phone: 1-847-223-4300, or e-mail: littlefalcons@owc.net.*

### **Titles of issues include:**

1. **Candles** [concepts related to light. ISSN 1072-0146]
2. **Incense** [relationship to prayer and worship. ISSN 1072-0146]
3. **The Cross** [tree of the Cross, death and resurrection. ISSN 1072-0146]
4. **Bells** [call to worship, sound and communication. ISSN 1072-0146/4]
5. **Oil** [anointing, healing, light and mercy. ISSN 1072-0146/5]
6. **Water** [water of life, baptism, power, death and cleansing. ISSN 1072-0146/6]
7. **Bread** [food, communion, feasts and celebrations. ISSN 10720-0146/7]
8. **Wine** [sacrament/celebration, making wine, sacrifice/blood, wedding feast. ISSN 1072-0146/8]
9. **Icons** [images of heaven, God and human persons, reading icons. ISSN 1072-0146/9]
10. **The Gospel** [hearing God's Word, the Bible, evangelists, reading the Bible, language and alphabet, speaking and writing. ISSN 1072-0146/10]
11. **Vestments** [robes of glory, stories of Adam & Eve, Joseph, and the Prodigal Son, our baptismal robe, clothing through the centuries, making vestments. ISSN 1072-0146/11]
12. **The Church** [3 kinds of Church, church architecture, Pentecost-the Church begins, starting a new church in America, Hagia Sophia, Solomon's Temple, Mary the Temple of God. ISSN 1072-0146/12]
13. **The Holy Trinity** [Three in One, the Creed-Symbol of the Faith, shamrocks and images of 3 in 1, Prayer to the Holy Trinity, Painter of the Holy Trinity icon. ISSN 1072-0146/13]
14. **Canons** [Canons and Laws, Moses receives the Law, Canons of discipline, rules for living, Councils and Canons, an American Canon: the Constitution, Truth. ISSN 1072-0146/14]
15. **Thanksgiving** [Giving thanks with offerings, the Three Youths in the Furnace, the man who thanked Jesus, our Service of Thanksgiving, "blessing" and being thankful, a "giving tree." ISSN 1072-0146/15]
16. **God's Kingdom** [God's Kingdom, kingdoms of men/nations, how do we enter God's Kingdom?, Kings of Israel, national anthems, Martin the cobbler and St. Philaret the Merciful. The Lord's Prayer. The Church—Icon of God's Kingdom. ISSN 1072-0146/16]

17. **Doors** Doors and gates in the Bible and the Church, the Wise and Foolish Maidens, "doors" and the catechumens, Jesus the Good Shepherd, Mary's entrance into the Temple, entrances and exits in God's world, the "doors" of our lips, the gates of repentance, all kinds of doors. ISSN 1072-0146/17]
18. **The Way** [The journey of life, Which Way? Jesus' new way of living, Entry to Jerusalem, the Ways of Flying Geese, Journey to the Resurrection, Tobias and the Angel, an excerpt from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the way to Paradise, roads lead the way. ISSN 1072-0146/18]
19. **Seeds** [The miracle of Seeds, Sower & Seeds in our Life, Martyrs, Wheat: Death and Resurrection, planting, growing up, koliva. ISSN 1072-0146/19]
20. **Salt** [A poem on friendship. The Salt of the Earth, Salt in the Holy Land, Friends bring a Sick Man, A Family Helps in Romania, The Dead Sea, Salt is Better than Gold, Making a Difference like Salt, St. Cosmas of Aitolos. A Sense of Taste.

21.

## **"Arch Books" Series for Children**

*Note: This series contains several sets of books, some of which may be out of print, though many parish libraries have copies. For up-to-date information, contact Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO (cphmall.com) cf. Kid's Corner. The following titles for Palm Sunday to Pascha may be used with Primary children 4-8 or 9 yrs. Rhyming verse is used to tell the stories.*

### **Stories for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha** (see below for Holy Saturday readings)

**The Donkey Who Served the King** (#59-1238) Two disciples of Jesus ask the children for use of the family's pet donkey for a special event, i.e., Christ's Entry into Jerusalem. Matt. 21:1-11.

**Jesus Enters Jerusalem** (#59-1455) The story of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Matt. 21:1-11.

**The Most Wonderful King** (#59-1145) The events from Palm Sunday to the Journey to Emmaus summarize the major themes of Holy Week and Pascha. Luke 19:28-24:43; John 12:12-20:31

**The Bread and the Wine** (#59-1245) The story of the Jesus Last Supper with His disciples. John 13:1-38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.

**The Very First Lord's Supper** (#59-1501) Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, followed by His prayer in the Garden and the Betrayal by Judas. Matt. 26:17-75; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:7-71

**The Man Who Carried the Cross for Jesus** (#59-1242) The events of the Crucifixion as witnessed by Simon of Cyrene. Luke 23:26; Mark 15:21.

**The Day Jesus Died** (#59-1516) The story of the passion and death of Christ on the Cross.

**My Happy Easter Book** (#59-1493) The story of the burial and resurrection of Christ. Matt. 27:57-28:10

**God's Easter Plan** (#59-1461) Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and shows her that He is risen and alive! John 20:1-18.

**The Story of the Empty Tomb** (#59-1517) The women followers of Jesus come to the tomb and discover that the Lord is risen!

**Thomas, the Doubting Disciple** (#59-1504) The story of Jesus' appearance to His disciples behind closed doors, and the doubt of the missing Thomas who didn't believe the others. John 20:19-29.

**The Fishermen's Surprise** (#59-1139) Jesus' call of the disciples, and His appearance to them after His resurrection, but they do not recognize Him until He sends them out to get a great catch of fish. Luke 5:1-11 and John 21.

### **Old Testament Stories Read on Great and Holy Saturday**

**Jonah and the Very Big Fish** (#59-1514) Jonah is sent by God to deliver a message to the people of Ninevah, but God has a surprise for Jonah. The Book of Jonah

**The Man Caught by a Fish** (#59-1136) The story of Jonah and his mission to the Ninevites. The Book of Jonah

**The Great Escape** (#59-1196) The story of the first Passover and how God set His people free. Exodus 3:1-15:1.

**Moses' Dry Feet** (#59-1518) The story of Moses leading God's people through the Sea to escape the Egyptian armies.

**God's Fire for Elijah** (#59-1523) Elijah challenges the people who worshipped the Baals or false gods, and show that the God of Israel was the One true God. I Kings 18:16-46

**Three Men Who Walked in Fire** (#59-1137) Three young men of Israel who are living in Babylon refuse to worship the new statue of the King who thought he could be worshipped as a god. Daniel 3.

**Three Men in the Fiery Furnace** (#59-1466) The story of the three youths who are thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar and remained faithful to the God of Israel. Daniel 3:1-30.

## **Teens, Parents, Teachers, and Other Adults/Study Groups**

**The Church Year**, Volume II of *Celebration of Faith* by Alexander Schmemmann. [SVS Press.] ISBN 0-88141-138-8. Sermons by Fr. Schmemmann originally broadcast to Russia, focusing especially on the Christmas and Easter cycles. An excellent and easily readable text for adult or individual study. 162pp.

**The Living God: 2 Volumes A Catechism for the Christian Faith**. [SVS Press.] ISBN 0-88141-130-2. A unique catechism that integrates scripture, the liturgical year, theology and iconography to explain basic Christian dogmas and elements of the Orthodox faith.

**The Incarnate God: 2 Volumes, The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary**, Catherine Aslanoff, ed. [SVS Press. 276 pp. ISBN 0-88141-040-3] An excellent instructional text or home guide and commentary on the life of Christ, the feasts and liturgical verses and services covering the period from the Transfiguration of Christ to the Dormition of Mary. Contains excellent black and white iconographic illustrations by Fr. Andrew Tregubov. A very useful companion book for parents, teachers and teens with the **Journey to Pascha** FOCUS education web-site study unit.

**Treasures of the Holy Land**, by Veselin and Lydia Kesich. [SVS Press.] ISBN 0-88141-045-4. A Visit to the Places of Christian Origins. This is a unique commentary on historical sites where events in the life of Christ took place, with biblical texts and references and 24 excellent line drawings. 112 pp.

**The Passion of Christ**, by Veselin Kesich. [SVS Press] ISBN 0-913836-80-X A small commentary on the passion narrative of the Gospels that adds insights of modern scholarship for the general reader. 84pp.

**Jesus Christ and the Temple**, by Georges A. Barrois. [SVS Press] ISBN 0-913836-73-7 A very readable introduction to major feasts and events that relate to worship and the Old Testament Temple, which integrates Old and New Testamental themes and events. 164pp.

**Scripture Readings in Orthodox Worship**, by Georges A. Barrois [SVS Press] ISBN 0-913836-41-9 A focus on scriptural lessons through the course of the liturgical seasons and feasts of the Orthodox Church, interpreted through the context of the Church's worship and prayer. A good text for an adult class. 197pp.

**Orthodox Lent, Holy Week and Easter**, by Hugh Wybrew. [SVS Press.] ISBN 0-88141-162-0 Selected liturgical texts and commentary from the services of the Lenten season through Pascha.

**Note:** For *Liturgical Music and Recordings for Holy Week and Pascha*, see the Resource Bin on Liturgy (or click here for **Liturgical Music**)

## **Section C**

### **Saints**

**Organized by Name (Alphabetical Order) and Collections**

*All of the selections below are for high school and up.*

### **Internet Sites**

**www.oca.org** ***Feasts and Saints of the Church***

**St. Helen - May 24.** Briefly tells about her desire and finding of the precious cross of Christ.

See also: **Sept. 14 Elevation/Exaltation of the Venerable and life-Creating Cross**

**St. Peter - June 29.** Several pages of information about Peter's calling and relationship with Christ

**St. Mary Magdalene - July 22.** Several pages about her life and relationship with Christ

**Lazarus** – Contains explanation of the feast of Lazarus Saturday.

**Martha and Mary - June 4** Features a short paragraph about who they were

**St. George - April 23** Several pages about his life

Add saints of America, pioneers in the church, major figures

## ***Collections***

**Heroes for Truth** (*The Orthodox Christian Church Through the Ages Vol. 1.*) Chapter 4, The Men Who Changed the World: **The Apostles**, pp. 16 –21. Sophie Koulomzin. Religious Education Department, 1968. **OCPC** This selection gives a short story on the background of the life of **St. Peter**, up to his facing the risen Lord. Appropriate for students ages 12 and up.

**Rulers of Nations Servants of Christ, St. Helena**, pp. 14 - 17, Stephen Bobulsky. DRE-OCA, 1980. ISBN 0-86642-003-7. **OCPC** The pages above tell how **St. Helena** desired to find the cross of Christ. Appropriate for students from ages 12 and up.

**Poets and Hymnographers of the Church, St. Andrew of Crete and St. John of Damascus**, pp. , DRE-OCA. ISBN 0-86642-010-X. **OCPC**. The lives of St. Andrew of Crete, who wrote the Kanon sung during the first week of Great Lent that focuses on the theme of repentance; and St. John of Damascus who wrote the Paschal Kanon;

Add to series

## **Section D — Literature & Short Stories**

### **Books and Excerpts for Reflection and Discussion**

## **Section E — Biographies and "Life" Stories**

### **Books and Short Pieces of Christian Life in Practice**

***Many Worlds: A Russian Life.*** [SVS Press, Crestwood, NY]. The autobiography of Sophie Koulomzin, a pioneer in Orthodox Christian Education. Born of a prominent family in Russia, her life takes her through the early years of the Russian Revolution, the escape to Germany, marriage and a family in France, World War II, the Russian Student Christian Movement and early leadership in Sunday Schools, and finally her pioneering efforts in North America. A fascinating and inspiring story.

***Pearl of Great Price.*** Mother Maria Skobtsova [SVS Press, Crestwood, NY]. The story of a remarkable woman who became a nun (in her own non-conformist manner), dedicating her life to serving the poor, and finally giving her life for another in the gas chambers of a Nazi concentration camp.

***Father Arseny***