

The Grapevine

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ST ANNA ORTHODOX CHURCH

New Lending Library

St. Anna's now has a small lending library of historical novels for young people. These are books which are set in Christian history. The adventures of the heroes – usually teenagers – help the reader to understand the challenges of living as a Christian at that time.

Our collection includes:

Beorn the Proud by Madeleine Polland. Set in the 9th- century. An Irish Christian girl is taken captive by a young Danish Viking. The strength of her faith brings an unexpected end to their saga.

Between the Forest and the Hills by Ann Lawrence. Takes place in 5th-century England in one of the last Roman fortified towns. The adventures of a young Christian lad, a talking raven, and pagan Saxons.

Beyond the Desert Gate by Mary Ray. A sequel to *The Ides of April*, set in A.D. 70 in Palestine. From afar one sees the destruction of Jerusalem and follows the path of a young Greek boy who tries to find his identity in these turbulent years.



The Emperor's Winding Sheet by Jill Paton Walsh. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 told by an English boy, shipwrecked in the Mediterranean, who found himself at the side of the last Christian Emperor, Constantine.

Lending library continued on p. 2

Music for Young People

Have you heard of Living H2O? It's an Orthodox folk group from California. Four young women and a young man write their own Christian songs and sing them a capella, or with guitar, violin, bass and other instruments. They have two CDs of folksongs and one of liturgical music.



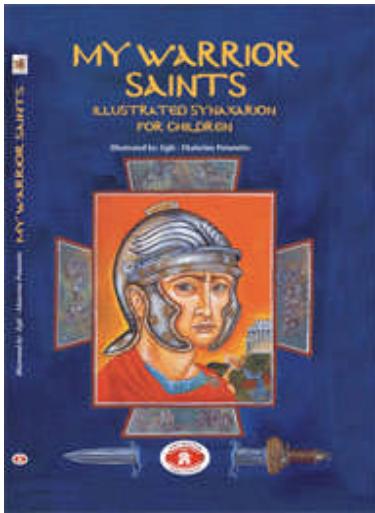
You can read the lyrics, hear the songs, find out more about the band members, and order CDs at their website, www.livingh2oband.com.

Minicamp for St. Nicholas

Mark your calendars for minicamp on Saturday, December 19, following Liturgy for St. Nicholas. We will have activities for children ages 4 and up. More details coming soon.

Saints of November

November is a month rich in great saints: St. John of Kronstadt, St. Demetrius, Archangel Michael and all the angels, St. Philaret of New York, St. Nectarius, St. Menas, St. John Chrysostom and others. You will find some lives in your packet for this month, but here are some other resources you can consider:



New *Warrior Saints* by Dionysios and Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis. This treasury of soldiers' lives for children includes a life of St. Menas.

O God of Demetrios by Angelina Eliakopoulos. An excellent account for young people. Both lively and touching.

St. Nectarios of Aegina by Euphemia Briere. Iconographic illustrations throughout, so that children can see as well as hear the story.

Tell Us About the Angels, Grandma by Georgia Hronas. Grandma tells her grandchildren a series of stories about the angels. Some from the lives of the saints, some folk stories, and some fictional.

A Child's Paradise of Saints by Nectaria McLees. This wonderful treasury has a story about a miracle of St. Demetrius.

The Life of Saint Martin by Verena Smith. Full-color illustrations enhance the life of this 4th century Father of the Church, known for his love and humility.

All of these books are available from the children's department at St. Nectarios Press, www.orthodoxpress.org. You may also find them at St. Mark's bookstore, Holy Nativity Convent, or Holy Cross Bookstore.

Reminders

The primary class will need cardboard tubes of all sizes later this fall. Please donate tubes from paper towels, gift wrap, oatmeal containers, etc.

We also could use the unsolicited holiday gift wrap and greeting cards you receive in the mail from charities.

Remember to learn the prayers from the September issue. Recite them for Fr. John and get a prize!

Lending Library, *continued from p. 1*

The Exiles of the Cebenna. Takes place in Arles, Gaul, in the early days of Christianity, during a persecution by the Romans. Told by Aurelius Gratian, a priest. A suspenseful adventure story and heartening lesson in the life of faith that all Orthodox Christians are called upon to live.

The Ides of April by Mary Ray. A mystery story set in A.D. 62 in Rome.



A Trace in the Sand: a Tale of the Early Martyrs by The Zoe Brotherhood of Theologians. Set in A.D. 274, it tells the adventures of a Christian slave and the spoiled son of a pagan Roman senator.