

St. Athanasios, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 Alexandra Houck.
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The Children's Word

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

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Zebulun and Naphtali

Do you live in a big city or a little, tiny town? If you live in a big city, maybe you have visited a little town. Maybe there wasn't much going on there. Maybe there wasn't a restaurant or even a traffic light!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear about where our Lord, Jesus Christ lived. After He was baptized, Christ started His ministry—His real work! The Gospel tells us that Jesus lived in Galilee, "by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali." This place was not a big city with lots going on! It wasn't impressive and it didn't have much there at all. But Jesus lived there because the prophets said the light would come from "the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, toward the sea." The light was Christ, and His light is still with us today!

God can make little, humble places be impressive. God can make great things come from little towns with not much going on. Even if you live in a little town and go to a little, tiny church with just a few other kids, if you have that same light of Christ, great things can happen. Did you know that many saints of our Church came from humble places? We know about them because they kept the light of Christ, and that light spreads all around!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ATHANASIOS
CITY
CYRIL
GALILEE
HUMBLE
NAPHTALI
SAINTS
TOWN
ZEBULUN

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

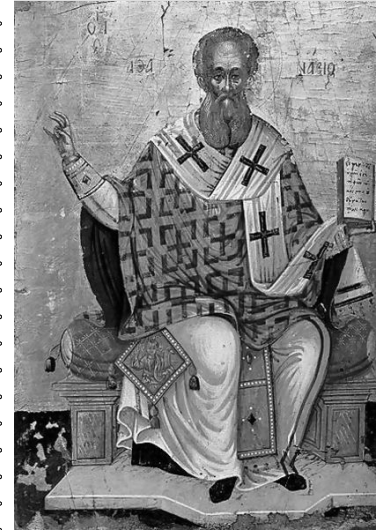
What's in an icon?

This Saturday is also the feast day for Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Egypt.

In the icon, which one is Saint Cyril and which one is Saint Athanasios? Look at the icon on page 3 to check.



SAINT ATHANASIOS A SAINT WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP!



Never give up! Has anybody ever given you that advice? It is good advice, as long as we are sticking to the right thing.

This week we celebrate the nameday of Saint Athanasios, a saint who wouldn't give up about something *very* important. When St. Athanasios lived (1700 years ago), there was a priest named Arius who told people something about our Lord, Jesus Christ. Arius told everybody that Jesus Christ wasn't God.

Arius said that Jesus Christ was just a man!

Saint Athanasios was the bishop of the great city of Alexandria. He was a holy man and a smart man. And he knew that Arius was wrong, very wrong. He knew Jesus Christ was and is part of the Holy Trinity. He also knew he had to convince people that Arius was wrong.

Saint Athanasios did just that. He wrote and wrote and debated many people. He would not give up, even though he got in trouble for what he said. This saint was even kicked out of the city of Alexandria *five* times because he wouldn't give up. For a few months, he even hid in a family tomb in the cemetery! But still, Saint Athanasios would not give up. Let's thank him for sticking up for the truth. Let's ask him to help us to always stick up for the truth, too!

We celebrate St. Athanasios on Sat. Jan. 18th (Jan 31, OC).