

Zacchaeus, come down!



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

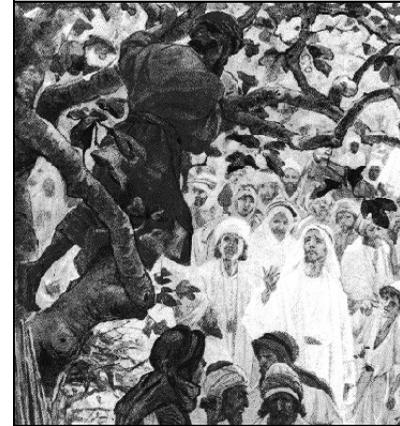
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Should we be curious?



We've all been curious, haven't we?

But is it right or wrong to be curious, is it good or bad?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story of curious Zacchaeus, the short man who climbed a tree. He wanted to see Jesus passing by. He was curious about Jesus Christ. He wanted to see Him, and He wanted to hear Him talk.

In just a month, we'll start Great Lent. During Lent, we pray a special prayer, and we ask God to keep us from "idle curiosity." What's that? And why is that kind of curiosity wrong? If you have "idle curiosity," you are being curious about something you shouldn't be curious about. Maybe you want to know what your classmate is doing so you can talk to your friends about her. Maybe you want to read on the computer about something that isn't so nice. Maybe you try to find out about somebody or something that you shouldn't. Whatever it is, that kind of curiosity is not the kind we want.

What's the right kind of curious? The kind that our friend, Zacchaeus, had! The kind that helps us know about Christ. The kind that helps us know more about His world. The kind that makes us come closer to Him. We can read the Bible, and go to church and Sunday School. We can ask our teachers and our parents and our priest questions. The *right* kind of curious is the kind that helps us love God more! That's the kind Zacchaeus had.

WORD SEARCH

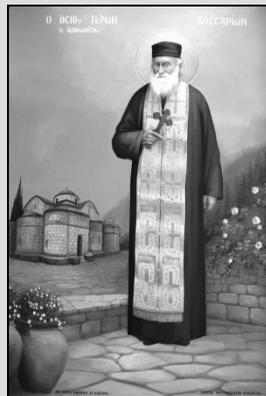
Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Bessarion
- Canonized
- Charity
- Compassion
- Curiosity
- Feastday
- Love
- Saint
- Scripture
- Zacchaeus

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WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

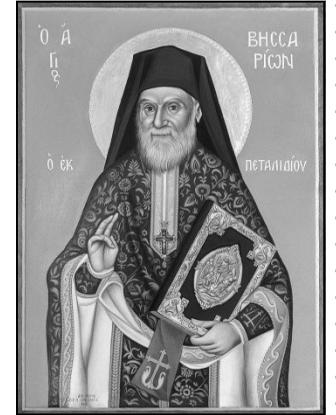
Here is an icon of Saint Bessarion, and here is a photograph of him. What a cool thing it is to have a real photograph of a saint!



SAINT BESSARION OUR NEWEST SAINT!

Do you like to be the first to know something? It's kind of exciting to get to tell other people something they didn't already know!

Well, today is a special day, because it is the first time we celebrate the feastday of a new saint. Just this past summer, our Orthodox Church recognized Saint Bessarion as a saint. He died just 32 years ago.



Saint Bessarion became a monk as a young man, and later on a deacon and then a priest. Bessarion studied so much and tried to learn so much about the Church and about Bible. But he knew he couldn't just learn things for his own fun. He knew he had to do something with what he had learned. Bessarion had a heart full of compassion for other people, especially the poor. He spent his whole life trying to help poor people who were suffering so much. During World War II, Bessarion took care of many people, and he saved lots of children who were going to be captured by the enemies.

After the War, many Greek people were very, very poor. Saint Bessarion lived in a monastery in the middle part of Greece, near Lamia. He helped the poor in the communities there, giving them the sacraments and visiting them at the hospitals. He was a very joyful person, even when things were hard. His joy helped a lot of people through their hard times.

It is a special thing to meet a new saint. Saint Bessarion, pray for us!

We celebrate St. Bessarion today, Jan. 22nd (OC: Feb. 4th).