Saint Nektarios, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

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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God will help, but we can too!

Look at the little icon to the

right. It's not hard to see who is the rich man. But it's not hard to find the poor man either, is it? He's the one on his knees, looking for food. This is an icon that tells a story, a story from the Bible. It is the story of a rich man, and a poor man named Lazarus.



You'll hear that Gospel reading today at church, but just remember those two men. The rich man had a great life, but he wouldn't help the poor man, Lazarus. That rich man must have seen poor Lazarus many times, but still he wouldn't help him. He wouldn't give him food or clothing or a place to stay.

Did you know the name Lazarus means something? Lazarus means, "God will help." Maybe the rich man thought, "Oh well, I don't need to help that poor guy. *God* will help him!" Maybe he even prayed for him. We see people who need help too. Did you know something? God wants us to pray to Him and ask for help. But He also wants us to do something, when we can!

In another part of the Bible, we hear that when we see somebody who is hungry or who doesn't have good clothes, we can't just say, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed." We have to do something! We can help him or her. So always remember, praying is always good. But we can help others with our own two hands, too!

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

You can see a photograph of Saint Nektarios on page 3, but here is an icon of the saint.

Do you think the two pictures look alike?



SAINT NEKTARIOS

HEALER OF CANCER

Did you know that saints really do

understand our problems? How can they understand? Because they lived here on earth, too.
Sometimes they even had some of our same problems, too!

Many, many people love Saint Nektarios. This saint died almost 100 years ago. When he was alive, St. Nektarios started a convent, a place where nuns could live and pray. The nuns loved him very much, and they were so sad when the saint died. "Who will take care of us now?" they



asked. But then the nuns found out something. Bishop Nektarios was still with them, and he was still helping them! Now he was helping them from heaven.

Saint Nektarios still helps us, too. You can pray to him for lots of things. Lots of people pray to him to help against the terrible disease of cancer. St. Nektarios listens to these prayers especially, because he suffered from the same disease! He asks God to heal people from cancer, or to take away some pain. You can pray to St. Nektarios, so he will ask God to help the sick person in some way.

You can read about many, many miracles that St. Nektarios has given, by the power of God. If you know somebody who suffers from this disease, you can ask our loving saint to help!

We celebrate Saint Nektarios on Thursday, Nov. 9th (OC: November 22nd).