

Saint Ignatius, 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

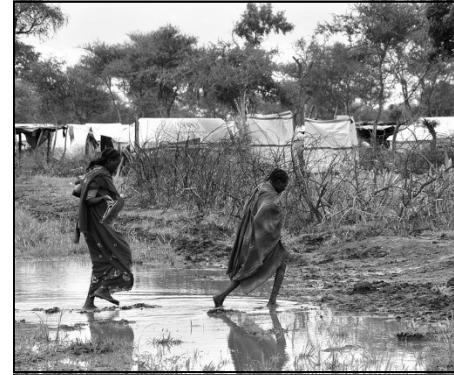
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How good is your excuse?



Would you walk through mud to get to church?

How do you get to church on Sunday mornings? Do you walk through mud? Or on loooooong dusty roads? Do you have to hide your faith so you're allowed to pass by the authorities?

Probably not. But so many people—even today—go to such efforts just to go to church. And they are happy to do it, because when they get there, they can worship our one true God together with other Christians. They get to hear the Bible with other faithful people. And they get to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, Holy Communion.

Most of us have an easy life when we go to church on Sunday mornings. We ride in a comfortable car. We don't have to worry too much about the weather. We definitely don't have to worry about the government keeping us from going. But still, we make excuses! Sometimes we might not feel like going. Sometimes, we might come up with other reasons for staying home or for going somewhere else instead. In today's Gospel reading, we hear about all the excuses people give a king for not coming to his great dinner party. The story reminds us that God wants us to be with Him, and He invites us to be close to Him.

Let's show God how thankful we are for giving us this dinner party—our Liturgy on Sunday morning. Show Him we are thankful by saying, "Yes! I'll be there!"

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

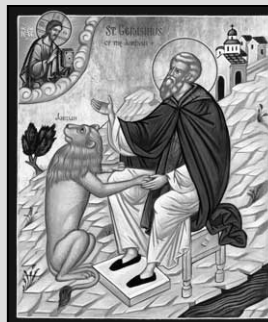
- Banquet
- Communion
- Excuses
- God-bearer
- Ignatius
- Invitation
- Joy
- King
- Liturgy
- Martyr
- Parable
- Strength

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

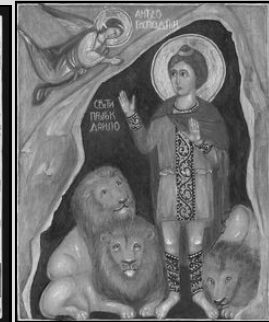
WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

You can read about Saint Ignatius and the lions on page 3, but here are two other saints with lions.

God didn't let these lions attack the saints. But how did God take care of Saint Ignatius?



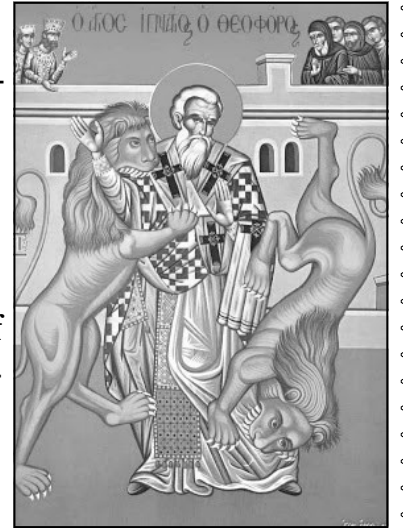
Saint Gerasimos



Saint Daniel the Prophet

SAINT IGNATIUS "THE GOD-BEARER"

Can you think back to your very first memory? Doctors say that for most people, their earliest memories are when they were around three years old. So when you are all grown up, you probably won't remember anything before then!



On Wednesday, we celebrate the nameday of a saint who probably had the best first memory any person could hope for. When Ignatius was a little child, he met our Lord, Jesus Christ, when He was preaching to the people. This memory stuck with Ignatius, and he grew up to love the Lord all his life.

When Ignatius was older, he learned from Saint John (Jesus's disciple), and he learned from other early saints too. Ignatius became a bishop in the city of Antioch. When he was bishop, Ignatius met the emperor Trajan, who really hated Christians and wanted them gone. The emperor tried to force Ignatius to pray before the false idols and to worship them. Ignatius remembered his Lord, and he knew he could never give up his love for Him!

The emperor sent Ignatius to be attacked by wild lions. Ignatius was hurt so much there, and he was even killed. But finally, Ignatius got to see the face of Jesus Christ again, this time in heaven!

We celebrate Saint Ignatius on Wednesday, Dec. 20th (OC: January 2nd).