

Christ is baptized!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (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

Sunday, January 1, 2023

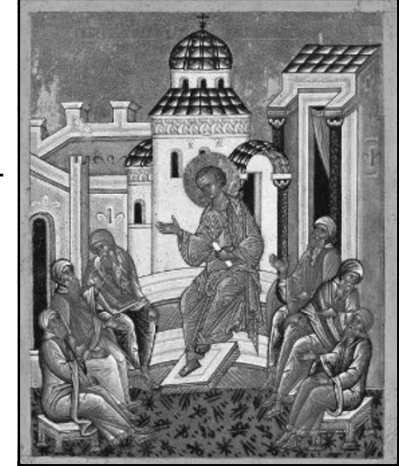
Volume 11, Issue 1

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Our Lord was once a boy!

Have you ever done some school-work, and your parents were really impressed? Maybe you brought home a perfect score on a spelling or a math test. Maybe you showed something you made in art. Maybe you read a story you wrote. Your mother or father probably said, "Great job!"



Today our Gospel reading tells us about how Jesus's mother, Mary, and Joseph were once really impressed with the young Jesus. Do you know the story of when Jesus was just 12 years old, and Mary and Joseph couldn't find Him for several days? They even went back to search for Him.

Finally, the Gospel tells us, "After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished."

They were astonished, amazed, and impressed. What was this 12 year old doing, understanding the teachers in the temple? This story of Jesus as a young boy tells us something special. Jesus Christ was God, even when He was young. He could teach the teachers because He was God! He was a baby and then a boy with real human needs and thoughts. But at the same time, He was God too!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

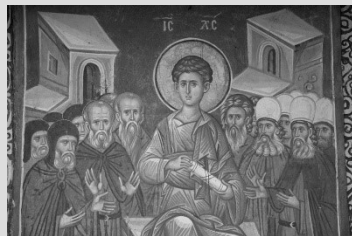
- Astonished
- Basil
- Cappadocia
- Feastday
- Hospitals
- Joseph
- Mary
- Orphanages
- Saint
- Temple

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

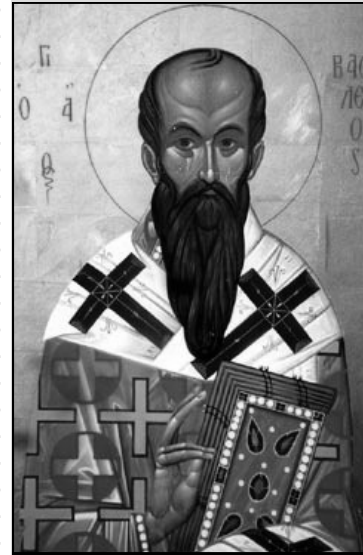
In the Bible, we don't hear much about Jesus as a child!

In today's story, He was 12. But the next thing we hear is when He was baptized at 30. We celebrate His baptism on Saturday!



SAINT BASIL

HOW DO WE LOVE YOU?



Saint Basil did everything!

One day, you'll probably read a well-known poem in English class that says, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." It's a love poem from one poet to her husband.

But one of the saints everybody loves very much is Saint Basil! How do we love him? Let us count the ways!

If you go to a school for theology, where people learn about God, you'll see how people love Saint Basil for all the things he wrote.

He wrote many, many things that show what we still believe as Christians today.

If you meet a monk or a nun, he or she will tell you how Saint Basil made great rules for monasteries. Monks and nuns still follow these rules today.

But we love Saint Basil for another great reason too! He loved the poor and the sick. He especially loved the children who didn't have parents to take care of them. He started a great soup kitchen for hungry people. He built orphanages and a huge hospital. On his nameday today, kids in Greece will visit different houses and get presents from "Agios Vasilios," Saint Basil. That's one way they remember how Saint Basil loved (and still loves) kids!

We celebrate St. Basil today, Sunday Jan. 1st (OC: Jan. 14th).