

Saint Athanasios, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 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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A sacrifice to God



Do you know what a sacrifice is? A sacrifice is something you give up for somebody else. When we read the Old Testament, we read about how the people gave sacrifices to God. Lots of times, they would kill a bull and it was sort of like a gift to God. Sometimes people brought gifts to the temple to show they really were serious to God. They wanted to do what was pleasing to God, what God liked them to do.

Now, God doesn't ask us to bring animals to church for sacrifices. But our Lord still wants us to make a sacrifice. He still wants us to give something up for somebody else. In the epistle today, we hear, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." In other words, we can't forget to share with others. We can't forget to help people who need help and are poor and needy! The Bible tells us here that helping the poor is a sacrifice to God.

When Jesus came to earth, lots of things changed. People didn't have to follow lots of the strict rules from before. But God is asking us to keep a sacrifice. God wants us to give something up for somebody else. Let's remember this special rule, to share what you have. And remember, these sacrifices are pleasing to God!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Alexandria
Athanasios
Bishop
Generous
Hierarch
Old Testament
Persistent
Sacrifice
Share
Temple

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Today is also the nameday of 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.

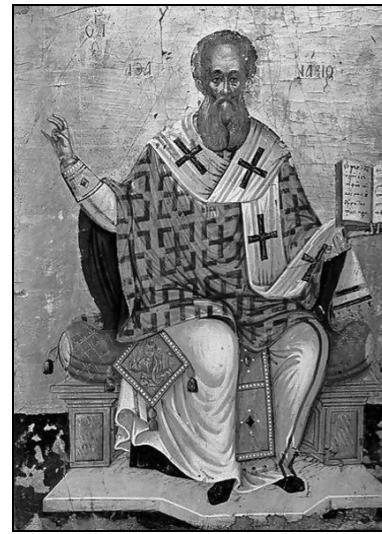


SAINT ATHANASIOS

THE SAINT WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP!

Never give up! Has anybody ever given you that advice? It is good advice, as long as you won't give up on the important stuff.

Today 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, wrong, 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 Saint Athanasios today, January 18th (OC: January 31st).