

Zacchaeus Sunday!



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

Sunday, January 25, 2026

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Receive Him joyfully!

Can you think of something you *have* to do, but you don't *want* to do? Maybe a chore like cleaning up your room or doing homework? Sometimes chores like those seem to take forever!



In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story of Zacchaeus. You remember that Zacchaeus was the man who climbed a tree to see Jesus pass by. When Jesus called him to come down and invite Him to his house, Zacchaeus came down quickly, "and received Him joyfully." Zacchaeus didn't think about all the things he had to do to get ready. He didn't think about how he had to clean up afterwards and find something for Jesus to eat. The Gospel tells us that Zacchaeus came down quickly, "and received Him joyfully"!

As Orthodox Christians, we have a great blessing! We can receive our Lord Jesus Christ too! We receive Jesus when we have Holy Communion. We receive Him when we pray to Him, and when we read the Bible too. We receive Jesus. But do we do it joyfully? Do we complain about going to church, or do we complain about praying to God at night? Do we complain that we have to read the Bible (or maybe we don't do it at all)?

Let's be like Zacchaeus in the story today. We can receive Jesus. Let's receive Him joyfully!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

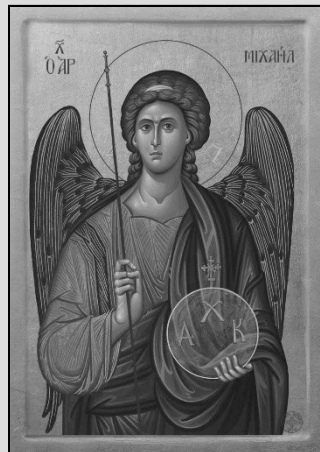
Alive
Archangels
Demetrios
Hospitality
House
Joyful
Prayer
Prepare
Priest
Sunday
Zacchaeus

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a close-up of the icon St. Demetrios is holding in his hand (see page 3).

He loved Archangel Michael so much and he really depended on him for help and protection!

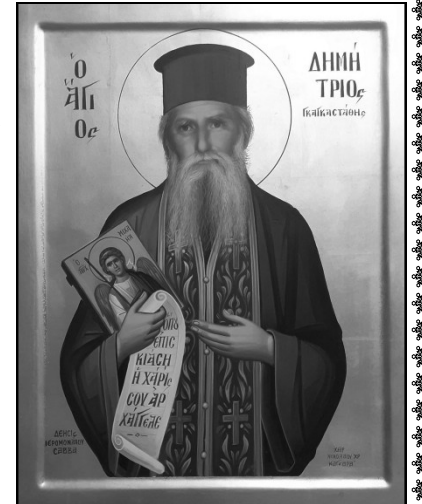


SAINT DEMETRIOS GAGASTATHIS

A NEW SAINT!

This week we have the great joy to celebrate a new saint! This saint died just 51 years ago, and so there are still people on earth who knew him and loved him! When you know about him, you will love him too.

Saint Demetrios was a priest in a little village in Greece. He was married and he had 9 daughters. He suffered a lot during his life, because there were people then (called Communists) who wanted to keep people from worshipping God. “Papa Demetri,” as he was called, was very brave. He said that he would rather die than turn his back on his Lord.



Papa Demetri was a simple man, and he hadn't gone to school much. But he knew the most important things. He loved God so much, and he also loved the saints. His church was named after the Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. He asked for their help all the time, and he had a ton of faith. He really expected them to help, and the angels did. One thing St. Demetrios would say a lot was, “Our faith is real! The saints are alive!” He knew firsthand how the saints listened to his prayers and how they did what he asked.

We can ask our special new saint Demetrios to help us have that kind of faith too! The saints are alive with God in heaven!

We celebrate Saint Demetrios on Thursday, January 29th.