

Saint Benedict, pray for us!



The Children's Word

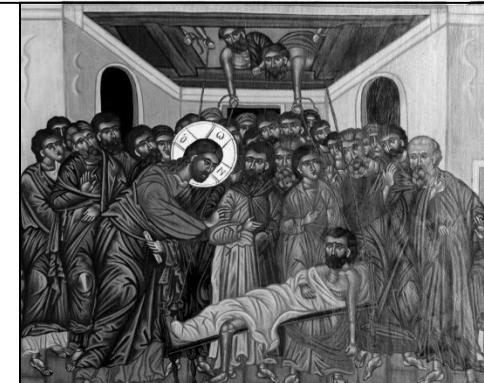
"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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What's in your heart?

Have you ever thought something mean about somebody, even if you didn't say it out loud? When we *think* something mean or unkind, it almost sounds like we have *said* something mean too.



In today's Gospel reading, we hear about what happens after Jesus helps a sick man. Some of the important teachers heard Jesus talking. The Bible tells us they were "sitting there, questioning in their hearts." They were thinking to themselves that Jesus was lying! They were thinking that Jesus was saying something He wasn't! They were feeling these things in their hearts.

But then the Gospel reads, "At once, Jesus knew that they were thinking these questions." He talked to them. He showed them that He had great power from God. He told the sick man to get up, and he did!

Lots of times, we might have mean thoughts about people. We might think it doesn't matter, as long as we don't say them out loud. But as our Lord tells us in the Bible today, our thoughts matter too! When we feel ourselves thinking something mean about somebody, we can say a quick prayer and ask God to help us. We can ask Him to help us be kind to others, out loud *and* in our hearts!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Benedict
- Forgive
- Great Lent
- Healing
- Hearts
- Honest
- Monks
- Prayer
- Scholastica
- Truth

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Benedict had a sister, Saint Scholastica. She was the abbess of a convent near Saint Benedict's monastery.

These two saints were very close. They talked about their Christian faith together, and they helped each other grow closer to Christ!



SAINT BENEDICT

A MODEL FOR MONKS...AND FOR ALL OF US!

Has anybody ever said something about you that wasn't true? Maybe it was something little, like that you took an extra cookie (even though you didn't). What did you do? Did you argue and fight, or did you just walk away? Saint Benedict was a special and holy saint who had lies spread about him, but he quietly and peacefully walked away.



Saint Benedict grew up in the mountains of Italy. He was from a rich family and had faithful, Christian parents. When he was old enough, Benedict left home and lived in a cave way up in the mountains. He prayed there, and lived a very strict life with fasting and hard times. Faithful monks knew about Benedict and they wanted him to be their abbot (in charge of the monastery). Benedict made a kind of rule for monks that showed how they should spend their days, how they should pray, and how they should work. He followed the example of Saint Basil and other saints before him.

Benedict was a holy and very smart man. Sadly, some people knew this, and they were jealous of him. They spread lies about Benedict. Instead of arguing and clearing his name, Benedict just left and went back to a quiet and prayerful life alone. After a while, monks wanted him back. But again, people lied about him and Benedict left. Saint Benedict lived a long life and died peacefully.

Benedict gave a great example and rule for monks, but his humble and peaceful ways are really an example for all of us too!

We remember St. Benedict on Saturday, March 14th (OC: March 27th).