



MAY 2

## *St. Athanasius,* THE BOY BISHOP

When St. Athanasius was just a little boy growing up in second-century Alexandria in Egypt, he was playing at the beach one day with his friends. They started to play "Church," as all children do, and Athanasius was pretending to be the Bishop. The Christian children began to baptize all of their pagan friends. Since Athanasius had paid such close attention at Liturgy, he knew precisely what prayers were to be said and what form should be followed to make it a perfectly valid sacrament. It just so happened that the real Bishop, Patriarch Alexander, had watched the children playing from his window and had overheard the whole thing!

The Bishop summoned all of the children and their parents. Bishop Alex pronounced to everyone that Athanasius had done such an excellent job at the beach that day that the mystery of baptism had indeed already taken place. Then the Bishop sealed all of the newly baptized children with the mystery of Chrismation!

**Note of caution:** Baptism is a Sacred Mystery of the Church and should be conducted properly. We feel it is our duty to advise our readers not to go around trying to baptize their friends!

**ByziKids: DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!**

- Written by Lynne Wardach