

Yr 2 Nativity of the Theotokos Lesson

Opening Prayer: See the Prayer Posters

Rejoice, Mother of God, Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne Christ, the Saviour and Redeemer of our souls.

Богородице діво, Радуйся, благодатна Маріє, Господь з тобою. Благословенна ти між жінками і благословенний плід лона твого, Бо ти породила Христа Спаса, Ізбавителя душ наших

Story of the Nativity of the Theotokos: *This is not in Scripture. It has been part of Sacred Tradition since early times. This means that it was passed on orally and was considered to be a true element of the faith and is accepted as part of Church teachings. The story of the events of the Nativity of Mary are found in the apocryphal writing: The Protoevangelium of James. [Read it here.](#)*

For the children read The Story of Mary the Mother of God by Dorrie Papademetriou. (Borrow this book from Edmonton Eparchy Catechetical Resource centre or purchase it at [St. Macrina Books and Gifts](#)). Or you can read the story included in this lesson. Consider doing a play if you have some assistants to present it.

Lesson: The importance of trust in God and fervent prayer.

What were the names of Mary's Mother and Father? Joachim and Anna! They loved God didn't they? What did they do to show their love? They prayed, they helped the poor by sharing their wealth. They also gave money and things to the Temple.

Were they happy? Discuss. Yes, they loved God and they loved each other. This made them very happy! But what made them sad? They did not have a child.

Even though God had not given them a child did they stop praying? Did they stop doing good things for others? Did they stop sharing their money and things with the church and the poor people? NO! Why do you think they didn't? Why didn't they get angry with God? Discuss. Because they loved and trusted God. Of course they wanted a child and they knew that God could grant them one. So they prayed and prayed and He granted them a child! But do you think they would have loved God and helped others even if He didn't give them a child? YES! Because they trusted God. They knew that even if things did not turn out the way they wanted, that God still loved them, and God knows best! Discuss.

Craft: Pipe cleaner 1-decade Rosary

In Church: Look for the icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos on the iconostas or on the tetrapod.

The Nativity of the Holy Mother of God (Theotokos) for Children

Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna were wealthy people who loved God. They lived a long and happy life together, doing good for others and praying to God. They gave away lots of their wealth to the poor and to the Temple. Although they were happy because they loved God and each other, they were also sad because they were already old and they did not have any children. But they trusted God and even though they were old they still prayed to Him that they might have a child.

One year on the day of a feast, they went to the Temple to offer their sacrifices to the Lord, but the priest turned them away saying they could not give the sacrifice because they had no children. Joachim was so sad about this that he went to a cave in the wilderness to pray to God for a child for 40 days and nights. Anna was sad too. She stayed at home and prayed also. She walked in her garden praying and saw a mother bird taking care of her babies and she cried because she was not able to have any babies herself.

As Anna was praying, an angel came to her and told her that the Lord had heard her prayer, and that she would have a daughter who would serve God. Anna said that she would give her child as a gift to God. An angel also visited Joachim and told him the same thing!

Joachim and Anna ran to each other and hugged. They were filled with joy over the promise of the Lord's blessing. Soon their daughter Mary was born. What a miracle this was! This little baby girl would grow up to be the Mother of Jesus, the Saviour of the world!