

Yr 2 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, 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, Избавителя душ наших.

Story of the Entrance of Mary ([Theotokos](#)): Read the story for children below or find it in the children's books: *The Story of Mary the Mother of God* by Dorrie Papademetriou or *The Mother of God in Icons* by Marina Paliaki. (Both available at [St. Macrina Book and Gift](#)) *This story has been part of Sacred Tradition of the Church since early times. This means that it was passed on orally, was considered to be a true element of the faith and is accepted as part of Church teachings. Read the story [here](#).*

Lesson: Mary (Theotokos) is a special part of God's plan of love for us.

This story is not in the Bible. It was talked about by many holy people and all Christians through all of history and eventually it was written it down.

What was the name of the little girl in the story? Who was Mary? Jesus' mom!

She was special right from when she was a child, wasn't she? What are some things that help us to know that she was special? *God promised her parents that she would be born even though they were older already. The high priest recognized that she was special and he took her into the temple. She danced and twirled because she was filled with the Holy Spirit. The angels surrounded her and cared for her while she was growing up in the temple.*

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God always planned to send Jesus and His mother was a special part of his plan. This special event is part of God's great plan of love for all of us.

Why do you think Mary needed to go live in the temple? *To prepare to be the mother of God. She probably prayed and learned the Scriptures. She learned love, patience and humility. She kept herself Holy.* We pray that we can keep ourselves holy like she did by doing the same things. We welcome the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.

Do you remember how the young ladies guided the little girl into the temple? They held lit lamps. Today we are going to decorate candles, they are like the lamps that the ladies held. You can put them in your icon corners and think about this story each time you see them. *Consider processing into church with the icon and the lit candles.*

Craft: Decorated LED candles

In Church: Find an icon of the Entrance of the Theotokos or other icons of the Theotokos in church. Say a special prayer thanking her for being Jesus' mom.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple for Children

The Parents of Mary, Joachim and Anna had been childless for many years, but they stayed faithful to God even though this made them sad. They continued to serve God by working for the temple and by taking care of the poor. For years they prayed and prayed that God might give them a child. Finally, God told them that they would soon have a baby. They had a little girl whom they named Mary. They promised God that they would dedicate this girl to Him. So, when she was three years old, they brought Mary to the temple to fulfill what they had promised.

Her dad was concerned that she might not want to go into the temple, so he asked some young holy ladies to hold lighted lamps and guide her to the temple. They did this and Mary happily followed them. The high priest welcomed her. He recognized that she was special to God, so he brought her into the place called the Holy of Holies. He put her on the step and she was so filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit that she began to dance and twirl around! She lived in the temple for many years where angels cared for her. Finally, when she was old enough, she left the temple and married a man named Joseph. Then she had a baby boy. Can you guess what the name of the baby was? Jesus!