

## Nativity of the Theotokos



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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

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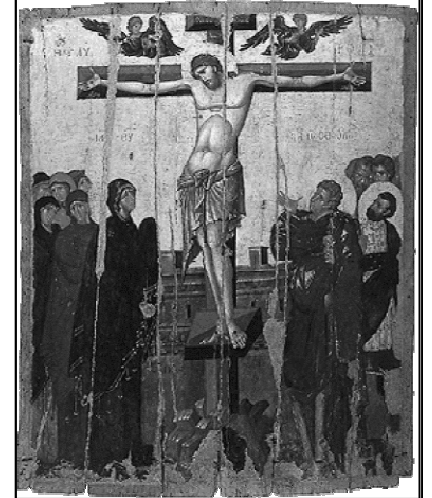
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## Christ saved the world!

**What does your family do when** something is broken in your house? Let's say the sink is clogged or the refrigerator is broken. Your parents might try their best to fix it themselves. Then, if it's *really* broken, they might have to call a plumber or a repairman.

Today, in the Orthodox Church, is the Sunday before the feast of the Holy Cross. So, we hear about how and why our Lord, Jesus Christ, came into the world!



The Gospel today says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Before our Lord came to earth, there were a lot of wrong things happening in the world. In a way, things were broken. Some people might have tried to fix things on their own. But when God saw that the world really needed Him to fix things, He sent His Son. He sent His Son to live and grow up from a baby. He sent His Son to teach and heal, and then even to die on a Cross. God wanted the world to be fixed. He wanted it to be saved! That is why Jesus came into the world. When we think of it, let's thank God for that!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

BIRTHDAY  
BROKEN  
CELEBRATION  
CROSS  
FEASTDAY  
NATIVITY  
SAVE  
THANK YOU  
THEOTOKOS

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

## What's in an icon?

Here is a close-up part of the icon of baby Mary's birth. Do you see the servant women cleaning the baby and giving her a bath?

If you look in a Christmas icon, you can find baby Jesus being bathed too!



## ANOTHER NATIVITY THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS

### Do you celebrate your birthday?

Does your family celebrate your birthday too? Your parents or grandparents are probably especially happy on your birthday, because they remember you as a little baby. They remember how you could grow up to be someone really special.

In our Church today, we celebrate a very special birthday. It is the day Mary, the Holy Theotokos, was born. Her parents *knew* that she would grow up to be someone really special, because her birth was really a miracle in the first place! Her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna, were very old, and they didn't think they could have any children. With the new little baby, Mary, they knew that she was special to God.

In our Church calendar, we celebrate a few birthdays. Can you think of another? Well, Christmas, of course! Mary knew that her son would be a special person too. We also remember the birthday of Saint John the Baptist too. His parents knew he would be special.

Birthdays are fun to celebrate, but we can also use them as a time to thank God for what He has given us. We can ask God to help us use our lives in the way He wants us to....just like baby Mary grew up and did what God wanted *her* to do!

**We celebrate this great feastday today, September 8th (Sept. 21, OC).**

