

The Holy Mother of God



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

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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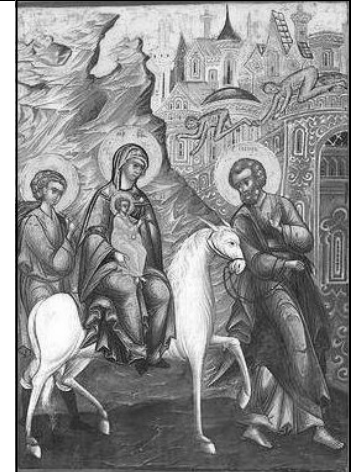


Who is Jesus's family?

Do people ever ask you about your family? Do you have brothers or sisters? Where did you grow up? What do your parents do for jobs? These kinds of things can tell a lot about you!

But did you ever stop to think about Jesus' family? Who were they?

Today in the Gospel we hear about Jesus' family on earth. You know, Mary was His mother. You know, God asked Joseph to take care of Mary and the Baby. The Bible tells us about where they lived during Jesus's childhood.



Then we hear about another part of Jesus' family in the Epistle today. It talks about "James, the brother of the Lord." A brother? James was probably a cousin, or a son of Joseph. You can see all four of them in the icon. You can see Jesus' family traveling together.

But do you know that you are part of Jesus' family, too? In another part of the Bible, Jesus says, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" He says, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." That means that when we try to do what God wants, Jesus calls us part of His family. Let's always try to be in Jesus' family! Let's try to do what God wants us to do!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Celebrate
- Christ is born
- Family
- Feastday
- Icon
- Jesus
- Nativity
- Synaxis
- Theotokos

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

What's in an icon?

Yesterday, on Christmas, we heard the Gospel that told us about the "Adoration of the Magi," the 3 kings who came and worshipped Jesus.

This is an icon from Ethiopia that tells us that story!



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MARY, THE HOLY THEOTOKOS WHAT'S A "SYNAXIS"?

Have you ever played a little game, "What does it make you think of?" When you say a word, the other person has to think of a word it makes him think about. So, if you heard "dog," you might say "cat." If you heard "king," you might say "queen" or "crown" or "throne."



When we think about Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, we can't help but think about one other person, too. Who? Well, Mary, the Mother of God, of course! Yesterday, we celebrated the Nativity, the birth of Christ. But today, the feast continues! We celebrate His mother.

In our Church, we call it the "synaxis" of the Theotokos. That word, synaxis, means "coming together." For many, many years, faithful Christians came together to celebrate some more. They came together to honor the person who made that day happen. We love Jesus's mother very much, and we honor her so many times during the year. We remember how she did what God wanted her to do—how she held God inside of her, how she took care of Jesus as a child, and how she stayed with Him, even when He died on the Cross.

So, when we think of what Christmas means, who else does it make you think about?

We celebrate the feastday of the Synaxis of the Theotokos today! (OC: Jan. 8th).