



Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Resource Overview for Parents

November 21

Scripture Readings

Epistle/Apostol:

Hebrews 9:1-7

Gospel:

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Troparion/Apolytikion – T4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.

The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.

Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

Kontakion – Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord.

She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her:

"Truly this woman is the abode of heaven."

This Week We Learned About

✦ Scripture

- Exodus 40 (vespers 1)
- 3[1] Kings 7,8 (vespers 2)
- Ezekiel 43:27-44:4 (vespers 3)
- Luke 1:39-49, 56 (matins)
- Hebrews 9:1-7
- Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

✦ Liturgical Life

- Preparing for Christmas

✦ Feasts & Saints

- Remembering the Prophets

✦ Daily Living

- The Entry into the Temple is a joyous occasion - how do we share that joy?

Questions for Your Kids

- Why is this feast important to us as we draw closer to Christmas?
- What do we learn about Mary on this feast?
- How does this inspire you to live?

- Why is it important for us to prepare by fasting and prayer for Christmas?
- How can we bring the Virgin Mary into our daily life?
- What did today's Hymn to the Theotokos say about the Virgin Mary that was new to you?

- How many prophets are commemorated between now and Christmas?
- Why do we remember the saints of the Old Testament before Christmas?

- With so many activities in our lives, how can we pause to honor the Virgin Mary?
- How can the Virgin Mary help us in becoming better Christians?
- Why is this such a happy feast day?

Learn and Discover Together

- How do the Old Testament readings foretell the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation?
- If Mary is special in the eyes of God, what does that say about how God feels about us?

- What can we do in our lives to be like the Mother of God?
- How can our preparations for Christmas involve those less fortunate?

- Which saints can you think of who prayed, fasted, and were kind to others in their lives?
- How do the lives of the saints inspire you to live your life?

- When we feel alone, pray to the Theotokos because she understands our needs, loves us unconditionally.
- How can we show our love for others by going to church?
(Hint: we light candles when we say these...)

Learn More...

Study guides for different age groups are available to accompany the "Temple of Our Savior" handout for the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple.

Use as many or as few of the questions and discussion topics to help children learn about the feast while discovering how the Orthodox Faith can be a part

of their daily life.

Ask open-ended questions which may lead the conversation to reveal their thoughts about God.

As parents, we may not readily have all the answers, but we have the ability to inspire a desire in children to love God, which can benefit them throughout their lives.

In the Week Ahead...

Advent fasting continues until after receiving the Eucharist at the divine liturgy on Christmas.



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