



Righteous Ancestors

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Each of us comes from a **family** with stories. There are **memories we adore** and love to share, and some events we might wish were never remembered.

Combined, the **narrative of your ancestors** is unique, having occurred in a precise way, making it possible for you being born at this time, in this place, experiencing these **exact moments** in your life. **Isn't that amazing?**

☞ Generations of Faithfulness

In a similar way, the **genealogy of Jesus Christ** is a collection of individuals from diverse backgrounds and tribes, who survived invasions, achieved greatness, led ordinary lives, and in their own way, were **faithful to God**.

Even if they didn't know it, they all played an important role in **God's plan of Salvation!** In this way, the Son of God took on our entire human condition within His very being, in order to **restore each of us** to full communion with God the Father.

United to Each Other

As Orthodox Christians, we have **received this wonderful promise** of Salvation through our baptism and chrismation. And each time we **receive the Eucharist**, we are **united to the generations of saints**, each other, and generations yet to come.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are **blessed with a responsibility** to carry forward the **treasures of our Faith**, sharing them in this fallen world.

Giving As We Have Received

The **unending love** we freely receive from God is ours to **share just as freely** with others. Our **acts of love** - a kind word, a warm coat, a meal, a phone call, or a smile - can **become the meaningful stories** future generations will share.

Our legacy will be found in the moments which **make Christ real** in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Telling Your Story

When we **encounter the newborn Christ child** in the cave on Christmas, what will be the gift we offer Him? Will it be our life, as a **dwelling place for Him** to grow and transform on the path to Eternal Life?

Each generation is entrusted to care for and **nurture God's holy Orthodox Church**, **it's your turn** to add your stories to those of your ancestors and the saints.

☞ Scripture Readings for the Sunday before the Nativity

Epistle: **Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40**

Gospel: **Matthew 1:1-25**

☞ Hymns of the Day

Troparion/Apolytikion — Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!
He has trampled down death by death!
He has become the first-born of the dead!
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world great mercy!

Tropar./Apol. (Forefathers) — T2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for
the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the flames
as though at the waters of rest, and the
prophet Daniel appeared, a shepherd to the
lions as though they were sheep.

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our
souls!

Kontakion (Resurrection) — Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O
Merciful One, leading us from the gates of
death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
With the Prophets and Patriarchs they
unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy
power.

Kontakion (Forefathers) — Tone 1

Rejoice, Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O
Ephratha!

The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the
Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing forefathers will rejoice,
beholding Him, and with the shepherds,
they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors:
Watch for the ☞ to indicate topics/questions you
can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use
the corresponding study guide for this resource.

MY FAMILY TREE

Your Generation

Your Parents' Generation

Sunday	20 <i>Sunday before Christmas</i> <i>St. John of Kronstadt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Say a prayer to St. John for your parish priest(s) <input type="checkbox"/> If you haven't already, make sure you get to confession soon!
Monday	21 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Juliana of Nicomedia</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read Psalm 91 <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the unemployed Today I helped:
Tuesday	22 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>Greatmartyr Anastasia</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read the life of http://bit.ly/st-anastasia <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the homeless One of my favorite hymns from liturgy is:
Wednesday	23 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Niphon of Cyprus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Royal Hours http://bit.ly/nativity-royal-hours <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for those in prison Today I learned about:
Thursday	24 <i>Eve of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Eugenia of Rome</i> Strict Fast Day <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Vespertine Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for your departed relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Festal Vigil
Friday	25 <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Break the fast after liturgy, celebrating the feast! <input type="checkbox"/> Greet everyone with "Christ is born!" The reply is: "Glorify Him!"
Saturday	26 <i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i> Boxing Day (Canada) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for members of your family <input type="checkbox"/> Sing (or pray) the festal hymns

Your Name:
 Birthday:
 City of Birth:
 Patron Saint:

Name:
 Birthday:
 City of Birth:
 Patron Saint:

Name:
 Birthday:
 City of Birth:
 Patron Saint:

Instructions:

Fill in the boxes for the members of your family, identifying birthdates, places of birth (and deaths). Use the blank space on the pages to include other relatives: brothers/sisters, step-parents, aunts/uncles, extended family

Your Grandparents' Generation

Your Great Grandparents' Generation

^{Great} Your Great Grandparents' Generation

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Fast Fact:

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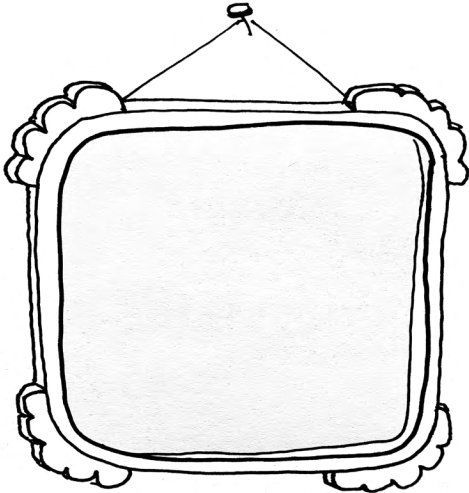
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MY FAMILY ALBUM

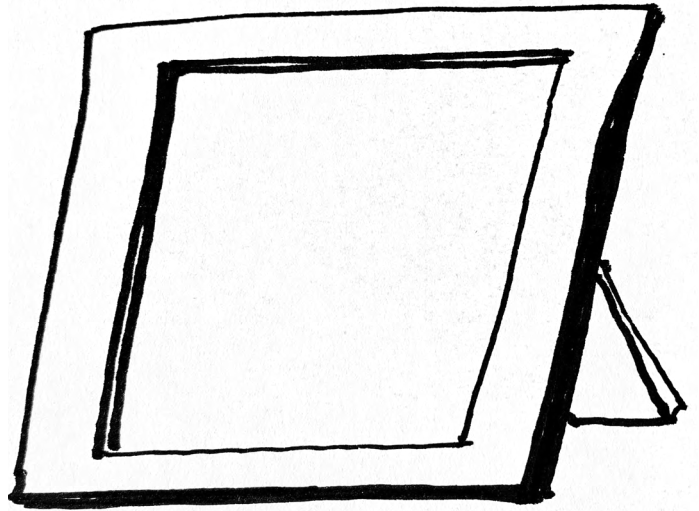
Place or draw photos of your family in the frames, writing their answers to the questions.



My Father

Place Where They Met

Date of their Marriage
and name of Church



My Mother

Patron Saint

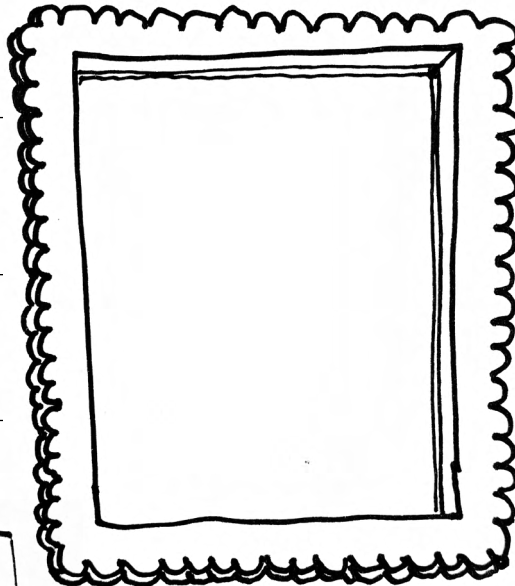
Favorite Music or Band

Favorite Childhood Activity

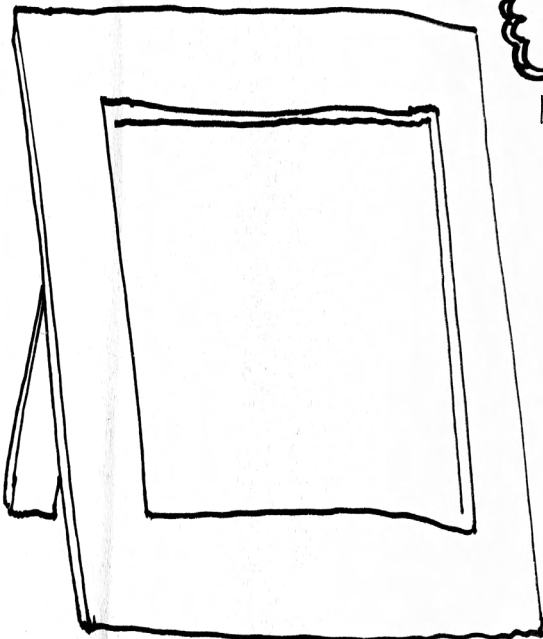
Patron Saint

Favorite Music or Band

Favorite Childhood Activity

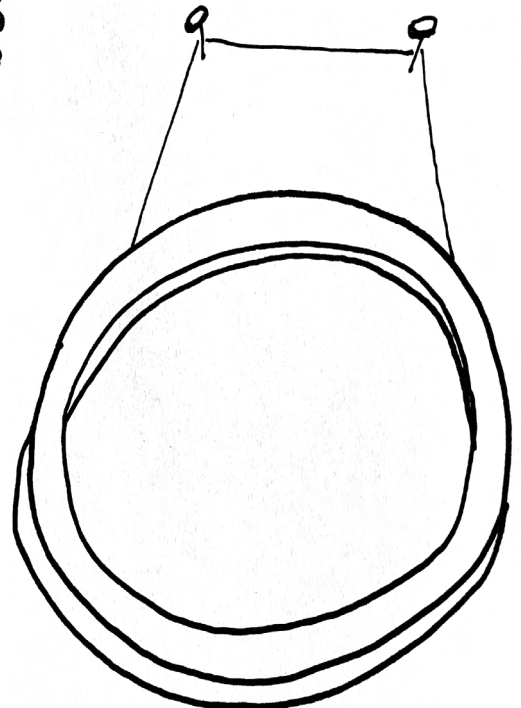


My Parent's Wedding



My Baptism

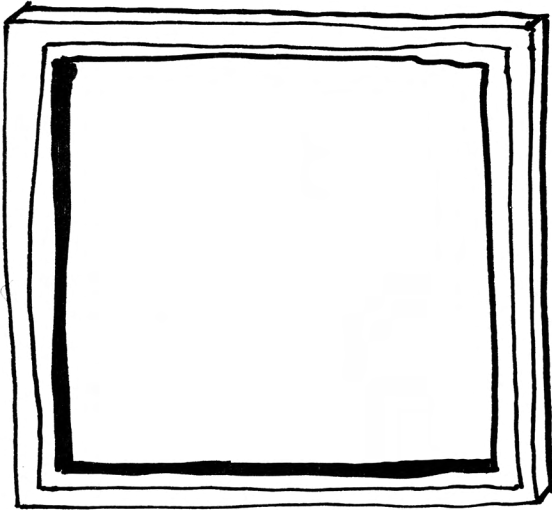
Date of my Baptism
and name of Church



My Priest and me

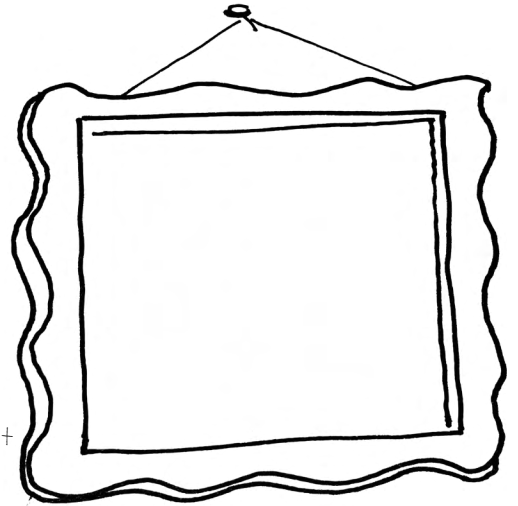
MY ANCESTORS

Place or draw photos of your family in the frames, writing their answers to the questions.



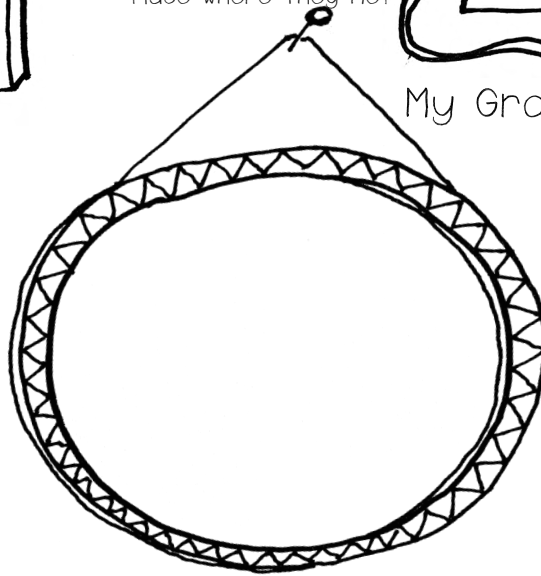
My Grandparents (dad)

Place Where They Met



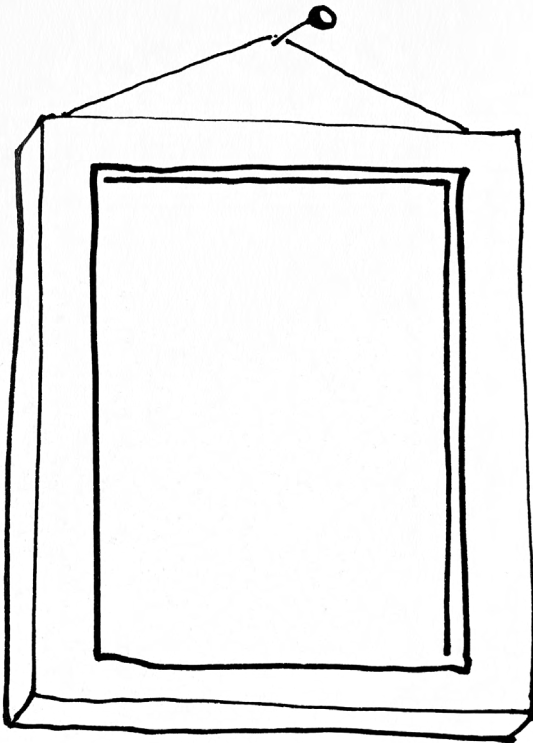
My Grandparents (mom)

Place Where They Met



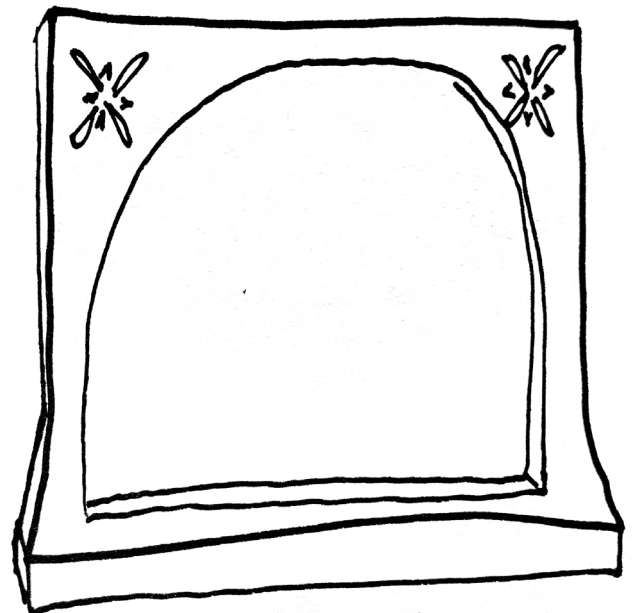
My Family

My favorite family activity is:



Your Father's Favorite Memory of His Grandparents

My Great-
Grandparents



My Great-Grandparents

Your Mother's Favorite Memory of Her Grandparents