

Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us!



THESE GREEK LETTERS  
STAND FOR “MOTHER  
OF GOD.”

The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck.  
Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) 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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## Practicing our prayers

**Do you play a sport, or maybe a musical instrument?** Have you ever noticed how much it helps to practice? When you practice, you get better and better. When you practice, you grow stronger.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about how important it is to practice at prayer. Did you know you should practice praying? The more we pray, the better we get at it. We know what to ask for. We grow stronger, and we grow closer to God.

In the Gospel, a boy was very sick, and his father brought him to Jesus because, he said, “I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” The disciples tried to heal the boy, but they couldn't! But Jesus saw the boy, and He healed him instantly.

The disciples were friends with Jesus. They were close to Him all the time. They prayed for the boy, but their prayers weren't answered. They couldn't help him. Sometimes we might pray for things, and maybe we don't always get what we want. Remember, that happened to the disciples too!

We can practice at prayer. We can talk to God and the saints in our prayers more and more. And when we do, we are getting better and stronger, and we are growing closer to God.



# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Care
- Christ
- Compassion
- Dormition
- Fasting
- Feastday
- Icon
- Nativity
- Practice
- Prayer
- Soul
- Theotokos

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

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

You remember the icon of the Nativity (Christmas), don't you?

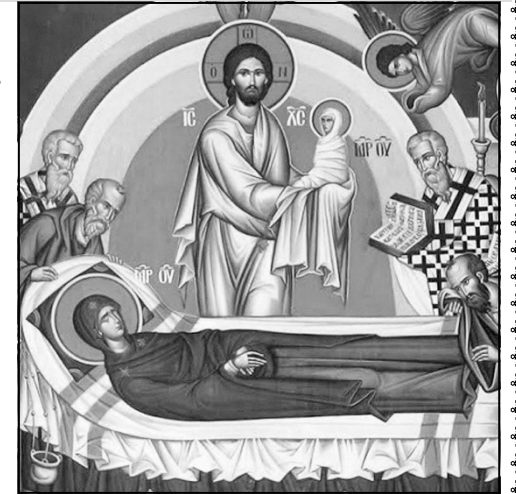
Here you can see the Holy Theotokos, Mary, holding her Son. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Now look at the icon on page 3!



# THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

**Do you ever take care of your parents?** Maybe if your father or mother were sick, you could bring him or her a blanket or a pillow or even a glass of water. Usually, your parents take care of *you*, but sometimes you might take care of them!



Tuesday is a great feastday of our Church. It's the Dormition of Mary, the Theotokos, the day she died here on earth. Usually, when we see an icon of Mary and her Son, Jesus Christ, we see the Mother holding her baby Son, right? At Christmastime, baby Jesus is even wrapped in swaddling clothes, like babies wear. The Theotokos is taking care of her little Son, because He was a real baby who needed help (like all babies do)!

But this week, we will see something different in the icon. We will see our Lord, Jesus Christ, holding his mother. Her body is lying down, but Christ is holding her soul. (It looks like a little baby in swaddling clothes in the icon.) Now He is taking care of His mother, because she is going to Heaven to be with Him! Christ takes care of her all the time, just like He does for us.

Let's always remember everything that the Theotokos did for her Son!

**We celebrate the Dormition on Tuesday, August 15th (OC: August 28th).**