

Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck.
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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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Do not be afraid!

Do you ever hear the same thing over and over again? Maybe something like, "Be careful!" or "Watch out!" Sometimes, when we hear something over and over, we start to tune those words out. We don't listen anymore.



But in today's Gospel reading, our Lord, Jesus Christ says something that is written in the Bible more than 80 times! Eighty! If we heard something from our parents 80 times we might start to get annoyed. But God tells us this thing 80 times because He really wants us to remember it. Those words are, "Do not be afraid!"

We can read the words "Do not be afraid" said to Moses and to kings in the Bible, to Daniel and some other prophets. We read about when the angel said "Do not be afraid" to Joseph and when an angel said it to the women at Jesus' tomb. We read how Jesus said "Do not be afraid" lots of times to disciples and to the people who listened to Him talk.

Today, we hear when Jesus said, "Do not be afraid!" to His disciples. The boat was tossing around in a bad storm. The disciples were crying out because they were afraid.

God tells us, "Do not be afraid!" because He wants us to remember them. He wants us to know that He is with us. He will take care of us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Afraid
Apostles
Boat
Dormition
Gospel
Heaven
Mother
Prayer
Save me
Storm
Theotokos

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

This is the very top part of the Dormition icon. It shows Christ and the disciples around the body of Mary, the Theotokos, after she died.

Do you see the angels who are ready to welcome her to heaven?

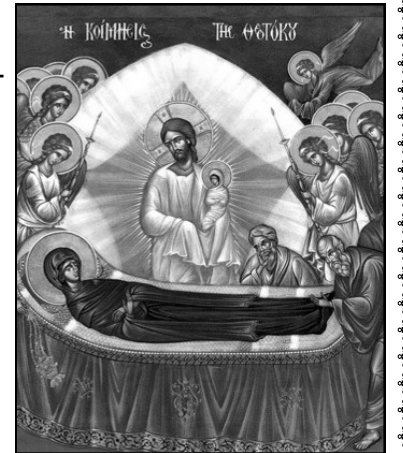


WORLD'S BEST MOTHER

THE THEOTOKOS, THE MOTHER TO US ALL

On Mother's Day, do you make

a card for your mother? You might say something like "Number 1 Mom" or "You're the best!" Your mother might have a coffee mug that says "World's Best Mom" or something like that.



This week, we celebrate a great feastday for somebody who really is the "World's Best Mom." Who is that? It's Mary, the Theotokos, the Mother of God! We honor her this week, on the day that she died. We honor the Theotokos because she made a good choice to be the mother to Jesus, Who is God Himself. We honor her because she loved Him and took care of Him as a child. We honor her because she saw her Son die on the Cross. We honor her because she has a special place with God.

We know Mary is so close to God, so we can pray to her. Then, she will ask her Son to help us. For the last two weeks, we have been praying special prayers to the Theotokos. Lots of times, we say,

"Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us." Mary, the Theotokos, listens to everyone who calls to her. That's why we call her the "Mother to us all." That's why she is really the "World's Best Mom"!



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