

St. George the Trophy Bearer

Sunday School Bulletin

AUGUST 2021

DID YOU KNOW

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

After Pentecost, Mary stayed in Jerusalem, comforting the young Christian Church there. In her early fifties, she was near death. The apostles were scattered all over the world preaching the gospel. However, they all were miraculously returned to Jerusalem in time for her burial – all except Thomas. Thomas arrived late, and when the others took him to her tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane, the tomb was empty. Mary had been taken to heaven!

Antoninus the Jew is depicted on the icon. He was a fanatical Jew, who tried to overturn the coffin of Mary to dishonor her body. An archangel was sent and cut off his hands to stop him from this disgraceful act. Later in his life, Antoninus became a Christian and was healed.

Look at the icon, and see: The Theotokos is on her funeral bier; Christ is standing behind her, ready to receive her soul into heaven, represented by the small child in His arms. The apostles stand on either side of the bier. Who's that man below the bier? He is Antoninus the Jew! What shape do Mary and Jesus make? They make a cross.

LITURGICAL COLOURS

Blue is the symbol of heaven or of the heavenly realm of God that is infinite and everlasting. Blue is also the color of the Mother of God and is usually used in the icons of the Mother of God to show that she gave birth to the Heavenly Word of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity.





DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
word search

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

Angels August Fifteenth Soul Thomas
 Apostles Christ Mary Theotokos Virgin

Transfiguration

On August 6th, the Orthodox church celebrates the Transfiguration of our Lord. “Transfiguration” means change or transformation and in Matthew 17: 1-13, we read about Christ going through a change that shows His Divine nature. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up on a high mountain and suddenly His appearance changes right before their eyes. Imagine that you are one of the three disciples following Christ and He asks you, “Who do you say that I am? Come with me and you will see.” At this point the disciples do not understand that Christ was fully man and fully God. Christ is leading them up to a place where divine revelation often happens, just like Moses who climbed Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments. He is leading them up on a high mountain to reveal to them that He is God. When they reach the top, suddenly Christ’s face shines like the sun and His clothes become as white as light and Moses and Elijah appear and are talking to Him. The two Old Testament figures and the new disciples are important here because we see that Christ is the bridge between the past, present, and the future. Also, at the transfiguration the Holy Trinity is revealed. Christ is shown transfigured, the voice of God the Father is heard saying “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” and the Holy Spirit is in the form of bright light surrounding Christ and lighting up the whole mountain. Can you remember another feast in which the Holy Trinity is manifest? There is a beautiful tradition of bringing fruit to the church on this feast day to be blessed. Just as the seeds and flowers that we planted in Spring are transformed into a bountiful harvest, as we seek Christ we can also become transformed and able to bear fruit!

CRAFT

Crystalized Crosses Craft

Using simple ingredients, we can see that everyday things can be transformed into something special and beautiful before our eyes. This month we learned about Christ's Transfiguration where His divinity shines with a dazzling bright light. In this activity a pipe cleaner can be transformed into a shining crystal cross.

Materials:

- 3 pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Twine or string
- Jar or vessel
- 1 cup Borax
- 6 cups hot water
- Popsicle stick

Instructions:

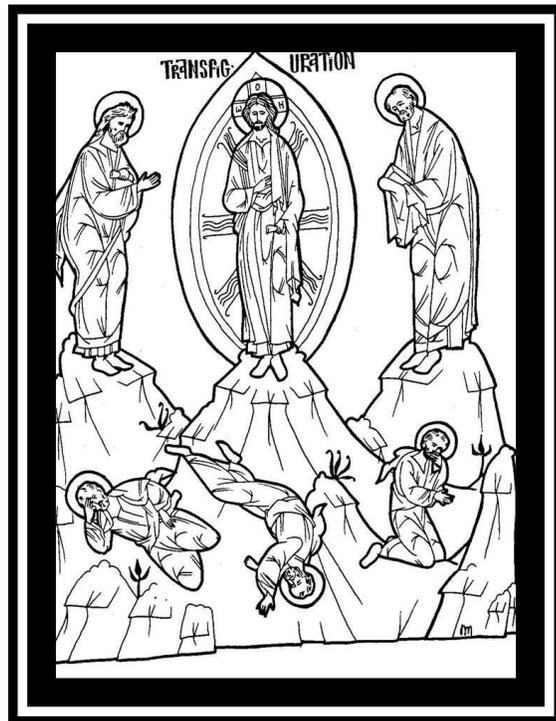
Using scissors, cut the pipe cleaners into one 1 inch piece and one 3-inch piece.

Twist the two pieces of pipe cleaner together to form a cross shape. Make a little loop at the top end of the cross.

Cut a piece of twine or string so that your pipe cleaner cross can hang in your jar or vessel, thread the string through the loop, twist to secure, and tie the other end of the string to the popsicle stick.

Prepare your Borax solution by combining Borax and hot water. You can make a bigger or smaller batch depending on the size of vessel and the number of crosses you wish to make. The ratio is about 3-4 Tbsp of Borax for every cup of water in your solution. Stir until the Borax dissolves in the water. You want the water to be clear so that your crystals are clear.

Pour the solution into your jar so that the pipe cleaners are fully submerged. Leave your cross for 12-24 hours until crystals form. The longer you leave it the bigger they will grow!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: Etta, Andrew and Emaleigh are celebrating their birthdays.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY from your Sunday School family!



**ETTA MANG
AUGUST 6**



**ANDREW BECKEL
AUGUST 12**



**EMALEIGH BECKEL
AUGUST 26**



BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST (August 29)

King Herod had arrested John the Baptist because John kept telling the king that the king shouldn't steal his brother's wife and marry her. That's a wrong thing to do. The king didn't like it when John told him he did something wrong, but John knew that he had to say what was right, even if the king put him in jail for it.

The wife's daughter, King Herod's niece, did a dance for him on his birthday. He liked the dance so much that he said he would give her anything she asked for. She wanted the king to kill John the Baptist. She said she wanted that because her mom, the king's wife, told her to.

The king's wife was doing something wrong too. She left her husband so that she could go marry the king. John the Baptist said it was wrong for her to do that, so she wanted to kill him.

King Herod agreed to kill John because he made a promise that he would give the girl whatever she asked for and because he wanted to show off in front of the guests at his birthday party.

Sometimes, our friends ask us to do things that are wrong, or we want to do things that are wrong just to show off for other people. But we have to remember that doing the right things that God wants us to do is more important than doing what other people say or showing off for other people. The most important thing is what God wants us to do.

If your friends ever ask you to do something that's wrong, what can you say to them? (Suggestions: No, God wouldn't want me to do that, That's not a good thing to do, That could hurt someone)