

# Nativity of the Theotokos

## Activity Book



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Read the Account of the Nativity of the Theotokos

St. Joachim and St. Anna were a devout elderly couple. They were very faithful to God. But there was one thing that made them very sad, they did not have any children. Because of this people looked down on them and even said mean things to them. This made them even more sad.

One day St. Joachim went to the wilderness to spend time praying for God to give them a child. He stayed there for 40 days and 40 nights. At the same time his wife, St. Anna was praying in Jerusalem. At the end of 40 days an angel appeared to both of them and told them that they would have a baby. And this baby would be known throughout the world.

St. Joachim and St. Anna were filled with joy at the news. Sure enough, just as the angel had said, St. Anna conceived and she gave birth to a baby girl. That baby was St. Mary, who would later become the Mother of Jesus.

### **Why do we celebrate on September 8<sup>th</sup>?**

Every year we celebrate the birth of St. Mary on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The church chose this date because in the 4<sup>th</sup> century St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine built a church and dedicated it to the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **From where do we get the account?**

The account of St. Mary's birth is not recorded in the Bible. It has been passed on to us by the Protevangelion (Gospel of St. James).

### **What do we call St. Mary's parents**

We call the parents of St. Mary, "The Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, St. Joachim and St. Anna.

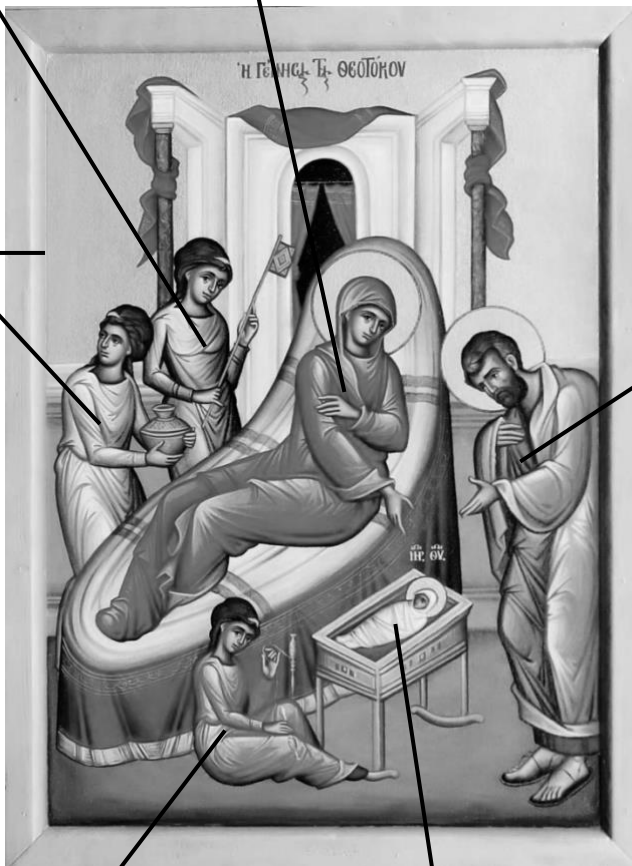
## Read about the Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos

In the icon we see that the birth of St. Mary was an ordinary birth. In the middle of the icon we see St. Anna. Beside her is her husband, St. Joachim. Around her are the attendants (ladies) who are assisting her. In the crib beside Anna's bed we see the baby, St. Mary. St. Joachim's and St. Anna's hands are both pointing towards St. Mary.

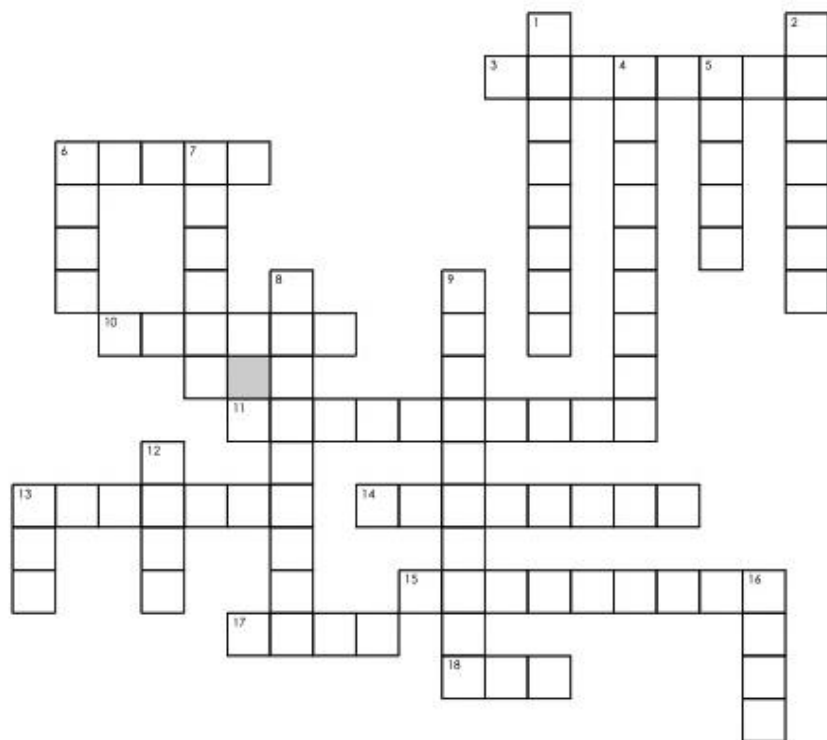
Scan the code to watch a video  
about the account and icon of the  
Nativity of Mother Mary.



## Identify the Parts of the Icon



# Nativity of the Theotokos



## Across: →

3. St.Joachim & St.Anna were \_\_\_\_\_ to God
6. Heavenly being
10. St.Mary would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus
11. The people who assisted St. Anna
13. The name of St.Mary's father
14. The day a person was born
15. The place where St.Anna was praying
17. To talk to God
18. The opposite of happy

## Down: ↓

1. The process of birth
2. Another word for a person who is old
4. Means God-bearer
5. The number of days St.Joachim prayed
6. The name of St.Mary's mother
7. The date of the feast is September \_\_\_\_
8. The month we celebrate the feast
9. Where St.Joachim went to pray
12. A religious work of art
13. Great happiness
16. The name of St.Anna's baby

# Decode the Message

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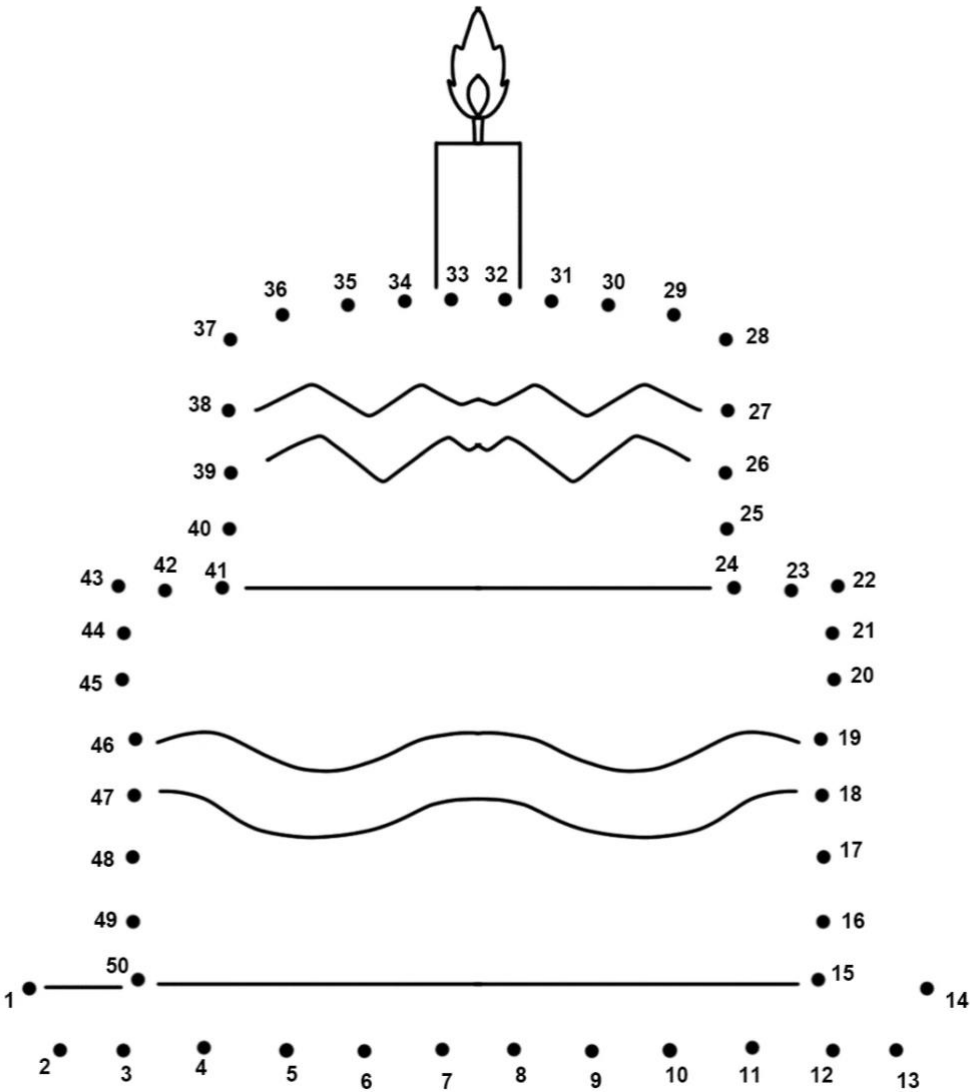
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
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💧 ● ◊ ✳

Connect the dots and color the picture  
to make a surprise for Baby Mary!!

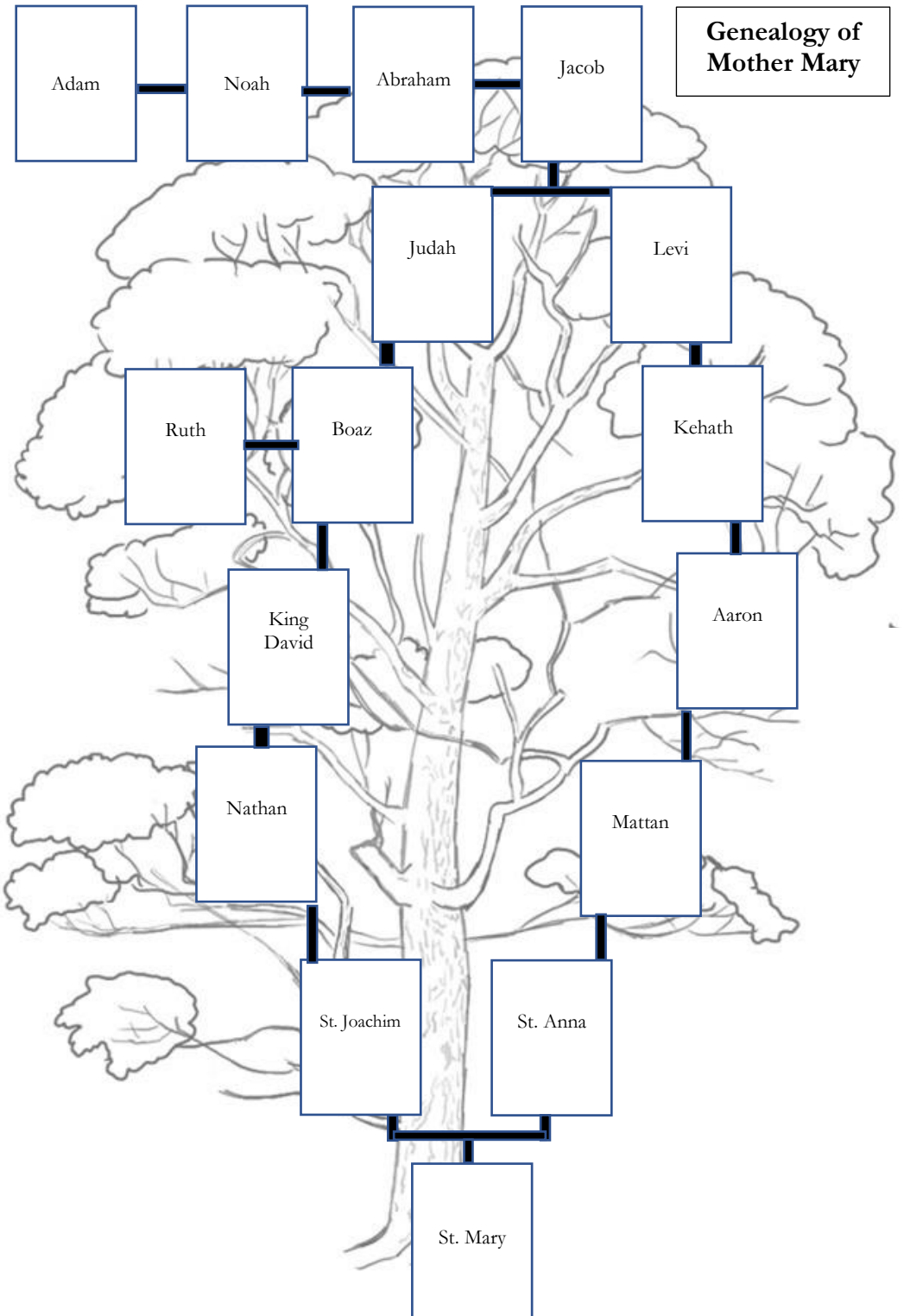




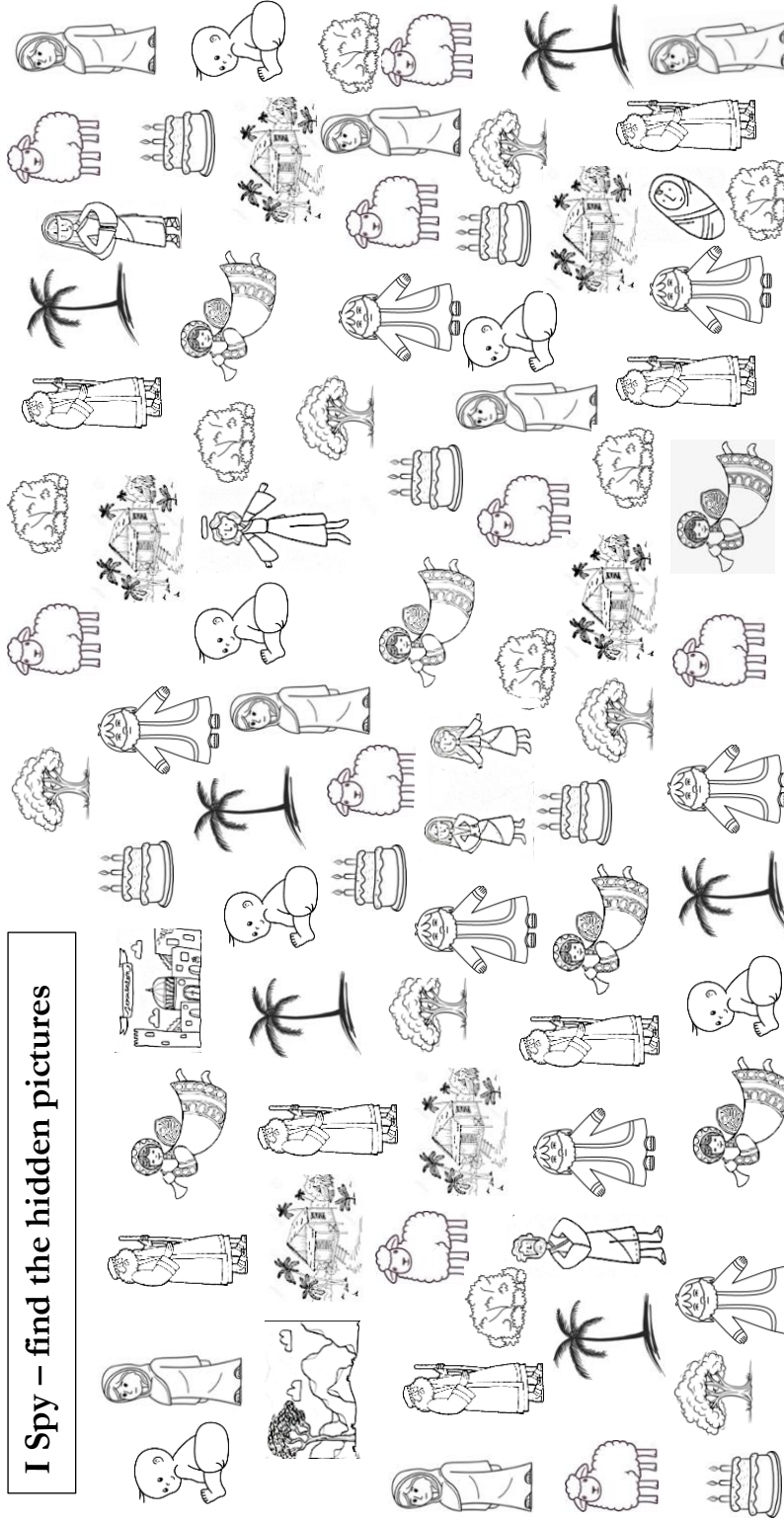
Color then cut and glue the  
ancestors of Saint Mary to the  
correct spaces on the family tree.

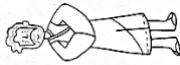

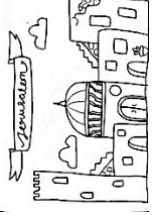
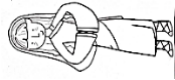

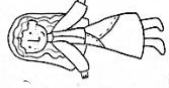
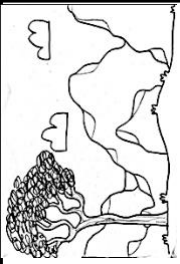


# **Genealogy of Mother Mary**



# I Spy – find the hidden pictures



|  |   |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Joachim  | Angel   | Baby Mary   | Jerusalem  | Anna   | Attendants   | Wilderness  |

## Answer the Questions

### From the Account

- What is the date of the feast?
- What does the word, 'nativity' mean?
- From where do we get the account of the birth of Mother Mary?
- What was the name of Mother Mary's father?
- What was the name of Mother Mary's mother?
- Were St. Joachim and St. Anna old or young?
- Why were St. Joachim and St. Anna sad?
- Where did St. Joachim go to pray for God's mercy?
- How long did he stay and pray in the wilderness?
- Where was St. Anna praying while St. Joachim was in the wilderness?
- Who appeared to both St. Joachim and St. Anna?
- What did the angel tell them?
- What was the name of the child that they had?
- What did their child become?
- St. Joachim was a descendant of King \_\_\_\_\_, which shows the \_\_\_\_\_ birth.
- St. Anna was a descendant of Aaron, which shows \_\_\_\_\_ lineage.
- Jesus would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world and our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why do we celebrate on September 8<sup>th</sup>?
- Who built a church dedicated to the Nativity of the Theotokos?
- In which century was this church built?
- The birth of Mother Mary shows the visible sign of God's plan for our \_\_\_\_\_ being unfolded.
- Even the angels call Mother Mary, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why does Mother Mary hold the highest position among the saints of the church? (2 reasons)
- Mother Mary was very \_\_\_\_\_. Never exhibiting any form of pride or arrogance.
- Like Mother Mary we are also called to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
- What do we call the parents of St. Mary?

### From the Icon

- The icon depicts the birth of Mother Mary in a very \_\_\_\_\_ way. Like any other birth.
- Who all are seen in the icon?

Listen to the ancient hymns of the Nativity of the Theotokos while you color the picture of Baby Mary with her parents, the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, St. Joachim & St. Anna.

**The Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos:**

Your Nativity, O Virgin,  
Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!  
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,  
Has shone from You, O Theotokos!  
By annulling the curse,  
He bestowed a blessing;  
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.

**Kontakion**

By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin,  
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness;  
Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death.  
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you:  
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!



Scan the code to  
listen to the hymns

