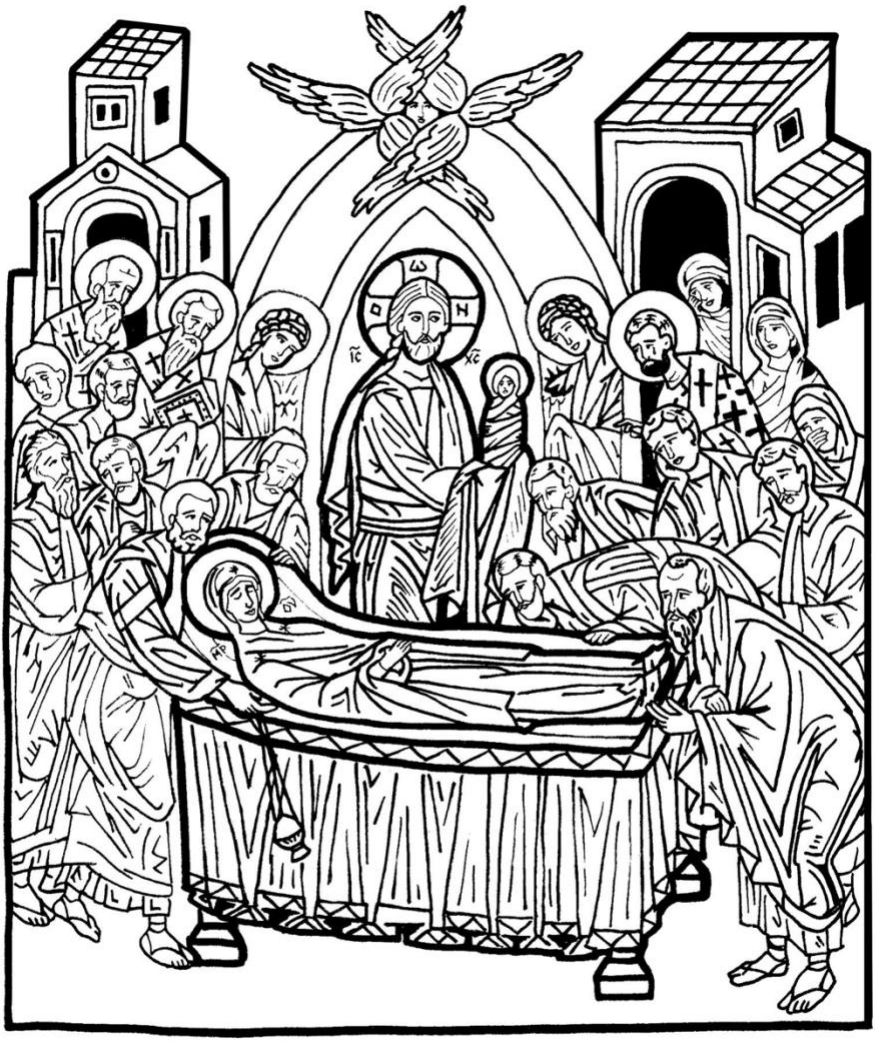
Dormition of the Theotokos Activity Book



Name: _____

Read the Account of the Dormition of the Theotokos

One day Mother Mary was praying on the Mount of Olives. Suddenly the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that in a few days she would be taken up to Heaven by her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Mother Mary was filled with joy.

She immediately told the believers and sent word to the Apostles, who were in many different parts of the world, because she wanted to see them one last time. As soon as the Apostles got the news they started traveling to Jerusalem to see Mother Mary. They all loved her very much. Some of the Apostles were so far away and would not be able to make it in time. Church tradition says that they were miraculously transported to Jerusalem by angels. The only Apostle who did not make it in time was St. Thomas.

At the appointed time Mother Mary was laying on her bed waiting to be taken to Heaven. While she was surrounded by the Apostles, her friends and believers, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared. He was accompanied by angels who were singing beautifully. It was then that He took her soul with him to Heaven.

The Apostles and the Disciples carried her body in a sad procession towards the Garden of Gethsemane. They buried her nearby. The funeral took 3 days because there were so many people gathered from many areas surrounding Jerusalem and they all wanted to pay their respects to the Mother of God.

On the third day the Apostle St. Thomas arrived. He was so sad that he had not come in time to see Mother Mary. He begged the other Apostles to let him see her body. They opened the grave and to everyone's surprise the body was not there! They understood that the body had been taken to Heaven by the Lord. Almost immediately an angel appeared to them and confirmed that the body of the Holy Theotokos had been taken by her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven.

Read About the Icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos

In the center of the icon we see Mother Mary lying on her death bed, surrounded by angels and saints. Above her stands her Son, Jesus. In his hands is a small child, which represents the soul of Mother Mary. Several bishops are shown in their bishops' clothing, they are said to be St. James, the first bishop of Jerusalem and St. Timothy Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite. At the feet of St. Mary's bed is St. Paul, who is bowing low in honour of her. St. Peter is shown censing the body, this shows that he was the leader of the apostles and the church. St. Peter

and St. Paul are on the right and the left, this shows that they were the pillars of the church. St. John the Evangelist is shown leaning on the body of the Theotokos. He is the one who took care of Mother Mary after the ascension of Jesus. Some icons show some apostles with angels in the clouds. This reminds us of how the Apostles were miraculously brought to Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit just before Mother Mary's death.

What We Can Learn From This Feast

1. How much the church loved and respected Mary the Mother of God.

2. We should keep the blessed memory of the saints who have departed from us. We should never forget them.

3. We learn how to see death in the right way, through this feast and icon.

How We Can Apply It In Our Life

1. We venerate the icon of the Theotokos and other saints. This is to show our deep love and respect for them. They are examples for us to follow.

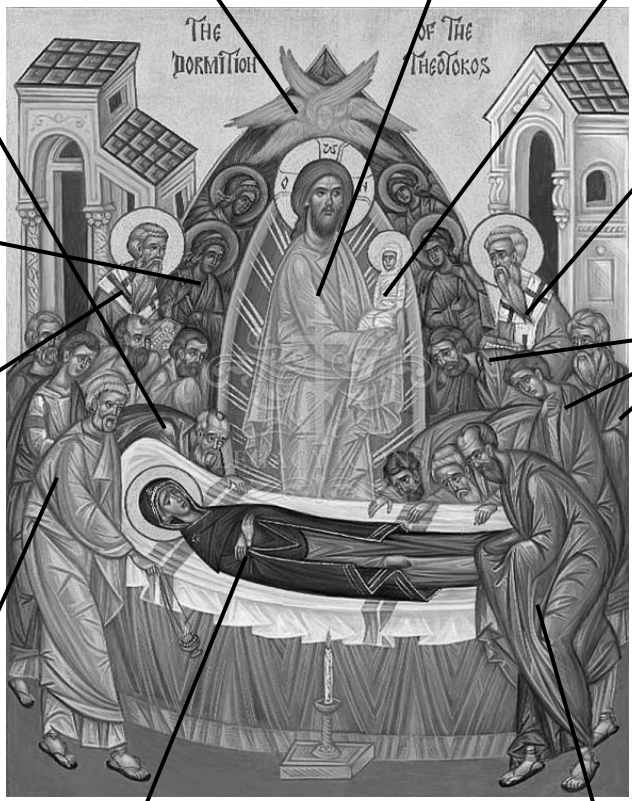
2. Take time to remember Mother Mary's life and follow her humble example of using every opportunity to point to God's Son, Jesus Christ.

3. If someone you love is sick and dying, or has died recently, although we might feel helpless and sorrowful, we need not fear. Since they were part of the church, Jesus will be there to receive their soul to heaven.

4. Remember that saints who depart to be with Jesus, like Mother Mary and our dear departed Metropolitan Athanasius Yohan of blessed memory, are praying for us.

Scan the codes to watch a video about the account and icon of the Dormition of Mother Mary.

Identify the Parts of the Icon



Word Search

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANGELS
APOSTLES
AUGUST
BISHOP
DORMITION
DORMITION FAST
FLOWERS
GETHSEMANE
GRAVE
HEAVEN
ICON
JERUSALEM
MOTHER MARY
MOUNT OF OLIVES
SAINT PAUL
SAINT PETER
SAINT THOMAS
SOUL
THEOTOKOS

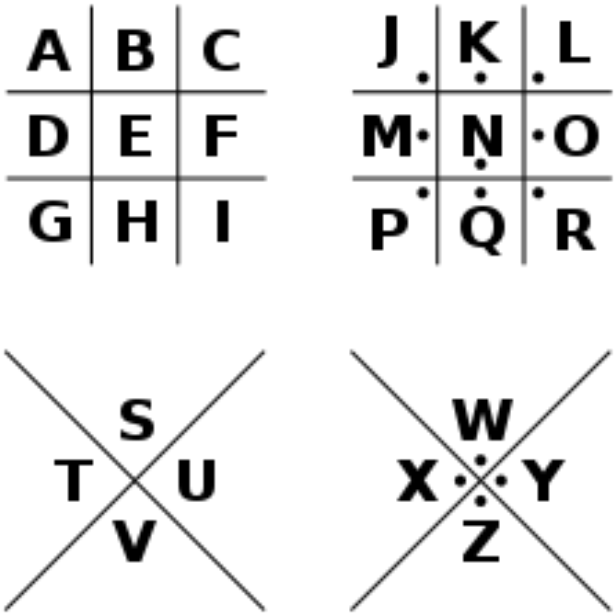
How many words can you make out of the words?

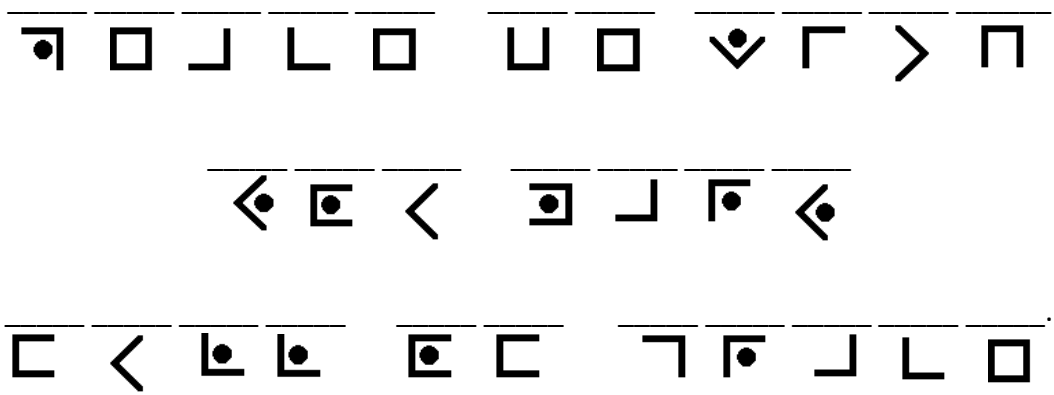
'DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS'

- 2 letter words – 1 point
- 3 letter words – 2 points
- 4 letter words – 4 points
- 5 letter words – 6 points
- 6 or more letter words – 10 points

Total Points: _____

Decode the Message





Unscramble the Words

KTSHOOOTE _____ _____

OICN _____ _____

WOFSELR _____ _____

HJNO _____ _____

UGTASU EEFFTTNIH _____ _____

ETPRE _____ _____

ITDRNOOIM _____ _____

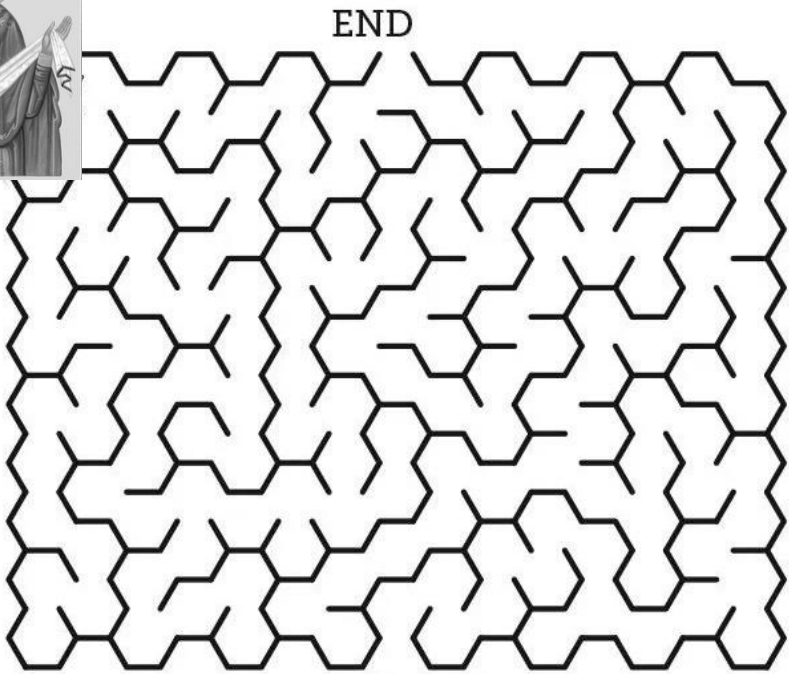
SLASPETO _____ _____

MJSLEUAER _____ _____

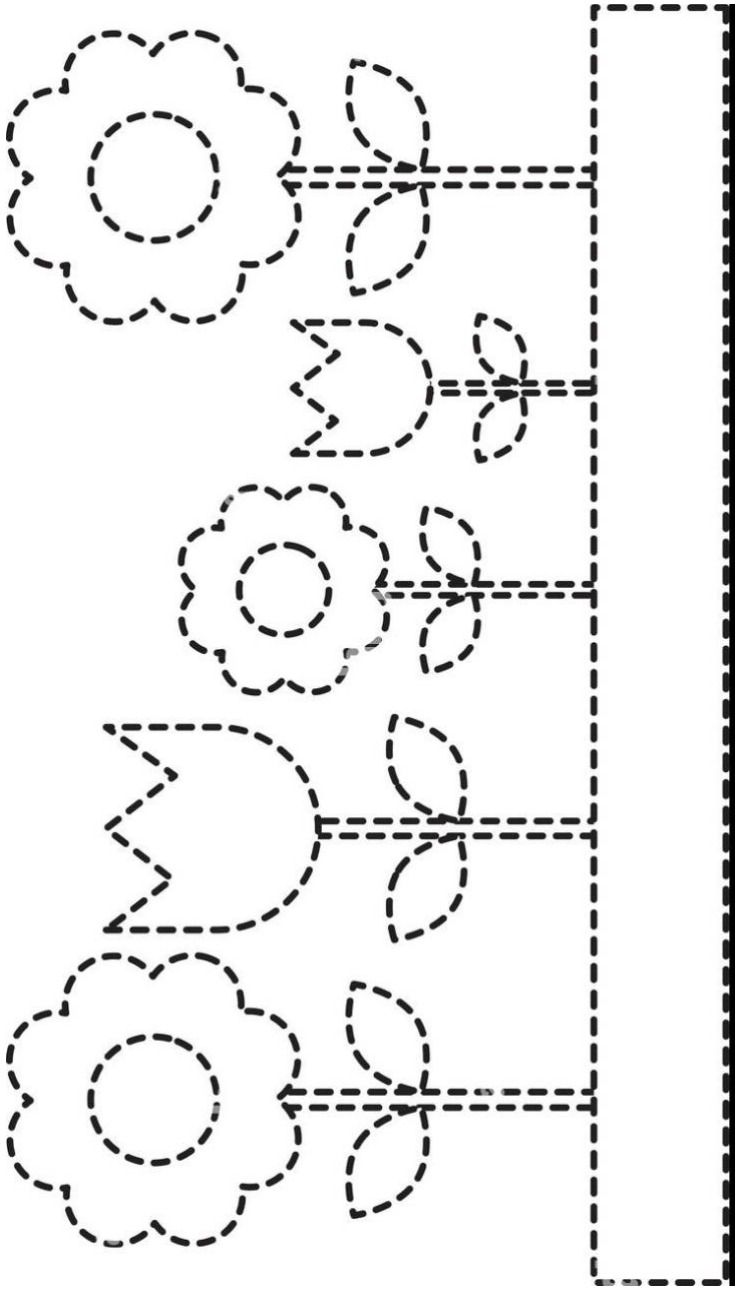
ULSCDO _____ _____

HMROET RAMY _____ _____

Maze – Help the Apostles Find the Way to Jerusalem



Trace and Color the Flowers



Tradition states that when Mother Mary's grave was opened there was a sweet smell of flowers. That is why many people use flowers to decorate on the day of her Dormition. We can decorate with flowers to celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos

Answer the Questions

From the Account

- Where was Mother Mary praying when the angel appeared to her to tell her she would soon be taken to heaven by her Son?
- What was Mother Mary's reaction to the news?
- What did the apostles do when they received the news?
- How did the apostles who were too far away reach Jerusalem?
- Which disciple did not make it on time?
- Who were surrounding Mother Mary when she was laying on the bed?
- When Jesus appeared who was singing and how did it sound?
- Who took Mother Mary's soul to heaven?
- Where was her body buried?
- How long was the funeral and why was it that long?
- Who came on the third day?
- What did the apostles find when they opened the grave?
- Who told them that her body had been taken by her Son the Lord Jesus into heaven?

From the Icon

- In the icon, who is on the death bed?
- Who stands in the middle of the icon above Mother Mary?
- Who is Jesus holding and what does this represent?
- What do St.Paul and St.Peter on the right and left represent?
- Who are the bishops in the icon?
- Who is bowing at the feet of St. Mary's bed?
- Who is censing the body? And what does this represent?
- Who is leaning on the body of Mother Mary?
- Some icons show the apostles carried by angels in the clouds, what does this represent?

Lessons for Our Life

- Did the church love and respect Mother Mary?
- Why do we venerate the icons of the Theotokos and other saints?
- We should take time to remember Mother Mary's life and follow her _____ example.
- Mother Mary used every opportunity to point to _____.
- When believers depart from this earth, Jesus will be there to _____.
- What are the saints who have departed from us doing?

Listen to the Ancient Hymns of the Dormition of Mother Mary While You Color the Picture

Mother Mary is our example to follow and that is why her life and death are so significant for us. She is the first believer and evangelist in regard to her Son who is the 'Source of Life', and that is why she is called the 'Mother of Life.'

The Apolytikion of the Dormition

In birth, you preserved your virginity; in death, you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As mother of life, you departed to the source of life, delivering our souls from death by your intercessions.

The Kontakion of the Dormition

Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. She being the Mother of life, He who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed her to life.

Scan the code to listen to the hymns

Believers Eastern Church

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