



Righteous Ancestors

✧ *Glory to Jesus Christ!*

Each of us comes from a **family** with stories. There are **memories we adore** and love to share, and some events we might wish were never remembered.

Combined, the **narrative of your ancestors** is unique, having occurred in a precise way, making it possible for you being born at this time, in this place, experiencing these **exact moments** in your life. **Isn't that amazing?**

✧ *Generations of Faithfulness*

In a similar way, the **genealogy of Jesus Christ** is a collection of individuals from diverse backgrounds and tribes, who survived invasions, achieved greatness, led ordinary lives, and in their own way, were **faithful to God**.

Even if they didn't know it, they all played an important role in **God's plan of Salvation!** In this way, the Son of God took on our entire human condition within His very being, in order to **restore each of us** to full communion with God the Father.

✧ *United to Each Other*

As Byzantine Catholic Christians, we have **received this wonderful promise** of Salvation through our baptism and chrismation. And each time we **receive the Eucharist**, we are **united to the generations of saints**, each other, and generations yet to come.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are **blessed with a responsibility** to carry forward the **treasures of our Faith**, sharing them in this fallen world.

✧ *Giving As We Have Received*

The **unending love** we freely receive from God is ours to **share just as freely** with others. Our **acts of love** - a kind word, a warm coat, a meal, a phone call, or a smile - can **become the meaningful stories** future generations will share.

Our legacy will be found in the moments which **make Christ real** in our lives and the lives of those around us.

✧ *Telling Your Story*

When we **encounter the newborn Christ child** in the cave on Christmas, what will be the gift we offer Him? Will it be our life, as a **dwelling place for Him** to grow and transform on the path to Eternal Life?

Each generation is entrusted to care for and **nurture God's holy Byzantine Catholic Church**, it's **your turn** to add your stories to those of your ancestors and the saints.

✧ *Scripture Readings* for the Sunday before the Nativity

Epistle: **Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**

Gospel: **Matthew 1:1-25**

✧ *Hymns of the Day*

Troparion/Apolytikion (Forefathers) — Tone 2

Great are the achievements of Faith!
In the fountain of flames, the three
holy youths rejoiced as by the
water of rest, and the prophet
Daniel was revealed shepherding
lions like sheep.

Through their intercession, O Christ
God, save our souls.

Kontakion (Forefathers) — Tone 1

Armed by the Being that defies
description, you defied the man-
made idol, O thrice blessed youth.
In the midst of the unbearable
flames you stood and cried out to
God: "In Your mercy, O gracious
One, hasten and come to our aid,
for You can do whatever You will."

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors:
Watch for the ✧ to indicate topics/questions you
can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use
the corresponding study guide for this resource.

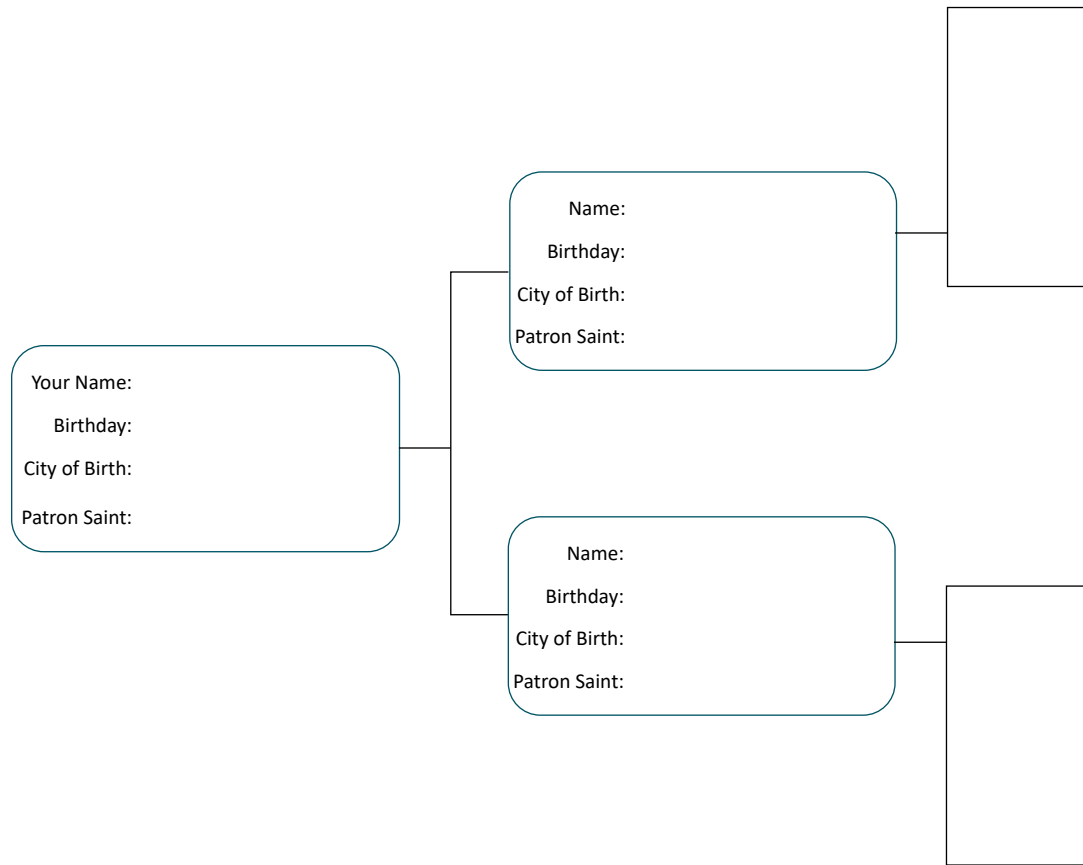
MY ADVENT PLANNER

Sunday	19 <i>Sunday before Christmas</i> <i>St. Elias of the Kyiv Caves</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Look on Google Maps to find the Kyiv Caves Monastery <input type="checkbox"/> Help your parents at home
Monday	20 <i>St. John of Kronstadt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Say a prayer to St. John for your parish priest(s) <input type="checkbox"/> If you haven't already, make sure you get to confession soon! Donate a shirt, pants, or shoes to a local shelter for less fortunate children
Tuesday	21 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Juliana of Nicomedia</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read Psalm 91 <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the unemployed Today I helped:
Wednesday	22 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>Greatmartyr Anastasia</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read the life of http://bit.ly/st-anastasia <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the homeless One of my favorite hymns from liturgy is:
Thursday	23 <i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Niphon of Cyprus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Royal Hours http://bit.ly/nativity-royal-hours <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for those in prison Today I learned about:
Friday	24 <i>Eve of the Nativity</i> <i>St. Eugenia of Rome</i> Strict Fast Day <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Vespertal Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for your departed relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the Festal Vigil
Saturday	25 <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Liturgy <input type="checkbox"/> Break the fast after liturgy, celebrating the feast! <input type="checkbox"/> Greet everyone with "Christ is born!" The reply is: "Glorify Him!"

My Family Tree

Your Generation

Your Parents' Generation



Instructions:

Fill in the boxes for the members of your family, identifying birthdates, places of birth (and deaths). Use the blank space on the pages to include other relatives: brothers/sisters, step-parents, aunts/uncles, extended family

Your Grandparents' Generation

Your Great Grandparents' Generation

^{Great} Your Great Grandparents' Generation

Name:
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City of Birth:
Fast Fact:

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Birthday:
City of Birth:
Fast Fact:

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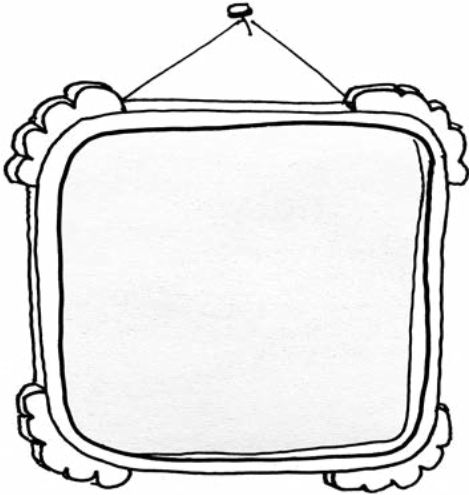
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My Family Album

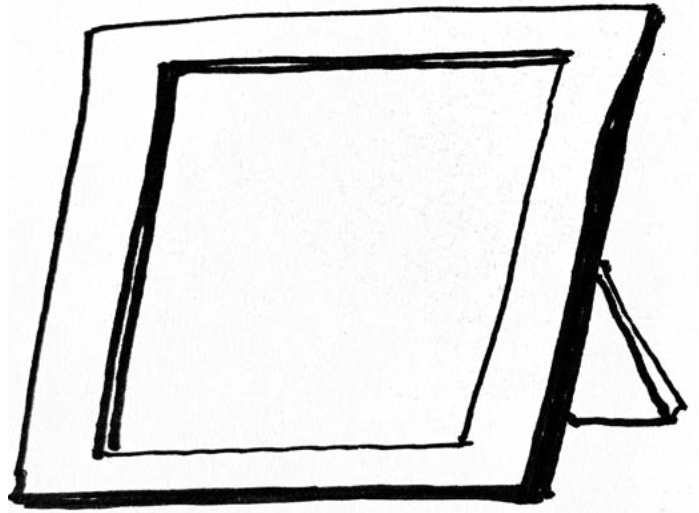
Place or draw photos of your family in the frames, writing their answers to the questions.



My Father

Place Where They Met

Date of their Marriage
and name of Church

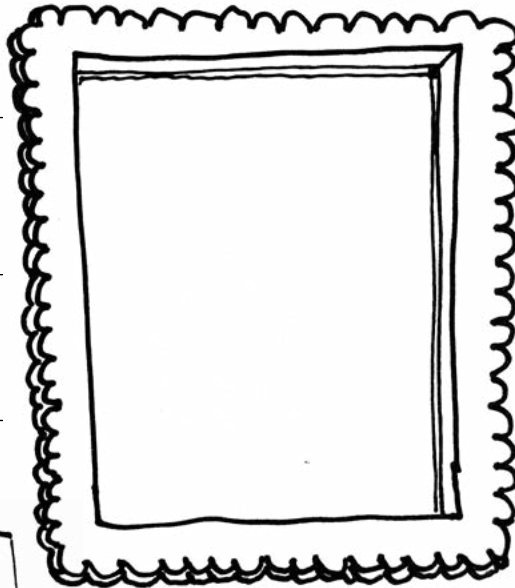


My Mother

Patron Saint

Favorite Music or Band

Favorite Childhood Activity

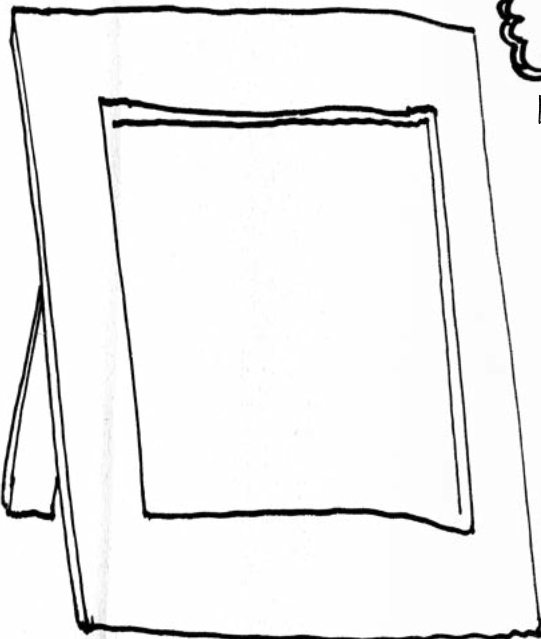


My Parent's Wedding

Patron Saint

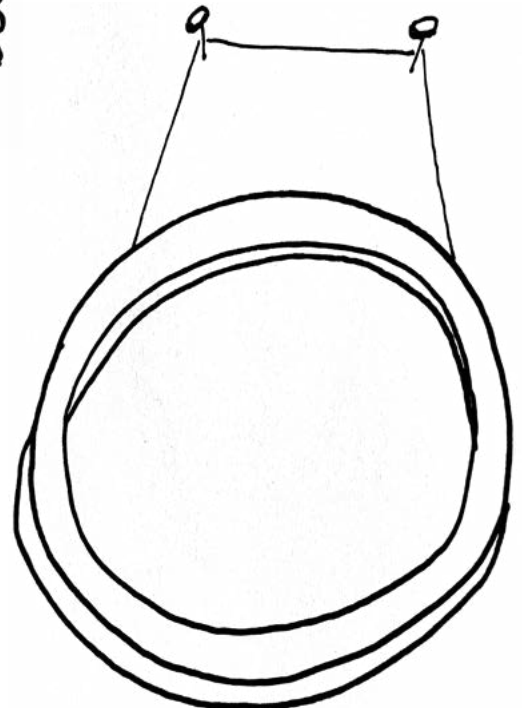
Favorite Music or Band

Favorite Childhood Activity



My Baptism

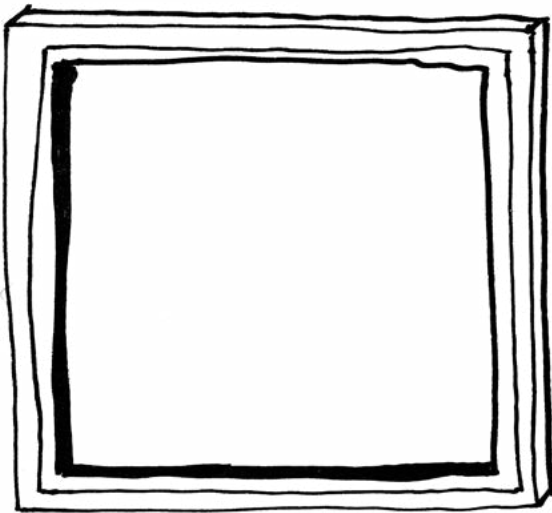
Date of my Baptism
and name of Church



My Priest and me

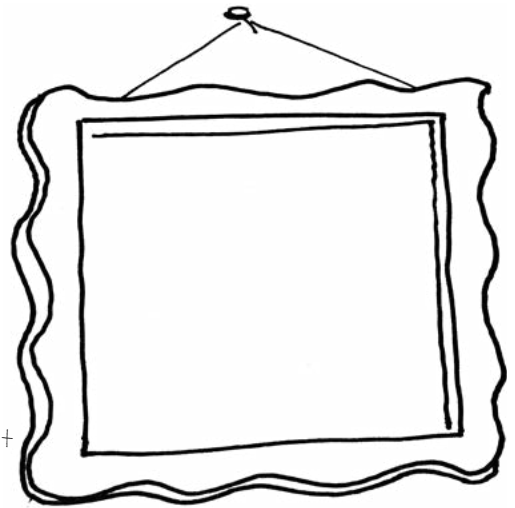
My Ancestors

Place or draw photos of your family in the frames, writing their answers to the questions.



Place Where They Met

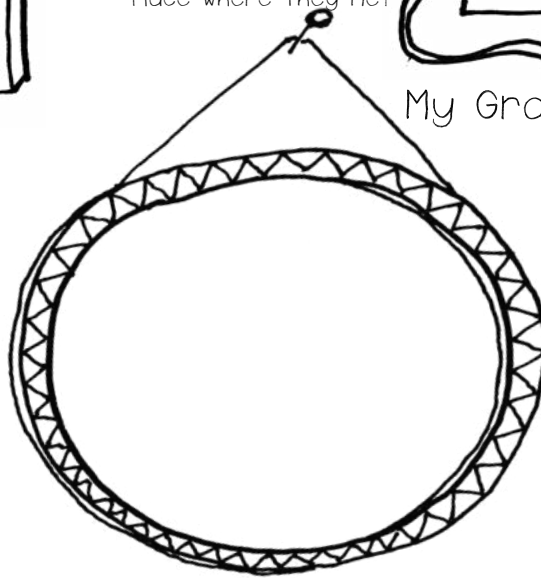
My Grandparents (dad)



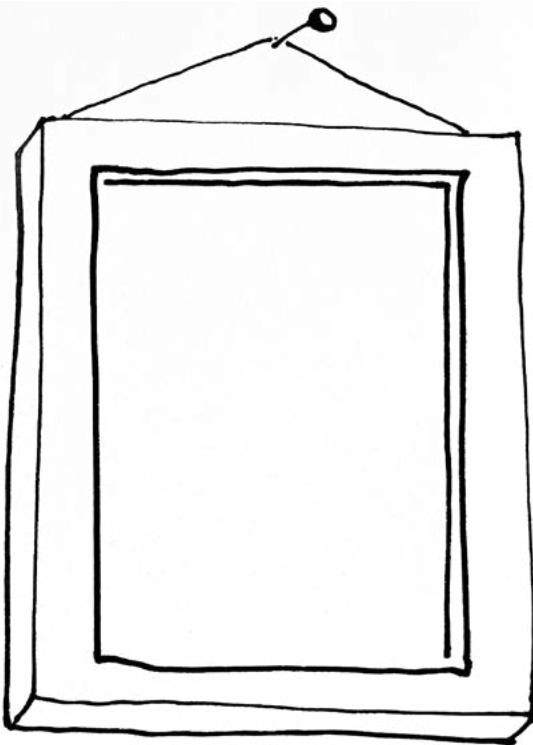
Place Where They Met

My Grandparents (mom)

My favorite family activity is:



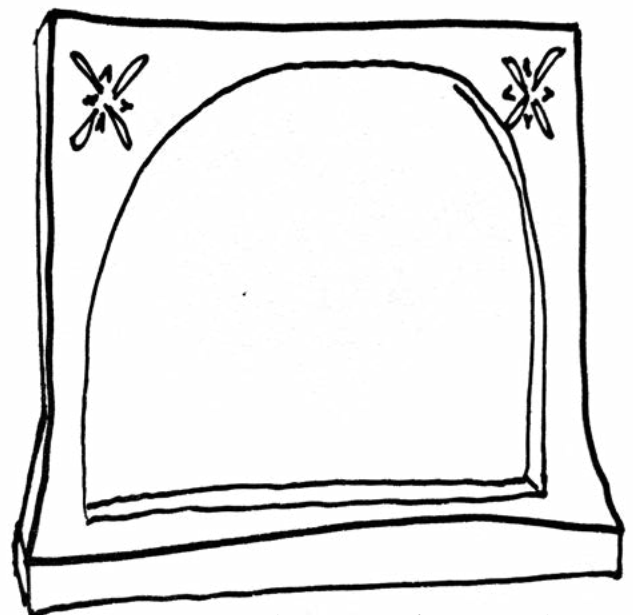
My Family



My Great-Grandparents

Your Father's Favorite Memory of His Grandparents

Your Mother's Favorite Memory of Her Grandparents



My Great-Grandparents