



Joining You on the Path to Salvation



 **ORTHODOX**
Journeys

Original educational resources for parish communities and families desiring to nurture the spiritual growth of young people in the Orthodox Christian Faith.

WWW.ORTHODOXJOURNEYS.COM

Today's young people are taught to think, be independent, and prepare to enter a global society. These are outstanding skills to have in a fast changing world. They also need to possess the spiritual knowledge and comprehension of Orthodox Christianity framing one's perspective on social issues, morality, relationships, vocations, and life goals.

How much do your children know and live the Orthodox Faith?



Dormition of the Mother of God

Resource Overview for Parents

August 15

Scripture Readings
Epistle/Apostle:
Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel:
Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Troparion - Tone 1
In giving birth we generated your
divinity, in taking us you did not
leave the world, O Theotokos.
You were translated to life, O Mother
of Life, and by your prayers we attain our
salts from death.

Kontakion - Tone 2
Mother of the Lord, the Virgin most
pure, the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer
and our first hope in our necessities.
For being the Mother of Life, she was
translated to life by the three who dwell in
her virgin womb.

This Week We Learned About

- Scripture**
 - Genesis 22:10-17 (vespers 1)
 - Exodus 13:27-40 (vespers 2)
 - Proverbs 9:1-11 (vespers 3)
 - Philippians 2:5-11 (matins)
 - Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28
- Liturgical Life**
 - The blessing of flowers is more than a symbolic act.
- Feasts & Saints**
 - St. Ignatius the God-bearer was present for the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.
- Daily Living**
 - The Dormition fast helped us prepare for the feast. Now what?

Questions for Your Kids

- Why is this feast important to us as Orthodox Christians?
- What do we learn about God at the Dormition of His mother?
- How does this make you feel about God?
- Do you have a favorite flower?
- When we bless flowers and place them near our icons, what are we expressing in our belief in God?
- How does it feel to know the Virgin Mary is still alive in Heaven?
- How did St. Ignatius earn the title of "God-bearer"?
- What do you like most about the life of St. Ignatius?
- How can we be like St. Ignatius?

Learn and Discover Together

- How does the Old Testament readings tell us about the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
- If Mary was raised from the dead, what does this mean will happen for us when we die?
- Why do we bow down before the icon of the Dormition before veneration it?
- How does the feast of the Dormition remind you of the services of Holy Friday?
- How does the Resurrection of Christ make these services different?
- Read about St. Ignatius here: <https://bit.ly/ignatius-godbearer>
- St. Ignatius focused on Christian living, and was willing to die for his belief in God. How much faith in God is needed to live like that?
- Why do we fast before the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God?
- Are there habits we discovered in ourselves during the fast which we should continue "bearing fruit"?
- How can the Virgin Mary help us in becoming better Christians?
- The Virgin Mary is our spiritual mother because she gave birth to Jesus Christ and nurtured him throughout his earthly ministry.
- When we fast alone, pray to the Theotokos because she understands our needs, loves us unconditionally.

Learn More...

Study guides for different age groups are available. Or, complete the "Dormition of the Mother of God" resource for a full feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Use any or all of the questions and discussion topics to help children learn more about the feast. The Dormition of the Mother of God is a feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

ORTHODOX JOURNEYS

ORTHODOX JOURNEYS is a series of educational resources designed to foster an understanding and desire to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the riches of our Orthodox Faith.

August 15: Dormition of the Mother of God

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We understand that **Orthodox Christianity isn't a set of rules or regulations** on what not to do or eat.

Orthodoxy is a Way of Life, shaping who we are holistically, guiding how we interact with others and live in this world: **our journey on the path to Salvation.**

Our collection of full color **handouts**, study guides, parent overviews, and unit lessons provide children of all ages with

the depth of knowledge on:

- **Scripture**
- **Liturgy and Tradition**
- **Feasts, Fasts, and Saints**
- **Contemporary Social Issues**

The goal of each unit is to help young people understand what we believe, why we believe it, and how to express and live out those timeless beliefs in the 21st century.

Each unit includes:

- **Engaging content**
- **Timely topics**
- **Fun educational activities**
- **Discussion topics**
- **Questions and Answers**



LITURGY & TRADITION

FEASTS, FASTS & SAINTS

ROUTINES OF LIFE

SCRIPTURE

HOW CONTENT AND
CURRICULUM FROM



IS DESIGNED AND
STRUCTURED

Our **SCRIPTURE BASED** content and curriculum leverages the lectionary of readings as both the foundation for the weekly lessons and structure of **Orthodox Journeys** content.

Whether the **feast of Pascha** is early or late each year, the movable and fixed cycles of fasts and feasts and saints are **seamlessly woven into our curriculum** like tectonic plates which ebb and flow each year.

Leveraging aspects of the regular **liturgical traditions** and **divine services** experienced throughout the year, the **message of Christ's** miracles and teachings are central to the lessons, encouraging young people to keep God at the heart of their daily routines.

We believe **participation** in the **LITURGICAL LIFE** of our Orthodox Faith comes in a variety of forms – **singing**, serving in the altar, creating **icons**, **praying** in church and at home, reading **scripture**, doing acts of **charity**, and many other ways! Children of all ages deserve the opportunity to discover **how they can live as Orthodox Christians** expressing their belief and joy in Jesus Christ.

Children are busy with many activities, so each lesson is designed to provide the **FOUNDATIONS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH** in less than an hour each week. Coupled with **regular chats with parents** and participation in the **life of the church**, we can help you nurture confidence and a desire to learn about the Faith, potentially help them **make wise decisions** when faced with the **serious choices** in life.

Lesson Handouts feature:

- Understanding the Scripture readings as the foundation for our daily living
- Introducing the Feasts and Saints to youth as our spiritual ancestors, inspiring us by keeping Christ at the center of their lives when faced with difficult choices
- Exploring the Liturgical Hymns and Texts as our textbook for truly understanding what we believe as Orthodox Christians
- Thought provoking messages encouraging children to think about and decide what it means to be an Orthodox Christian
- Assorted educational and fun activities because we understand every child learns in their own unique way

Study Guides feature:

- Available in four age level categories
- “Out of the box” format for use by seasoned educators, substitute teachers, and parents alike in church school or at home
- Overview of the lesson topics
- Discussion Q&A for scripture readings, liturgical hymns, and lesson themes
- Lessons on a variety of topics
- Links to related content and resources online

Parent Overviews feature:

- Lesson summaries to keep parents informed of what their children are learning
- Discussion questions for sparking conversations with children of all ages during the week, at dinner, or in the car
- Ideas for parent-child exploring our Orthodox Faith together

Unit Summaries feature:

- Summaries of each week's lesson topics, providing a high-level perspective for clergy, teachers, students, and parents to see how the lessons align with the church year.



DETAILS

Lesson Handouts are organized in four age groups:

- Level 1: **Grades K-2**
- Level 2: **Grades 3-5**
- Level 3: **Grades 6-8**
- Level 4: **Grades 9-12 (and Adult Ed!)**

Each week's lesson explores the same topics and themes at progressive levels of:

- Engagement,
- Dialogue, and
- Comprehension



PRICING

Church School curricula and lesson plans are available in a variety of formats and subscriptions:

- **Annual 45-week Lessons program** **\$375**
(includes 8 Units, each with 6 lessons and 4 grade level study guides, 6 parent overviews, and unit summaries)
- **6-week pay-as-you-go Units** **\$60/ea.**
(includes 6 lessons with 4 grade level study guides, 6 parent overviews, and 1 lesson unit summary)
- **Weekly pay-as-you-go Lessons** **\$12⁵⁰/ea.**
(includes 1 lesson and 4 grade level study guides, and 1 parent overview)
- **12 Great Feasts** **\$150**
(includes 13 lessons, each with 4 grade level study guides, parent overviews, and 1 lesson unit summary)
- **Lenten Triodion / Pentecostarion** **\$150**
(includes lessons and 4 grade level study guides, parent overviews for each of the pre-Lenten, Lenten, Holy Week, and Sundays of Pascha.)



Parish-wide licenses for **Orthodox Journeys** make it affordable for your community to use these resources whether your parish has 5 or 150 families. **Diocesan discount rates** are also available. Each unit and lesson can be purchased on an **ad hoc or subscription basis**, licensed to your parish or diocese regardless of the number of families or youth in your community.

Contact us today (orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com) for **customized lesson plans** (ex: non-English language, liturgical translation, diocesan or parish specific content, introductory text, custom format, or other resource needs), or visit us at www.orthodoxjourneys.com to view our growing collection of available education resources to **help you on your journey today**.

