

# BYZiKIDS

ByziKids  
March 2020



PG.16

.....LOL  
WHUT?

Meet, THE  
MATTHEWS!



PG.11



PG.10

EUDOKIA!  
EUDOKIA!

Hallelujha!  
Are you listening?



PG.14

SHE  
SAID,





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## HELLO BYZIPARENTS! GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

So tell me, how's your fast going? Are you able to take the children with you to presanctified Liturgies? How well do they participate? I know it's difficult most of the time, but it is SO important. Here's why...

Years ago when I taught catechism classes at our parish, one of the teachers was a student from Ukraine who was helping at our church while he completed his university studies. At our weekly meeting during the first week of the Fast, he told us teachers that something was bothering him. At the Presanctified Liturgy, the time came for us to do the prostrations, but nobody did them; everyone remained in his comfortable seat. He was amazed. He told us that when he was growing up in Communist Ukraine his family had to attend services in the woods, so nobody would arrest them. His grandmother baptized him in secret. Yet at every Presanctified Liturgy, they all got down on their knees right there in the woods, and put their faces to the bare ground in devotion. Here, where no one arrests us, nobody spies on us or turns us in for our faith...when the time comes to show this reverence to God, nobody even bothers to move. We cried in shame.

On that day, we who were the teachers at the time made a promise to each other that we would always get into the aisle during every Great Lent, with all of our own children, and prostrate with our faces to the ground in thanksgiving and humility....and even a bit of shame for having neglected to do this for so very long.

Perhaps we can each begin the movement in our own parishes to preserve or even revive this tradition.

Wishing you a fruitful Lent!

-Written by Lynne Wardach

# 40 SKYLARKS FOR THE 40 MARTYRS



A CUTE SKYLARK BUN!

***The Prologue of Ohrid is a wonderful book!***

***Have you ever seen it?*** Each day it chronicles the life of the martyr commemorated on that day and gives a meditation, a prayer, or poem to consider for meditation. On March 9th it tells us of forty soldiers who were sentenced to sit in the middle of a shallow lake when they had refused to deny Christ. As the frost came and froze the water all around them and hypothermia began to set in, the guards maliciously set up a steaming hot tub on the shore of the icy waters in the hopes of enticing the men to change their minds. One poor soul decided the torment was too great and sadly, he came ashore. Just then, a miracle occurred.

Thirty nine wreaths of greenery appeared in the sky and landed upon the men who remained in the lake, and the water in the lake began to warm, just like a bath! One of the pagan guards was so touched by the miracle that he too wanted to believe in such a God and he jumped into the lake with the others in the hopes of being accepted to their number. As he did, another wreath appeared and crowned him as well.

The men spent the entire night swimming in this warm bath until the next day when the judges saw that they were still alive and ordered their legs be broken and for them to be thrown back into the lake to drown, and that their bodies were not to be recovered. This is when the souls of the forty martyrs of Sebaste flew happily up to God.

However, it was not God's will that the bodies of these great men be dishonored in this way. The next night, when their fellow believers went to the lake to pray for their departed friends, they saw that the bones of the men had begun to float to the surface, glowing brightly in the night so that every last one of them could be recovered and properly and honorably buried.

- *Written by Lynne Wardach*

>*Recipe on Next Page.*

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*Because this feast occurs during the Great Fast, we will make a simple Lenten bread dough today in order to make our little skylarks. You can opt to enjoy them as a savory roll with your dinner, or glaze them with a light powdered sugar icing and eat them as a sweet roll for breakfast or after supper.*

## SKYLARK BUN

### Ingredients

- 2 tsp active dry yeast
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 3 cups warm water
- 2 Tbsp salt
- 8 cups flour (we usually use whole wheat flour... and we may use a little more or less to get the dough to just the right texture )

### Directions

Combine the yeast, sugar and warm water (about 100 degrees) in a large mixing bowl and allow the yeast to proof. Once bubbles begin to form, add the salt and the flour, mixing as you add, until the dough just begins to come away from the sides of the bowl completely. Knead for 10 minutes, adding a little flour if needed as the dough becomes very elastic and soft, but not at all sticky. Cover the bowl with a damp tea-towel and rest in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about an hour). After the dough has risen, turn it out onto a floured surface and begin to make 40 pieces, first cutting the dough in half, then in half again, and rolling 10 equal pieces from each quarter of the dough. Roll each portion between the palms of your hands to form a rope. Then tie a knot in each piece, making the end left on top to be the head of your bird, and the end on the bottom to be the tail. Place each bird onto a parchment-lined baking sheet, and using a fork, press the tail end flat. Then shape the beak from the top end and use a toothpick or other skewer to form the eyes of your birds.

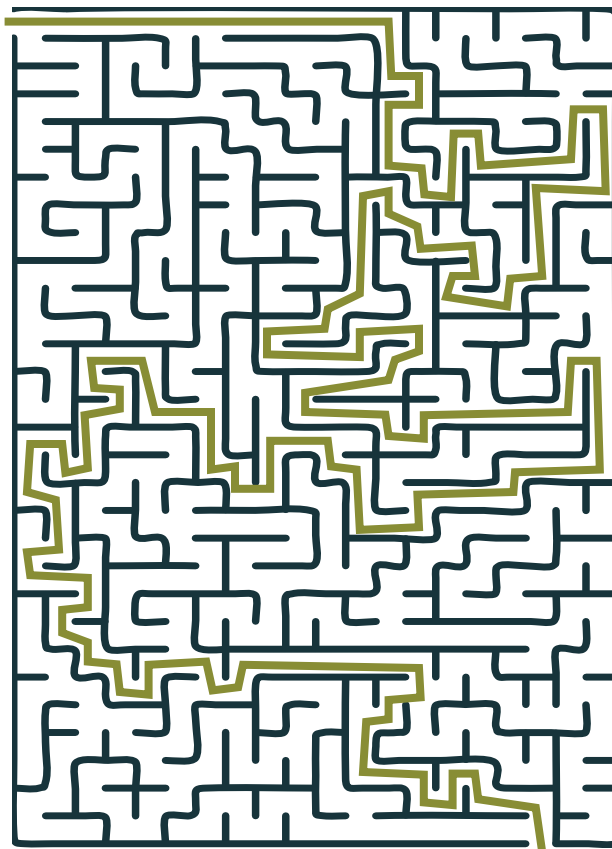
Be sure there are 40 going into the oven! One for each holy martyr!

Bake these at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes until they are a light golden brown.

## ANSWER KEY

7. BENEDICT  
6. CYPRIUS  
5. ANNUNCIATION  
4. GABRIEL  
2. HYPATIUS  
DOWN  
10. MATRONA  
9. CYRIL  
8. SOPHRONIUS  
3. SEBASTE  
1. JOHN  
ACROSS  
(ANSWERS)  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE  
MARCH SAINTS

### ANSWER KEY TO CROSSWORD (UPSIDE DOWN)



### ANSWER KEY TO MAZE (UPSIDE DOWN)



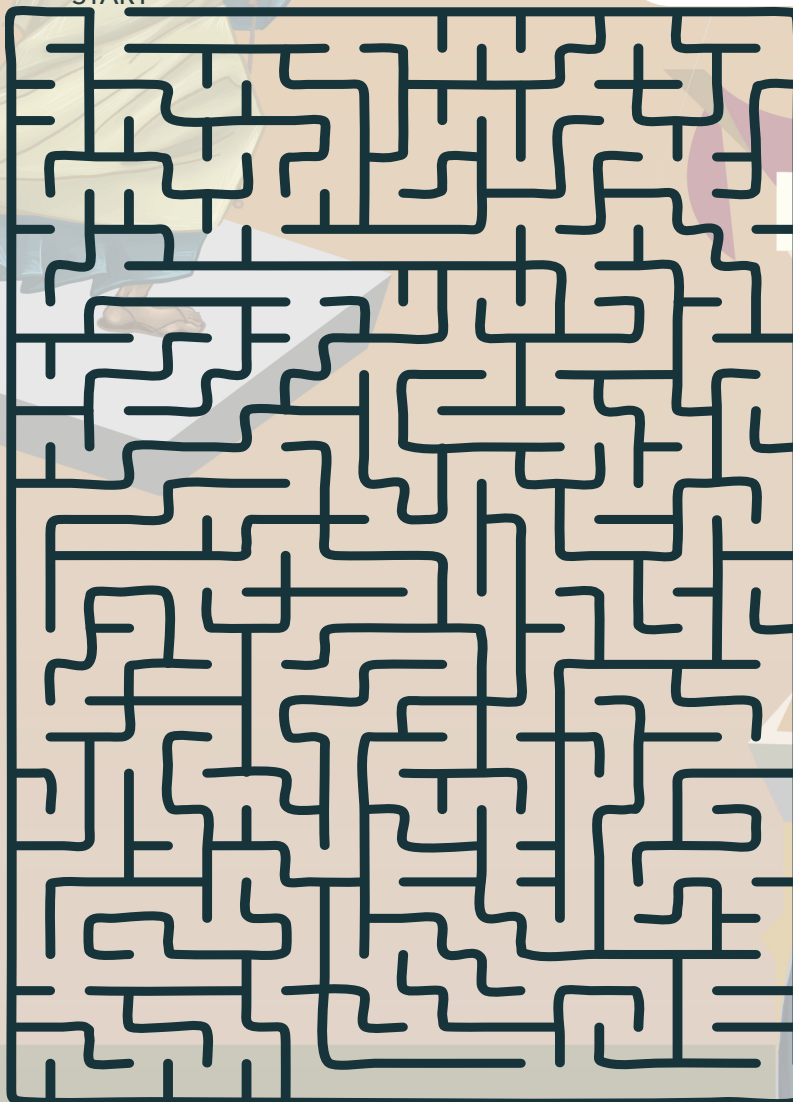
I AM A ROUND POSTER!



Celebrate The Annunciation, by  
celebrating LIFE!

HELP ARCHANGEL  
GABRIEL ANNOUNCE  
THE CONCEPTION  
OF CHRIST TO  
THEOTOKOS!

START



FINISH





# I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I"CON

## THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

This month we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. It is celebrated this day because it is exactly 9 months before the Feast of the Nativity. The story comes from the extra biblical book, the protoevangelium of James.

### *Do you know what a mandorla is?*

It is the blue circles and the dove at the top center of the icon. A mandorla demonstrates an invisible spiritual reality. No one can actually see the dove, but Mary conceived by the power of the holy spirit.

### *What details do you notice in this icon that are different than others?*

In some versions of this icon Mary has dropped her spinning because she is so surprised to see the angel. The Annunciation can be considered the greatest moment for women in the history of the world. It is the moment that a woman became the Mother of God.

### *See the red cloth hanging between the two buildings?*

This shows that this event took place inside.

-Written by Kim Bombak



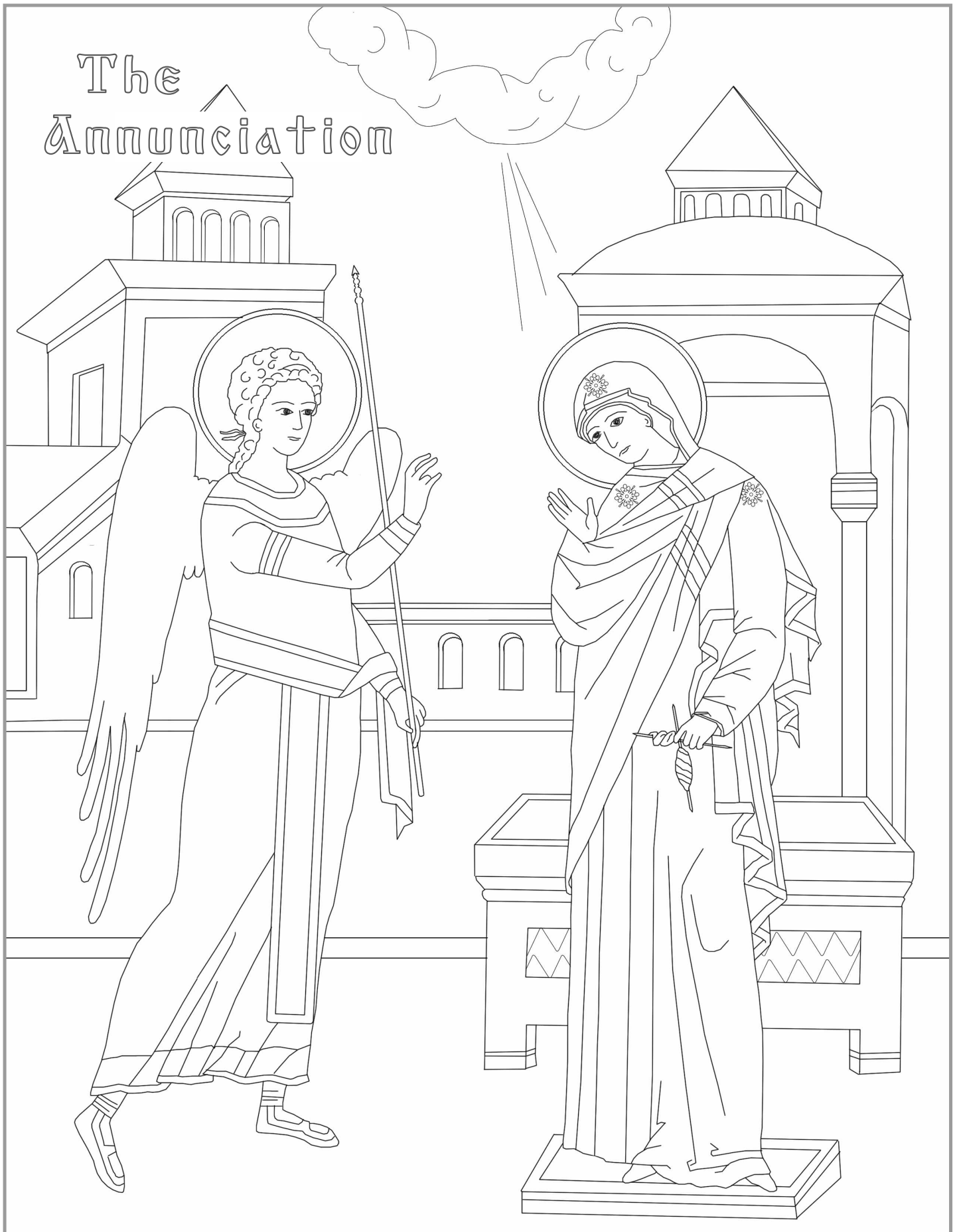
ANNUNCIATION BY FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK

- The Angel Gabriel is usually standing with one foot forward as if he has been hurrying to make this announcement to Mary. In some icons it looks like he was running to announce this Good News.
- The Angel is holding his right hand out to show that he is speaking. Mary also holds her arm out to show that she is responding. Sometimes we might see Mary with her hand up to show that she has accepted God's plan for her.
- Sometimes the angel holds a staff to show that he is a messenger.
- Sometimes we see the Theotokos sitting on a chair that is raised up. Sometimes she is standing but standing on some

kind of platform to show that she is higher and greater than the angel.

- We usually see three stars on Mary's garments showing us that she is a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus.
- At the top of the icon we see a semi-circle representing heaven and we see rays coming from heaven upon Our Lady. In some icons we might see a dove representing the Holy Spirit, although that is sometimes saved for the icon of Theophany. Sometimes we even see Our Lord in the semi-circle.
- Mary is holding a spindle of bright red since she was making the curtain for the Temple in Jerusalem.

# The Annunciation





# March Saints Crossword puzzle



## ACROSS

1. ASCETIC SAINT WELL KNOWN FOR HIS BOOK, "THE LADDER," FROM WHICH HIS TITLE "OF THE LADDER" (CLIMACUS) IS DERIVED.
3. THESE 40 MARTYRS WHOM WE COMMEMORATE THIS MONTH WERE PUT TO DEATH IN THIS ARMENIAN CITY.
8. PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM, AND CLOSE TO ST. JOHN MOSCHUS, WHO DEDICATED HIS FAMED SPIRITUAL BOOK "THE SPIRITUAL MEADOW" TO HIM.
9. ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM, AND A GREAT ASCETIC AND DEFENDER OF THE FAITH WHO WROTE THE CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTIONS.
10. THIS WOMAN MARTYR IS COMMEMORATED ON MARCH 27.

## DOWN

2. WONDERWORKER AND BISHOP OF GANGRA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICEA IN 325 AD.
4. ARCHANGEL WHO WAS CHOSEN BY THE LORD TO ANNOUNCE TO THE THEOTOKOS THAT SHE WAS CHOSEN AS MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH.
5. ONE OF THE TWELVE GREAT FEASTS, IN WHICH AN ANGEL APPEARED TO THE THEOTOKOS.
6. THE BRAVE ST. THEODOTUS, BISHOP OF CYRENE ON THIS ISLAND, PREACHED CHRIST FEARLESSLY, DESPITE SUFFERING.
7. COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE FOUNDER OF WESTERN MONASTICISM. HE DIED IN THE YEAR 547.

# EUDOKIA, HOLY SAINT OF HELIOPLOS

Music and Lyrics by Sylvia Dorham  
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SCAN TO HEAR



## LYRICS

Eudokia of Heliopolis (Feast March 1)  
In what we now call Lebanon  
Was very smart and beautiful  
She made a fortune through her sin.  
Eudokia, Eudokia, come hear about

Eudokia,  
A woman with no love for God.  
As down the street she went along  
One night, she heard a chanted song  
Captivated, she stopped in to hear  
More of what fell upon her ear.  
Her neighbor had an elder guest  
A Christian man named Germanus  
To learn of God, he became her guide  
And for some time stayed near her side.  
Eudokia, Eudokia, come hear about

Eudokia,  
Jesus changed her heart around.  
Inside her room, she'd fast and pray  
No longer in her life to stray.  
Away to others gave her wealth  
Thinking no longer of herself.  
Baptised by Bishop Theodotus  
Her new life changed Heliopolis  
In Jesus' name she healed the sick  
Ignoring pagan king's edict.  
Eudokia, Eudokia, come hear about

Eudokia,  
Her faith in Christ's against the law.  
An evil governor took a breath  
And sent Eudokia to her death  
On March the first, One hundred seven,  
Eudokia went off to Heaven.  
Even if you're doing wrong  
Heed what you've learned here in this  
song.

Turn to Jesus, fast and pray  
Your life will go a better way.  
Eudokia, Eudokia, come hear about  
Eudokia,  
The holy saint of Heliopolis.



## DO YOU KNOW THIS HYMN?

# HAVING SUFFERED

PRETERPIVYJ

GREAT FAST



Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

English translation: unknown

(ByziMom.com & ByziKids Magazine thank the Metropolitan Cantor Institute for sharing their sheet music with us!)



When we hear this song at the end of the Presanctified Liturgy we should get ready to make our prostrations! Move into the aisle so you will have plenty of room! How do we do it? We first make the sign of the cross, then kneel down on both knees, then bowing forward, we place our hands down and our faces to the ground. Then we rise and continue our prayer!

### THE MATTHEWS



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

BY J.E. WINGERTER

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# THE Annunciation

**Luke 1:26-38 ... 2 6 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 2 7 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 2 8 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 2 9 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 3 0 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 3 1 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.... 3 8 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."**

**And the angel departed from her.**

Have you ever read a bible story? We love bible stories at our house and read them often at bedtime. God loves it when we read all about

## Eve

- The first mother, Eve, made a decision that caused a chain of events that led to the downfall of mankind.
- The first woman said "No" to God
- Eve listens to an angel, albeit an evil one in the form of a serpent.
- The evil angel deceived her, ("You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.")
- Eve took it upon herself to decide that God should be "with her" by daring to grasp "knowledge" of Him unworthily.

Him in His special book and learn about the ways He acts in the lives of those He loves. Often, when we read the Old Testament Bible stories, about those things that happened to the people of God BEFORE the time of Jesus, we see things that look a lot like events that happened AFTER the coming of Jesus as they are recorded in the New Testament. These parallels help us see the ways in which God often works and can help reinforce our trust in Him. When people in Jesus time saw events that looked similar to events they had read about in the Bible, they recognized the patterns of behavior that God set down in His Word and knew that it was He who was working out these events. Similarly, when we see events unfold in our own time which look familiar, we might compare them to events in scripture to help us recognize whether or not they are God's handiwork!

There are a lot of great examples of such parallels between the stories of the First Sin of Adam and Eve and the Annunciation of the Coming of Christ to the Theotokos by the Archangel Gabriel. Let's take a look:

## Mary

- The Theotokos, Mary, made a decision that caused a chain of events that led to the redemption of mankind.
- The Theotokos said, "Yes" to God
- Mary listens to the words of Gabriel, a beautiful angel, the messenger of God.
- The Archangel Gabriel tells Mary the truth, ("Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!").
- Mary simply accepted her physical oneness with God, which was her pregnancy, as it was revealed to her to be God's will.



## The Celebration of the Feast

There are many superstitions about the feast of the Annunciation.

In Ukraine, for example, it is said that whatever the weather on the day of the feast will be the weather for the feast of Pascha. One may not sew on the Annunciation, get a haircut, or start a new venture on that day as it is considered bad luck. As it is considered a herald of the spring season, no yardwork or gardening may commence until after the Annunciation.

In Greece, not only is it a holy day but it is also the day they celebrate their independence from Turkish rule in 1821 and therefore it is a national holiday! No work or school on the feast day in Greece and in Lebanon as well.

In Austria there is a saying that goes,

***"When Gabriel does the message bring  
Return the swallows, comes the spring."***

This comes from the fact that swallows, considered holy birds in Central Europe, end their migration around March 25th and often are seen returning to the area at that time, after the long winter.

## The Golden Legend of March 25th

The Annunciation may not have been the only important event to have taken place on March 25th. There is a legend that is widely held that was written about in the year 1275 by a man named Jacobus de Voragine, who was Archbishop of Genoa. It is called the "Golden Legend". He said that the 25th of March was they day to commemorate not only the Annunciation, but also the day that Adam fell into sin by his disobedience and sent away from the Garden of Eden! What an interesting parallel! It was also to have been the day that Cain killed his brother Abel, and the day that Melchisadek offered bread and wine to God before Abraham. It was also the day that Abraham offered his son Isaac and the day John the Baptist was beheaded. St. Peter was delivered from prison on that date and it is believed to have been the very day Jesus was crucified. So many important events are thought to have happened on March 25th! What a special day!

- Written by Lynne Wardach

## MEANWHILE...

### CORPUS JURIS CIVILIS

Emperor Justinian left a lasting gift to the world when he decided that the old Roman law needed a renovation.



For more than a thousand years, Roman officials had been writing new laws and ruling on legal matters without ensuring legal consistency. By the time Justinian became emperor the law contained 1,500 books. Most of those laws contradicted other laws and no one could get justice because by keeping one law you were usually breaking another. So if you had an enemy, he could easily convict you of a crime.

Emperor Justinian commanded his brilliant nobleman, Tribonian, to reform everything -- which he completed with rapid speed -- just 14 months! He pitched all those legal books in the garbage pail and gave the Eastern Roman Empire a legal code with only 50 books instead. He made sure these books were clear so everyone could understand the law without confusion. Justinian approved of the new laws and declared the old laws obsolete.

These laws made life better for the average citizen, especially women, slaves and children.

Then Tribonian wrote a textbook for lawyers and judges to learn the new laws. This was called the Corpus Juris Civilis. Hundreds of years later, this text would become the basis for many legal systems throughout the world and had a huge influence on European law.

-Written by Judith Jolma

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# CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

## WITH MRS. SYLVIA DORHAM



March 1

GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 43-51

1

In today's Gospel, we meet some of Jesus' apostles. How many of them can you name?

How many apostles are there? \_\_\_\_\_

P\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_

B\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_

After Judas Iscariot died, who took his place? M\_\_\_\_\_

March 8

GOSPEL: MARK 2: 1-12

2

The friends of the paralyzed man in this Sunday's Gospel had a busy day!

Put their actions in order from 1-14. Check your answers in your Bible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Took off some of the roof.

\_\_\_\_\_ Heard Jesus was nearby.

\_\_\_\_\_ Went up to the roof.

\_\_\_\_\_ Decided to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lowered the man down in front of Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ Were amazed and glorified God!

\_\_\_\_\_ Could not get in the door.

\_\_\_\_\_ Had faith Jesus could heal their friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ Carried the paralyzed man on his bed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Had never seen anything like this.

\_\_\_\_\_ Found the house where Jesus was teaching.

\_\_\_\_\_ Watched Jesus heal their friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pushed through the crowds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Went home rejoicing!

# CAUGHT YOU LISTENING

March 15

GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-38, 9:1

3

Today's Gospel has several paradoxes: statements that sound opposite. Match the words of Jesus to their paradox.

To come after Jesus	Lose it.
To Save your life	Deny yourself, take up your cross, follow.
Lose you life for the Gospel	Forfeit life.
The profit from gaining the world	Save it.
Ashamed of Jesus and his words	Jesus will be ashamed of you.

March 22

GOSPEL: MARK 9:17-31

4

In the Gospel today, Jesus healed the boy with the dumb spirit. Here, dumb means, 'not able to talk.' The boy's father is not sure Jesus can help, but he asks anyway. Jesus made the following reply.

Circle every third word to find out what he said.

"Seven wild All boring events things active chair are helping awful possible history airplane to Jesus today him sound words who noisy slow believes."

March 29

GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45

4

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples what is going to happen to him when they reach Jerusalem, He names six things the Chief Priests will do to him. Then he tells the one thing he will do. Circle what they each will do.

Chief Priests (Choose six)	Jesus (Choose one)
Deliver him to Gentiles	Heal the sick.
Feast with him	Bless the children Fast and pray
Yell at him	Walk on water
Condemn him	Feed the hungry
Run with him	Rise from the dead Motion with his hands Give speeches
Mock him	Wind his watch
Spit on him	Walk to Nazareth
Order him around	Eat candy
Scourge him	Baptize John
Free him	
Kill him	
Worship him	





***Ever wonder what it would have been like to work on the Tower of Babel when God stepped down and confused the language?***

As frustrating as that must have been, people have been fascinated by languages ever since.

For example, people have long played with language by creating clever ways of disguising what they are saying with Gibberish, or Pig Latin. And almost all children have at one point or another tried to create a secret way of speaking that only they and their friends know. Even brilliant adults can enjoy secret words. J.R.R. Tolkien created an entirely new language for the elves in his epic "Lord of the Rings."

What is even more interesting is to see how every generation of teens comes up with their own special phrases and words that make grown-ups feel just like a foreman on site at Babble.

Can't you just imagine that fateful morning? Jubal, the foreman, may have said to the stonemason, "Set that brick over there." And the stonemason would have replied, "And I oop! Sksksksksksk."

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Confused as a parent with teens, the foreman might have looked to his assistant for interpretation. But he only asks, "What is a VSCO girl anyhow?"

But don't think you kids are getting away with it. Your Byzantine parents have our own slang. A special liturgical way of speaking that has baffled Byzantine congregations for thousands of years.

For example, "the radiant father, the resurrected son, and the refulgent Holy Spirit." Need someone to slip the tea on that liturgical phrase? "Refulgent" means to shine brightly.

Pay attention in liturgy and you may hear many words known to older generations but baffling to you. Every heard these words: Ineffable, multifarious murrain, copronymous, and myrrh gusher? If you want to infuse one of these ancient liturgical words into your highschool dialect, may I suggest "Logismoi" which are those troublesome thoughts that come into our minds and distract our thoughts. Do you ship it?

If you listen carefully, you can come up with more words and phrases that you never knew you didn't know. But they don't have to remain mysterious. In fact, they are meant to help express something that is impossible to express. They are supposed to make things clearer — although their meaning requires study. Ask a member of the clergy to explain the meaning of a few terms and maybe he can help you use it in a sentence. But only if you want to be "lit" like the transfiguration.

- Written by Judith Jolma



# LEXICON

## #Word: Ineffable;

**Meaning:** Too great or extreme to be expressed; **Example:** "You are God, ineffable, inconceivable, invisible."

## #Word: Copronymous;

**Meaning:** A nickname for an unpopular Byzantine emperor whose name means "he pooped in the baptismal font." Used often in Byzantine services

## #Word: Refulgent;

**Meaning:** Shining brightly;  
**Use:** "The radiant father, the resurrected son, and the refulgent Holy Spirit."

## #Word: Logismoi;

**Meaning:** Troublesome thoughts or temptations; **Use:** "If we have not attained prayer that is free from logismoi we have no weapon to fight with." St. Hesychion the Priest

## #Word: Rentisterion;

**Meaning:** Greek name for the Holy water sprinkler

## #Word: supersubstantial;

**Use:** "Heavenly and supersubstantial" bread of the eucharist.

# STAND

THIS MONTH'S STAND & STAND JR. VERSES. SUBMIT A VIDEO OF YOURSELF RECITING THE VERSES TO BYZIMOM.COM TO UNLOCK THE NEXT PART OF YOUR ARMOUR!



## VERSES:

GALATIANS 6:9

AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY IN WELL-DOING, FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP, IF WE DO NOT LOSE HEART.

GALATIANS 6:10

SO THEN, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL MEN, AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.



JUNIOR VERSES (6YRS & BELOW):

GENESIS 6:9

AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY IN WELL-DOING

*Mary Rejoice*  
PRAYER

Rejoice O  
Virgin Mother of God,  
Mary  
Full of Grace the  
Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art Thou  
among women  
And blessed is the  
fruit of thy womb;  
For thou has borne  
the Savior and Deliverer  
of our souls.  
AMEN.

ByziKids bookmark 3 of 12

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

Have you ever wished there was something similar to the Christmas Jesse Tree activity to help you better prepare your children for Pascha?

**NOW THERE IS!!**

***The Zacchaeus Tree***

*A Family Guide Through  
the Season of the Great Fast*



by  
Lynne Drozdik Wardach

***The Zacchaeus Tree!***

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## The Catechism of The Ukrainian Catholic Church

### The Annunciation

Each Sunday, during Divine  
Liturgy, we say the Nicene

Creed. One of the many things we think about when we say this creed is the Nativity or the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas. In the creed we say:

*by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

We all know about Christmas, the day Jesus was born, but what is the Annunciation? When we celebrate the Annunciation, we celebrate the day the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to become the Mother of Jesus. At the very moment that Mary gave her consent to this, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became man in the womb of the Virgin Mary. A womb is a special place in a woman's body where a baby can grow until it is big enough to be born.

So, let's do some catechism math. (Oh no, the dreaded math word problem!) If we celebrate Christmas each year on December 25, and it takes a baby nine months to grow inside his mother before it is born, then can you figure the exact date that we celebrate the Annunciation? Good job! That would be March 25, the day we celebrate this great mystery of our Faith.

Since we are talking about a topic connected with the Creed, we can guess that we can learn more about this in **Part 1** of our Catechism, **The Faith of the Church. We see this in the Table of Contents in Part 1, section III.** See if you can find it.

We read in **paragraph 159** that after the fall of Adam and Eve, God did not abandon us. He promised to send us a savior. He promised Adam and Eve that the son (Jesus) of a woman (Mary) would conquer evil and death. God's love for us was stronger than our

human weakness. This was really, really "Good News" for Adam and Eve. This was the first time the "Good News" of the Gospel was ever given to us. We have a fancy word for that first good news to Adam and Eve, we call it the **Protoevangelium**.

Let's go back to the story of the Annunciation. We read about this story in our **Catechism in paragraph 184**. We read that, of all women in the whole world, God chose Mary, a humble girl from Nazareth, to be His mother. God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary to announce this to her. God did not force this on Mary, he waited for her to give her consent — her "yes" to God's plan for her. She used these words to give her "yes" answer.

*I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.*

Read this quote in the Catechism. Look at what is written right after the quote. It says **"Lk 1:38."** This tells us where in the Bible we can read this quote. There is something very special about reading this story from a Bible. See if you can find it there too and read it again in the **Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1**.

After Mary spoke those words, at that very moment, through the power of the Holy Spirit the Second Person of the Holy Trinity took on our human nature and became a tiny baby in the womb of Mary. This is called the **Incarnation**. The word "incarnate" means that God took on a human body and became a man while He was still God.

We should always imitate Mary and always say "yes" to whatever God wants for us. Sometimes we have joys and sometimes sufferings but no matter what, we should always accept everything from God with love the way Mary did.

-Written By Julie Luckey



# BYZIKIDS//calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
★ 1 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY	2 THEODOTUS, BISHOP & MARTYR	3 EUTROPIUS & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	4 VENERABLE GERASIMOS	5 CONON, MARTYR	6 42 MARTYRS OF AMMORIUM	7 2ND ALL SOULS SATURDAY 
8 ★ SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS	9 40 MARTYRS OF SEBASTE	10 CODRATUS & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	11 SOPHRONIUS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM	12 THEOPHANE, VENERABLE CONFESSOR	13 TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF NICEPHORUS	14 3RD ALL SOULS SATURDAY 
15 ★ VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	16 SABINUS & PAPPAS, MARTYRS	17 VENERABLE ALEXIS, MAN OF GOD	18 CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, ARCHBISHOP; MID-POINT OF LENT	19 CHRYSAINTHUS & DARIA, MARTYRS	20 VENERABLE FATHERS OF THE SAINT SABBAS MONASTERY	21 4TH ALL SOULS SATURDAY 
22 ★ SUNDAY OF SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER	23 NICON AND COMPANIONS, VENERABLE MARTYRS	24 GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE	25 + ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS	26 SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL	27 VENERABLE MATRONA	28 AKATHISTOS SATURDAY
29 ★ SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT	30 ★ VENERABLE JOHN OF THE LADDER	31 HYPATIUS, BISHOP				 SCAN ME TO FIND OUR ONLINE ACTIVITIES! (PASS:ARCHANGEL)

**GREEN: FASTING DAYS (ALL DAYS) ★: ACTIVITY FOUND ONLINE +: FEAST DAY**