



The Birth of the Most Holy Theotokos & The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church
Children's Sunday School



***Our Father
who art in Heaven
hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from the evil one
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, and the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever
Amen***

Meaning of the Word **Theotokos**

Theotokos, (Greek: “God-Bearer”), in Eastern Orthodoxy, the designation of the Virgin Mary as Mother of God

Theos -meaning God

Tokos -meaning Childbirth

The Holy Mother of God



The Birth of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Blessed Mary, Mother of Jesus, was born in the small Galilean city of Nazareth

Her parents were the righteous Joachim from the prophet's family and King David and Anna from the family of the high priest Aaron.

Joachim and Anna were childless since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They firmly believed that everything is possible for God and that He can resolve Anna's infertility even in her old age, as He once resolved the infertility of Sarah, the wife of Patriarch Abraham.

Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to consecrate to God for service in the temple a child that the Lord would send them.



ISRAEL DURING THE TIME OF JESUS



Jesus Travels

Jerusalem - The capital and a central location for many events in the life of Jesus, including the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection (Easter time)

Bethlehem - The birthplace of Jesus, where the Nativity took place (Christmas time)

Nazareth - The town where Jesus & His Mother Mary grew up and spent their early lives

Galilee - A region where much of Jesus' ministry occurred. The Sea of Galilee is associated with several miracles, including the feeding of the 5,000

Jordan River - The site of Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist

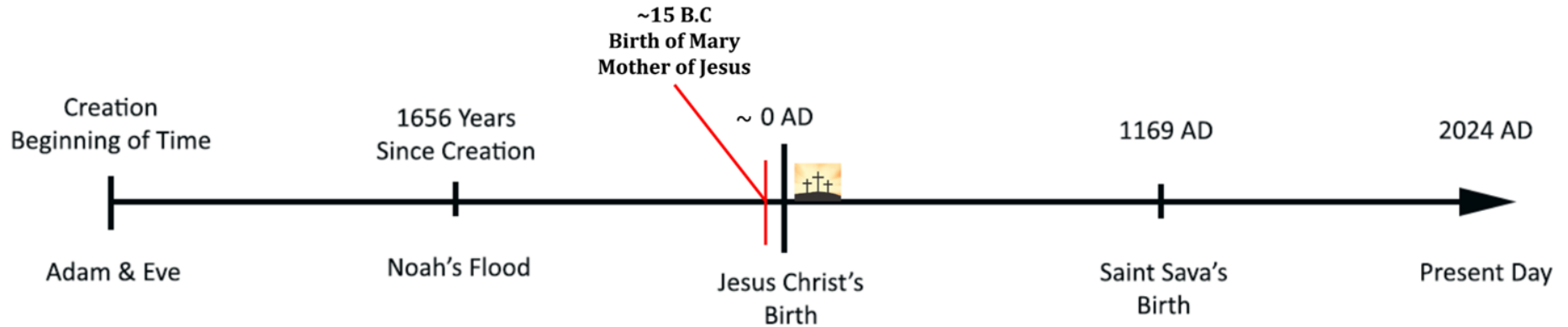
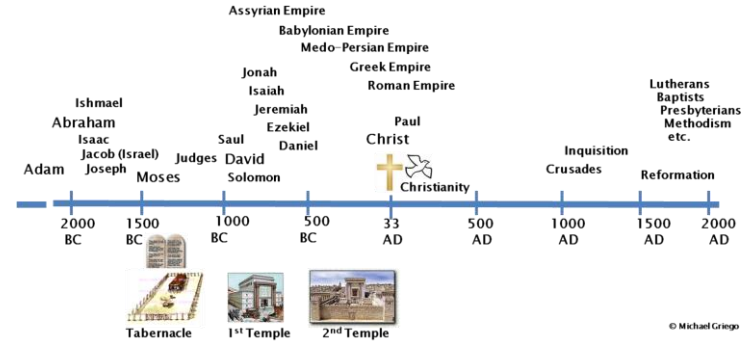
The Birth of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Archangel Gabriel brought joyful news to Joachim and Anna: their prayers were heard by God, and the Blessed Daughter Mary would be born to them, through whom salvation would be given to the whole world. The Blessed Virgin Mary, with her purity and virtue, surpassed all people and the angels. She was the living temple of God, and, as the Church sings in joyful hymns, "the Heavenly Door, introducing Christ into the Universe for the salvation of our souls"

The Church celebrates the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary as a day of universal joy. On this bright day, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born at the turn of the Old and New Testaments. Through Divine Providence, she was chosen to serve the mystery of the incarnation of God the Word - to appear as the Mother of the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Timeline



The Birth of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Nativity of the Mother of God marked the onset of the time when God's great and comforting promises about the salvation of the human race from the slavery of the devil began to be fulfilled. This event brought closer to earth the grace-filled Kingdom of God, the kingdom of truth, righteousness, virtue, and immortal life.



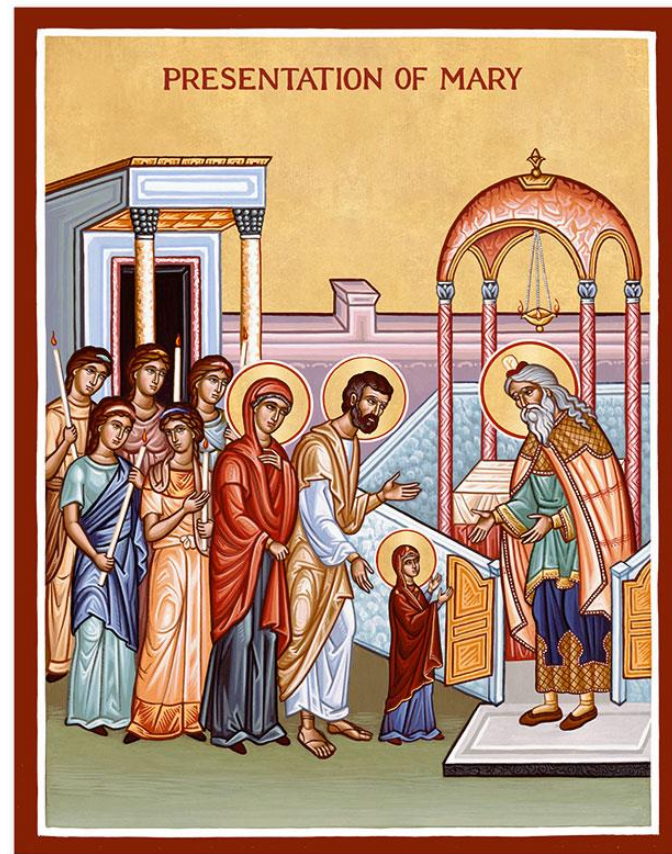
The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

When Mary, the Holy Theotokos, was three years old, the holy parents decided to fulfill their promise to God. Gathering relatives and friends, dressing the Blessed Mary in the best clothes, and singing sacred songs with lighted candles in her hands, they led her to the Jerusalem temple. There the high priest along with a multitude of priests met the maiden.

The temple had fifteen high steps which led inside. It seemed the infant Mary could not have climbed those stairs herself. But as soon as She was placed on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly overcame the rest of the steps and ascended to the top. Then the high priest, by inspiration from above, led Her into the Holy of Holies.

Righteous Joachim and Anna, having handed over the Child to the will of the Heavenly Father, returned home. Blessed Mary remained in the living quarters in which those dedicated to the service of God stayed.

In commemoration of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple of Jerusalem, the Holy Church established a solemn feast.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RfSim2pAWs>