



Resources for Teaching
our budding rocks of faith

Prefigurations of the Theotokos

Activities for making an Orthodox-themed Jesse tree



THE ROOT OF JESSE



16th-century icon painted by Theodore Poulakis, in the Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens, Greece.
Photo by Tilemahos Efthimiadis, Athens, Greece, CC BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons.

- Draw a rectangle around the Theotokos and Christ.
- Draw circles around the Old Testament Prophets.
- Draw a line under the figure of Jesse.

MATCH THE SYMBOL TO THE PHRASE

Print and cut out the phrases found on the following page.
On this page, glue each phrase next to the corresponding symbol.



Ladder

**Mountain
unhewn**



**Burning
bush**

**Sealed
gate**



Fleece

Tongs



Ark

**Seven-light
lampstand**



**Sprouted
staff**

MATCH THE SYMBOL TO THE PHRASE



A stone was cut out, not by human hands. (Daniel 2:34)

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. (Isaiah 6:6-7)

The staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted. It put forth buds, produced blossoms, and bore ripe almonds. (Numbers 17:8)

Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. (Psalm 132:8)

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven. (Genesis 28:10-13)

He wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. (Judges 6:26-38)

The bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. (Exodus 3:2)

This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it. (Ezekiel 44: 1-3)

I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it. (Zachariah 4:2)

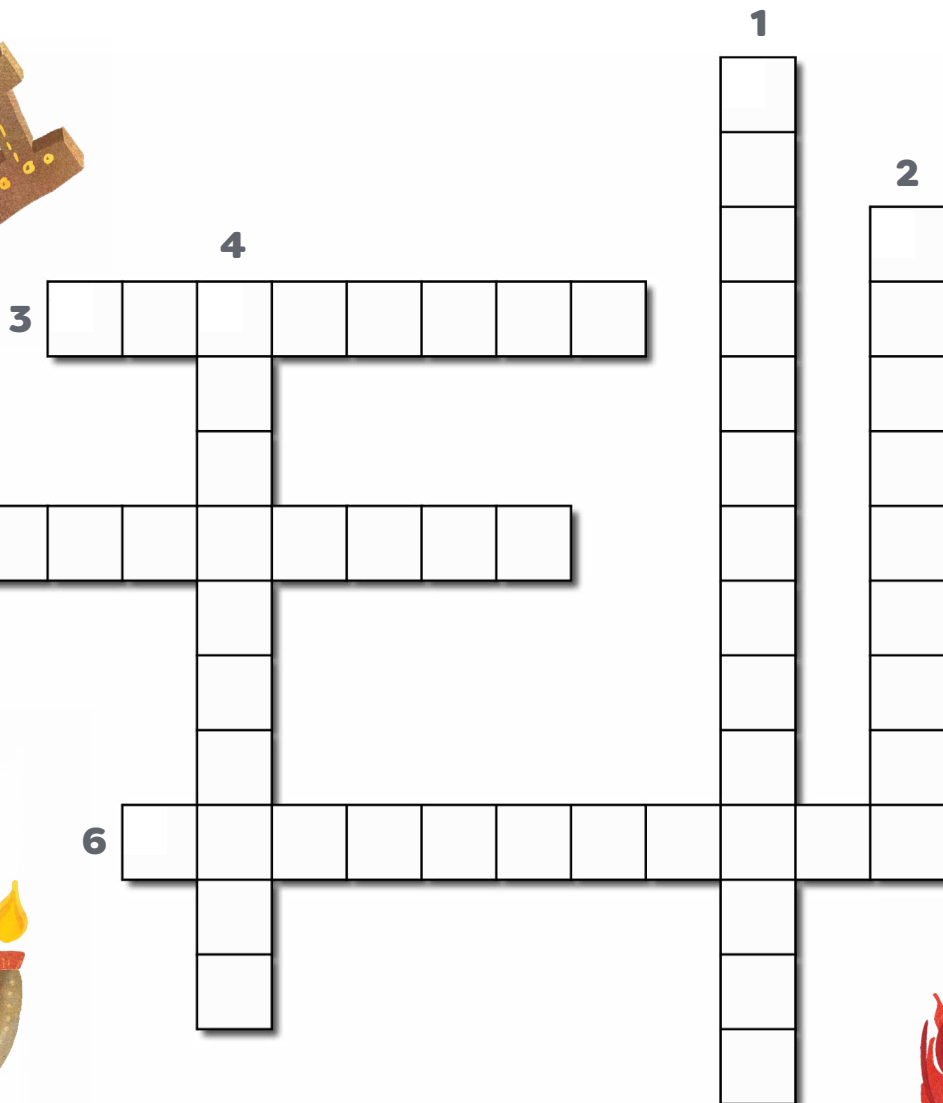
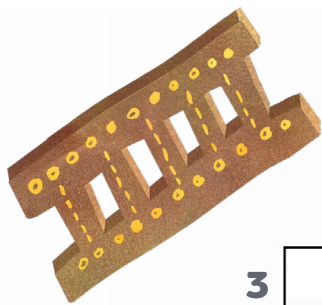
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Fill in the crossword puzzle using the following words:

THEOTOKOS - INCARNATION - PREFIGURATIONS NATIVITY - TESTAMENTS - SALVATION

1. The _____ are the symbols of the Theotokos in the Old Testament.
2. The Nativity of Christ is part of God's plan for our _____.
3. Another name for Christmas.
4. The Old and the New _____ are Holy Books of the Church.
5. The Mother of God is called the _____.
6. Our Lord became a man like us. This is called the _____.

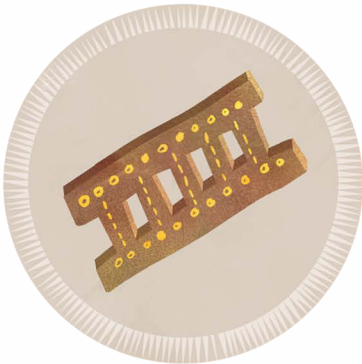


MATCH THE SYMBOLS TO THEIR NAMES

Print and cut out the medallions found on the following page.
On this page, glue each medallion on the corresponding circle.



MATCH THE SYMBOLS TO THEIR NAMES



CUT & GLUE CRAFT



Print this page and cut out the circles. Glue or hang them on a tree branch to make an Orthodox-themed Jesse tree.

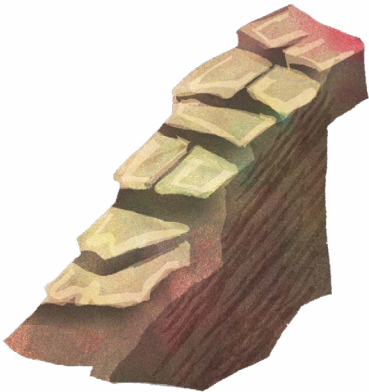


MEMORY



Print and cut out the cards found on this and on the following page. Laminate them or print them on card stock for sturdiness. Printing them on the back side of scrapbooking paper will produce cards with a pretty design on the back. Use the cards to play Memory as follows: The cards are placed face down. Each player turns over a pair of cards. If the pair is made up of a Theotokos symbol and the corresponding name, the player gets to keep the cards. Otherwise the cards are turned over again and the next player takes a turn. The game ends when all the cards have been collected, and the winner is the player with the largest number of cards.

Sealed gate	Mountain unhewn	Burning bush
Seven-light lampstand	Tongs	Fleece
Sprouted staff	Ladder	Ark





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