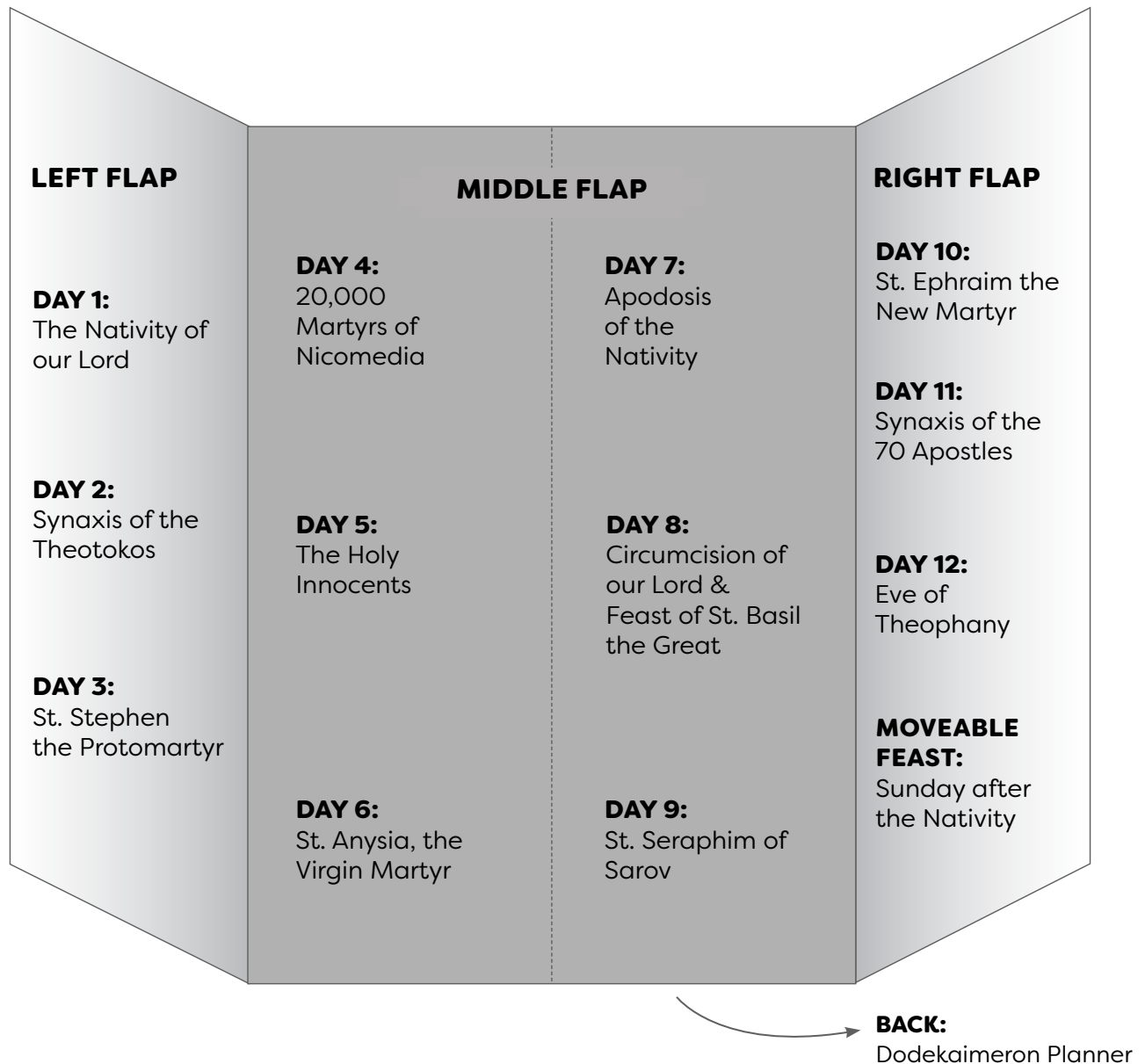




**THE TWELVE
DAYS OF
CHRISTMAS
LAPBOOK**



LAPBOOK PLANNING

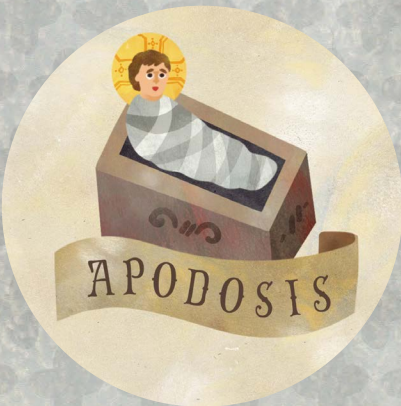


The Dodekaimeron lapbook is made out of one file folder, refolded to open like window shutters. In class, the lapbook can be completed over one or more lessons, depending on the available time. At home, the student can work on the lapbook one day at a time, starting on Christmas Eve with the planner, then working on each day, aiming to have the whole lapbook completed by the Eve of Theophany.

LAPBOOK COVER




The 12 Days of Christmas



Cut the image all around, then cut in half down the middle following the shape of your folder front cover. Glue onto the cover.

LAPBOOK BACK: PLANNER COVER PAGE

DAY 1	The 12 Days of Christmas 	DAY 2
DAY 3		DAY 4
DAY 5		DAY 6
DAY 7		DAY 8
DAY 9		DAY 10
DAY 11		DAY 12
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY		Remove this part.

Cut all around the shape; fold along the long grey rectangle edges.
Glue the grey rectangle over the planner bottom page.

PLANNER BOTTOM PAGE - Younger children



The child should draw a picture on each rectangle, relative to the celebration of each day.

	Glue cover page here.	

Cut the rectangle all around and glue it to the back of the lapbook. Glue the planner cover page on top.

PLANNER BOTTOM PAGE - Older children

The child should write what is celebrated on each day.

We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		We celebrate...
We celebrate...		

Cut the rectangle all around and glue it to the back of the lapbook. Glue the planner cover page on top.

DAY 1: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Tab book

This activity helps discuss the icon of the Nativity. On each page, the child draws a picture of a part of the icon.
If they wish, they can also write a basic fact about it.
There is a copy of an icon of the Nativity after this activity that can be used for reference.

ANGELS	3 MAGI
THE THEOTOKOS	<div data-bbox="881 1220 1179 1444"> <p>DAY 1: Our Lord Jesus Christ is born!</p> </div> 

COVER

Cut the shapes all around and stack them together, paying attention to the position of the tabs.
There should be nine tabs: three on top, three on the right, and three on the bottom. Place the cover
on top. Staple the pages together on the left side. Glue the book onto the lapbook.



DAY 1: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Tab book

	OUR LORD		ST. JOSEPH
SHEPHERDS			ANIMALS
THE DEVIL		THE BATH	

DAY 1: HOLY NATIVITY

THE ICON OF THE GREAT FEAST



15th-century icon from Crete by unknown artist - Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

DAY 2: THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

Octagon accordion book

The Heavens

The Magi

The shepherds

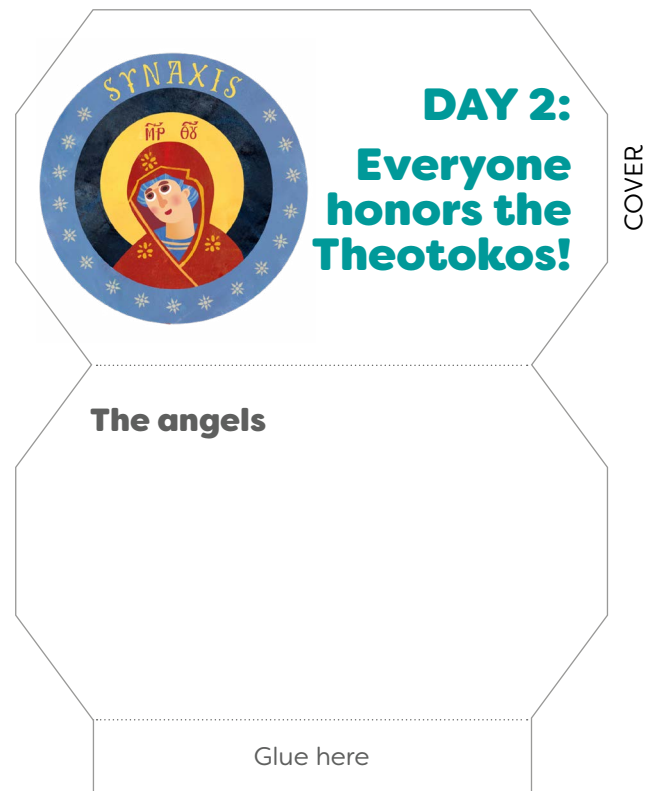
**The faithful and
the Saints**

**The earth
and the
wilderness**

The child looks at the icon of the feast and reflects on the Nativity sticheron from which the icon is derived.

“What shall we offer You, O Christ, who for our sake has appeared on the earth as a man? Every creature which You have made offers You thanks. The angels offer You a song. The heavens, their star. The wise men, their gifts. The shepherds, their wonder. The earth, its cave. The wilderness, the manger. And we offer You a Virgin Mother. O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!”

Then the child draws a picture for everyone who is shown in the icon to be honoring the Theotokos. There is a copy of an icon of the Synaxis of the Theotokos after this activity that can be used for reference.



Cut the shapes out all around on the solid lines. Glue the cover part to the top of the larger shape. Fold up like an accordion on the dotted lines. Glue the back of the last piece of the accordion onto the lapbook.

DAY 2: SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

THE ICON OF THE FEAST



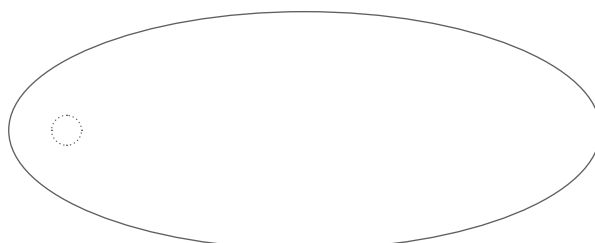
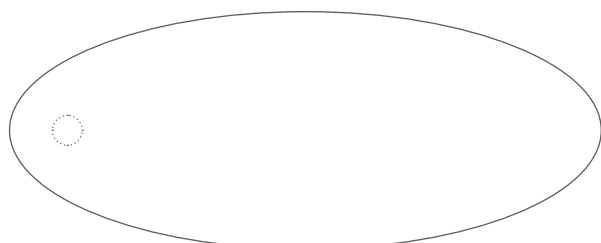
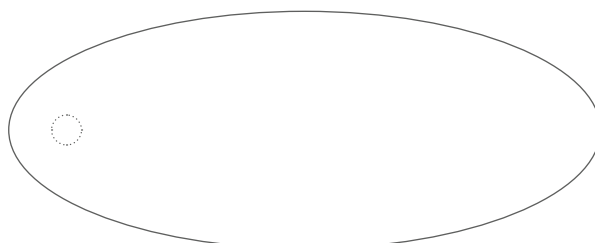
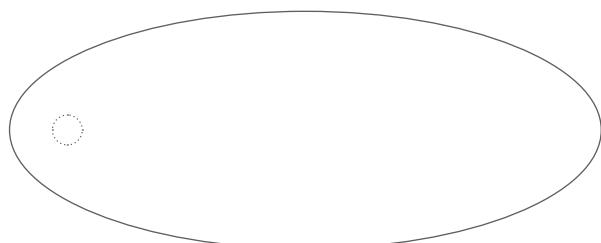
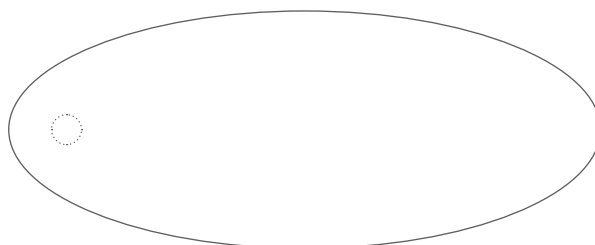
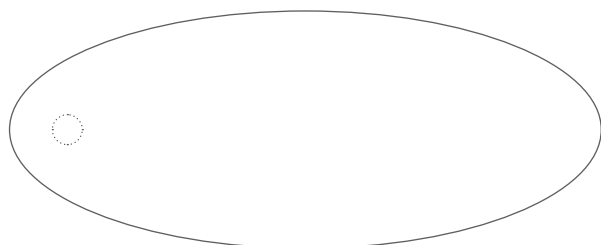
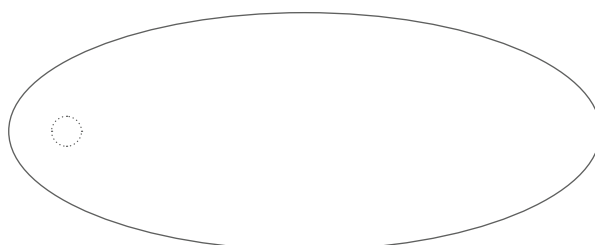
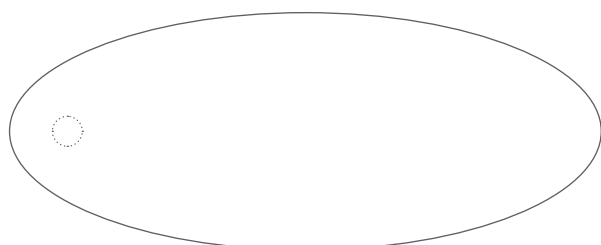
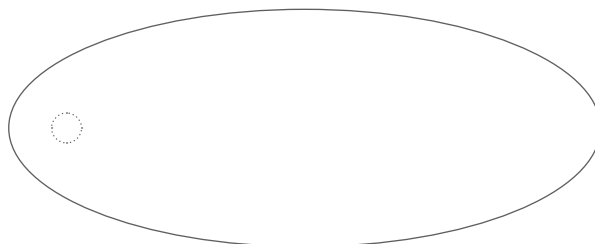
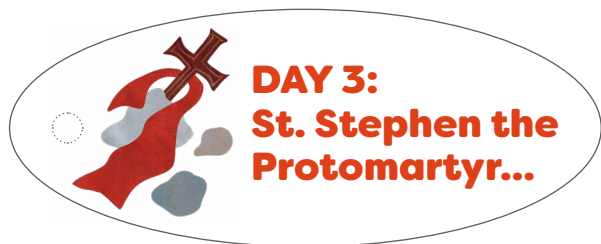
17th- century Russian icon by unknown artist - Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

DAY 3: ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR

Fan book

On each piece, the child writes (or draws a picture of) a characteristic of St. Stephen or a fact from his life.

Examples: St. Stephen... served the Church as a deacon / was the first martyr / was stoned to death for Christ / saw a vision of Heaven / was accused of blasphemy... etc.



Print this page on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the ovals all around on the solid lines. You can use as many ovals as you wish. Stack the ovals together with the cover on top. Punch a hole on the mark. Fasten with a mini paper fastener. Glue the fan book onto the lapbook.

DAY 4: 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA

Pocket and accordion

On each part of the accordion, the child writes (or draws a picture of) a scene from the story of the martyrdom of the 20,000 martyrs of Nicomedia.



POCKET



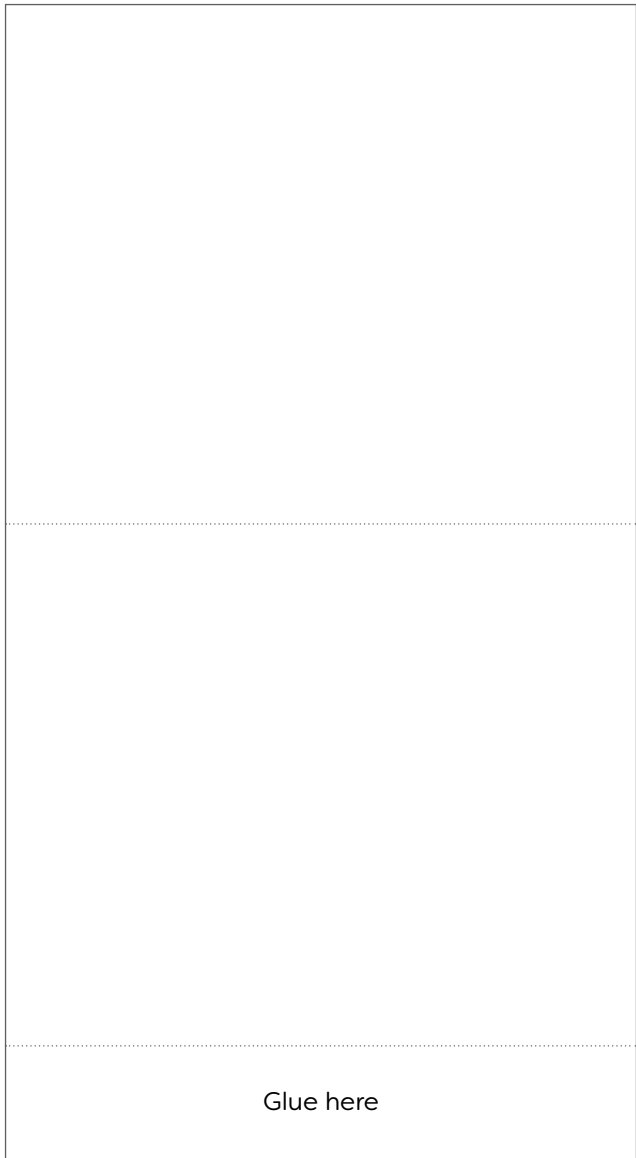
DAY 4: 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA

Pocket and accordion

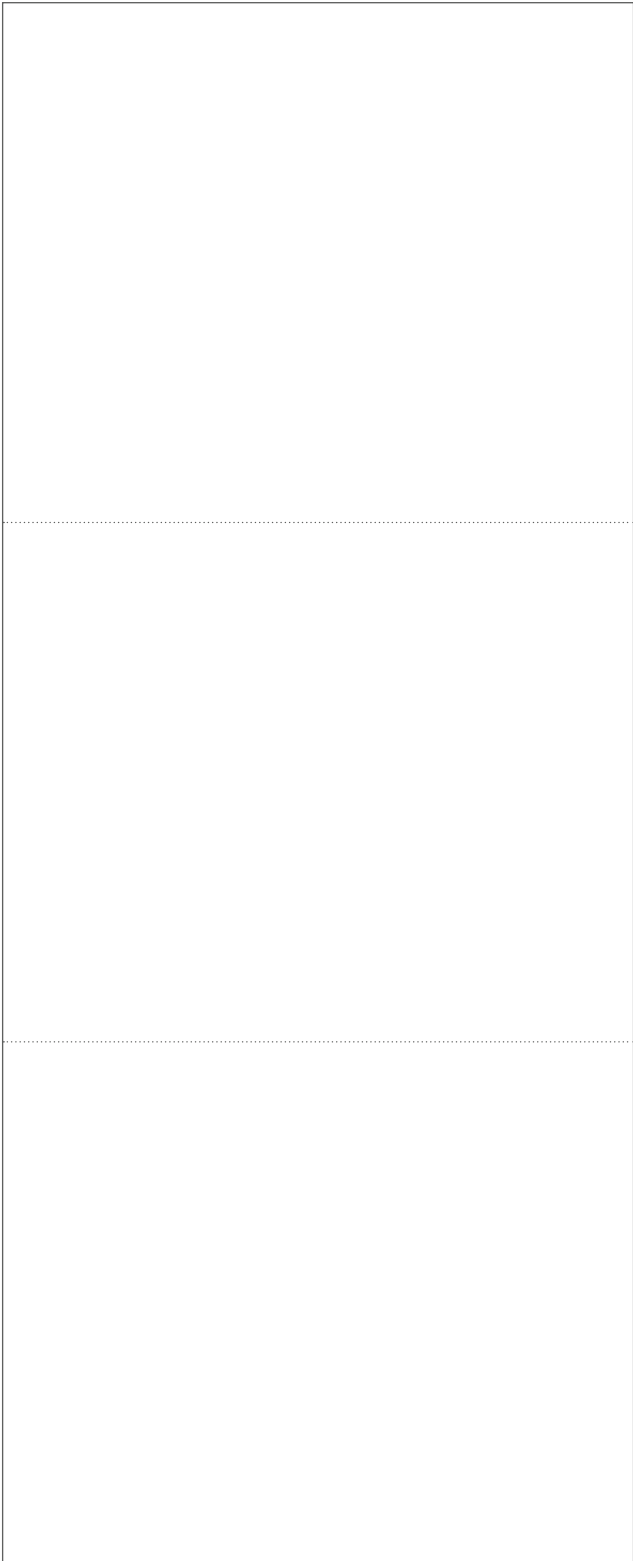
Cut the shapes of this page and of the previous page all around on the solid lines.

To make the envelope, first cut a slit on the bottom flap as marked, using a craft knife. Fold the side flaps in on the dotted lines, then fold the bottom and top flap in. Glue the envelope onto the lapbook.

To make the accordion, first glue the two rectangles of this page together as marked to make a long strip. Fold up the strip like an accordion on the dotted lines. Open up the envelope. Glue the back of the last piece of the accordion to the inside of the envelope.



ACCORDION





DAY 5: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Pocket with cards

The child draws a comic strip of the story of the Holy Innocents, each card showing one panel.

Then the child places the cards in order and tells the story.

Examples: King Herod asked the Magi to tell him the place where the Christ was born. /

King Herod let the Magi go and visit the newborn Christ. / The Magi offered Christ their gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

/ After the Magi worshipped the Infant Christ, they were advised by an angel to leave immediately to their land.

/ King Herod was furious and ordered his soldiers to kill all baby boys in the region of Bethlehem.

/ 14,000 baby boys were killed and became the first martyrs for the sake of Christ.

CARDS

Print the cards on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the pocket all around on the solid lines. Fold the bottom part of the pocket up. Fold the tabs in and glue them onto the back of the pocket. Glue the cover onto the front of the pocket. Glue the pocket onto the lapbook.

DAY 5: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Pocket with cards

POCKET

COVER

**DAY 5:
THE HOLY
INNOCENTS**



FLAP

Fold this side up.

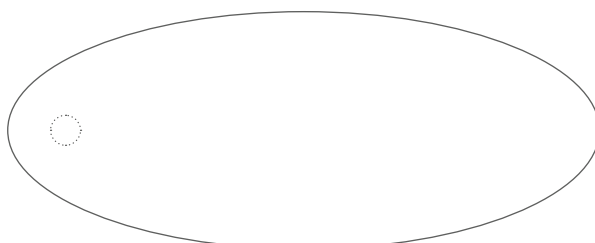
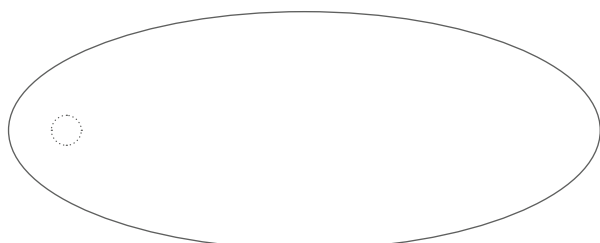
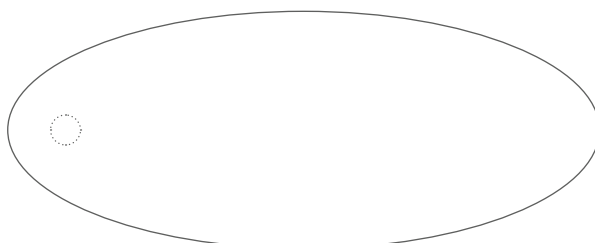
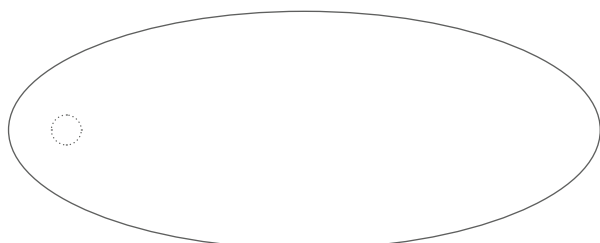
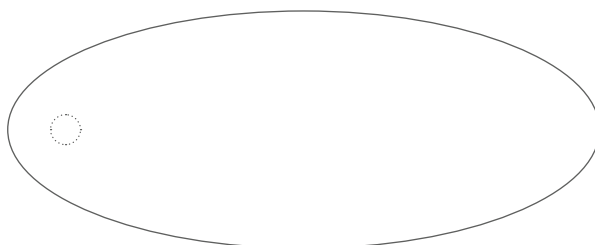
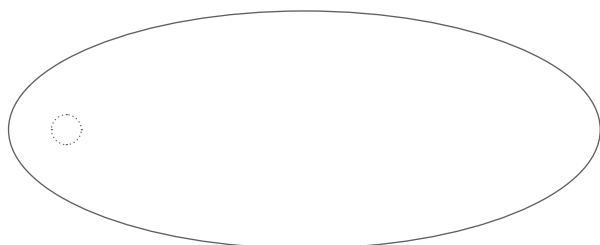
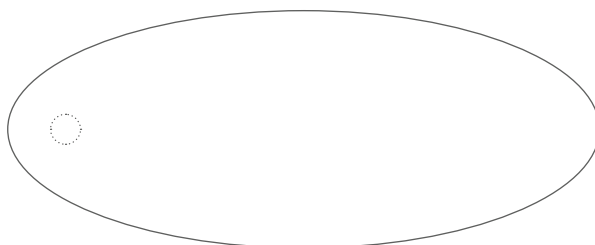
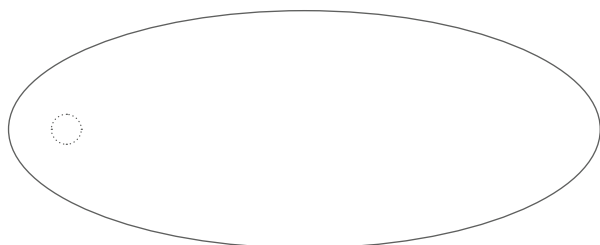
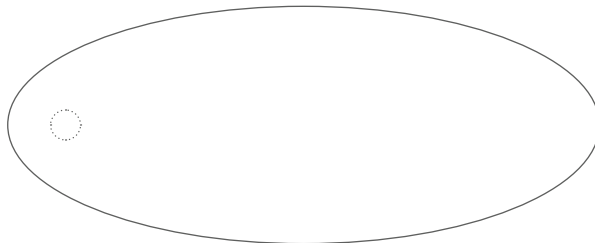
FLAP

DAY 6: ST. ANYSIA THE VIRGIN MARTYR

Fan book

On each piece, the child writes (or draws a picture of) a characteristic of St. Anysia or a fact from her life.

Examples: St. Anysia... lived in the Greek city of Thessaloniki / was pure and pious / sold everything to take care of the poor / was ordered by a soldier to worship the idols but she refused / was murdered by sword.. etc.



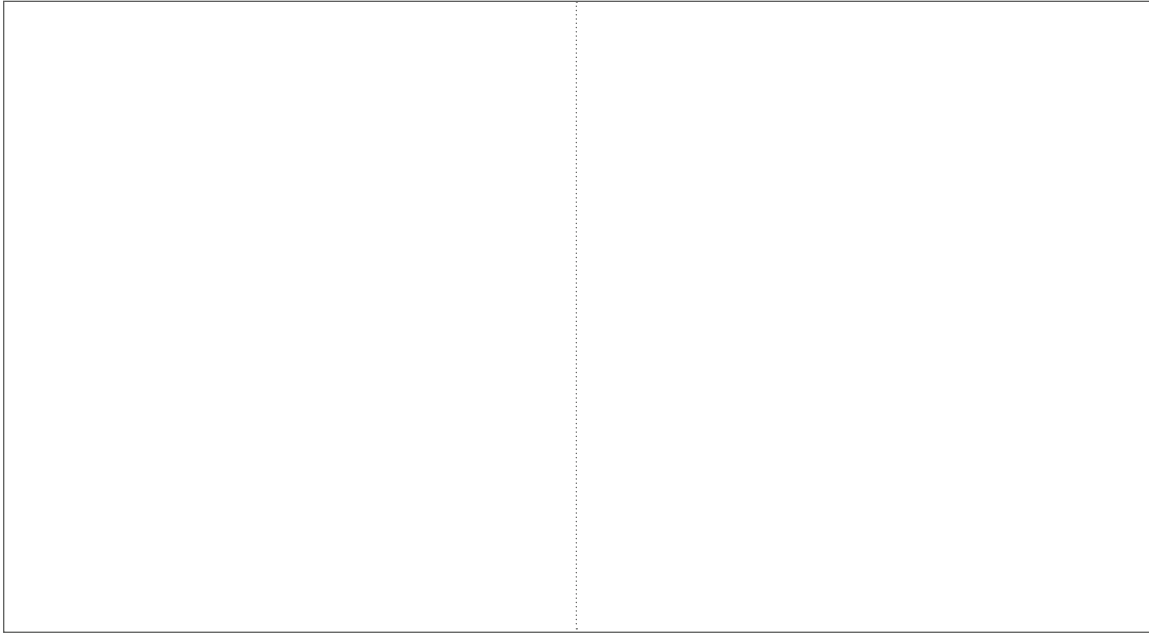
Print this page on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the ovals all around on the solid lines. You can use as many ovals as you wish. Stack the ovals together with the cover on top. Punch a hole on the mark. Fasten with a mini paper fastener. Glue the fan book onto the lapbook.

DAY 7: APODOSIS OF THE NATIVITY

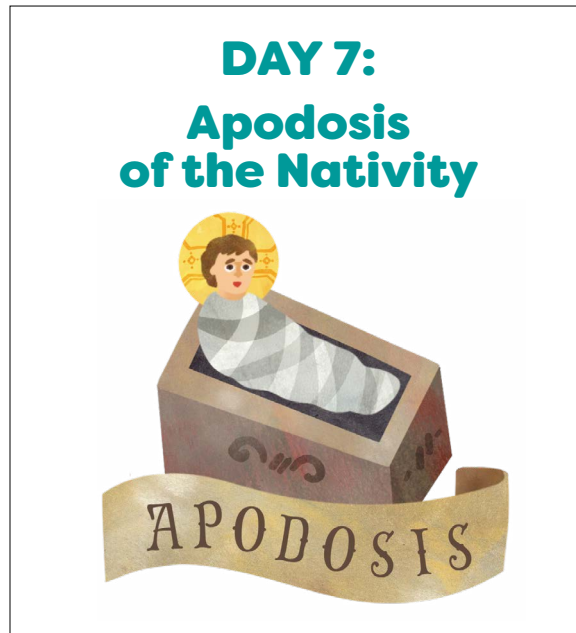
Simple fold book for older children

(There is one version of this book for older and one for younger children.)

The child opens up the book and writes an explanation of the term "Apodosis of a feast".



COVER



Cut the rectangles all around on the solid lines. Fold the book and glue it onto the lapbook.
Glue the cover onto the book.

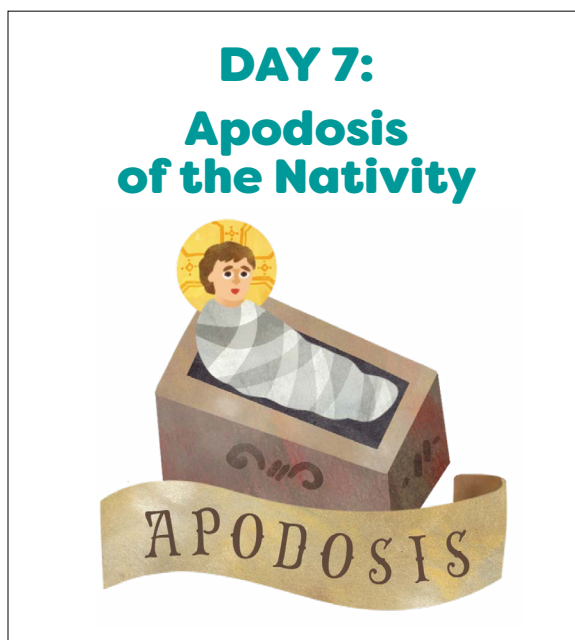
DAY 7: APODOSIS OF THE NATIVITY

Simple fold book for younger children

The child opens up the book and writes the name of the feast.



COVER



Cut the rectangles all around on the solid lines. Fold the book and glue it onto the lapbook.
Glue the cover onto the book.



DAY 8: THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD - ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Trifold pocket with cards

This activity helps discuss both of the feasts commemorated on this day. The child writes (or draws a picture of) a detail about each feast on every card. The cards are then shuffled and placed in the center pocket. The child takes out the cards from the center pocket and has to sort them, deciding whether each card belongs to the left pocket (Circumcision) or to the right one (St. Basil).

CARDS

Print the cards on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the pocket rectangle all around on the solid lines. Fold the pocket rectangle on the horizontal dotted line to make the three pockets. Glue each pocket in place with a little glue on its sides. Fold the pocket rectangle as a trifold on the vertical dotted lines. Glue the trifold onto the lapbook. Place the cards inside the center pocket to store.

DAY 8: THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD - ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Trifold pocket with cards

DAY 8:

**St. Basil the
Great**



Glue this side onto
the lapbook.

DAY 8:

**The
Circumcision
of our Lord**



POCKET

**ST. BASIL THE
GREAT**

**THE
CIRCUMCISION
OF OUR LORD**

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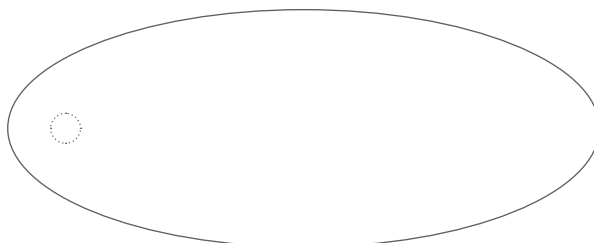
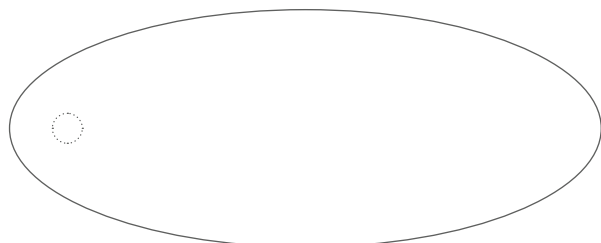
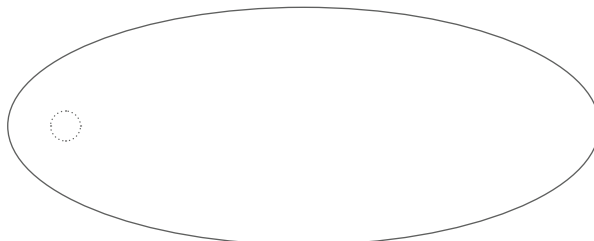
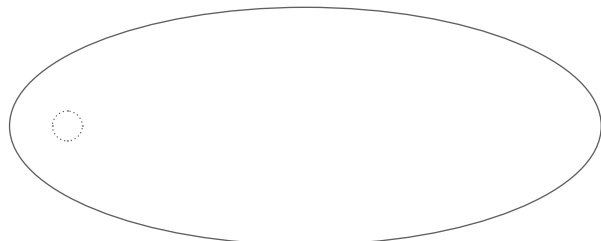
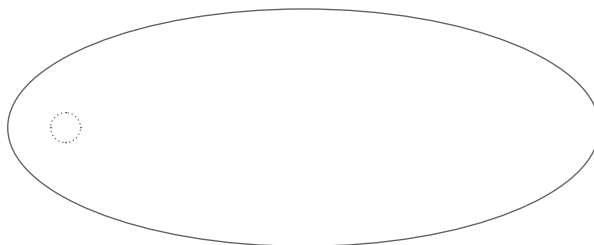
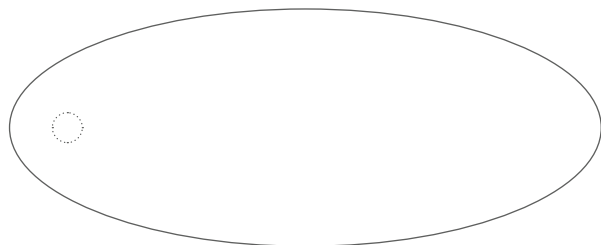
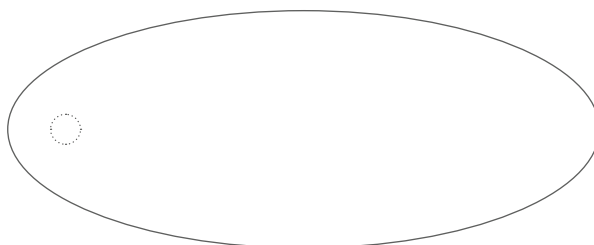
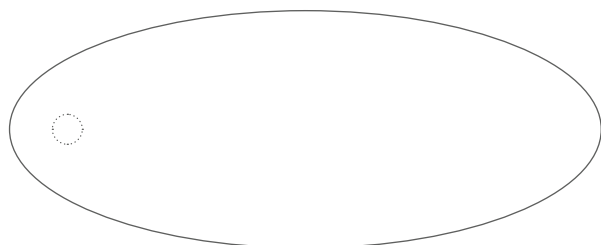
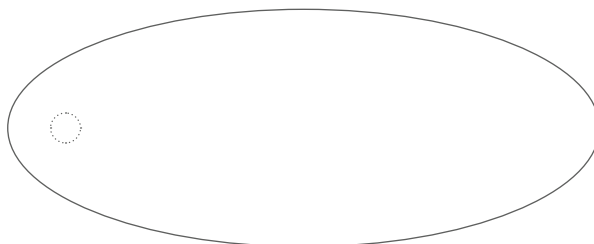
CARDS

DAY 9: ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

Fan book

On each piece, the child writes (or draws a picture of) a characteristic of St. Seraphim or a fact from his life.

Examples: St. Seraphim... was a priest-monk / lived in the wilderness for fifteen years / became friends with the beasts and bears / / returned to the monastery after living for fifteen years as a hermit / was a great elder and wonder-worker... etc.



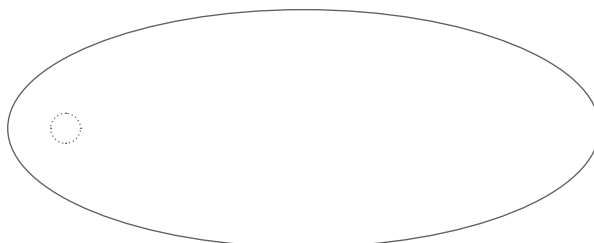
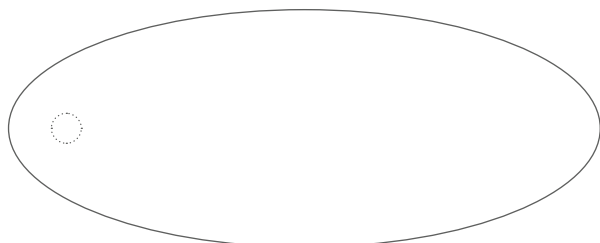
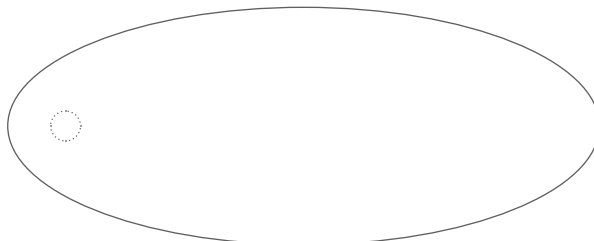
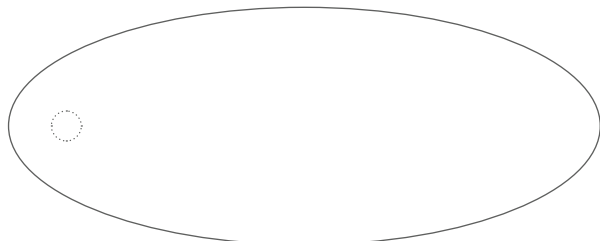
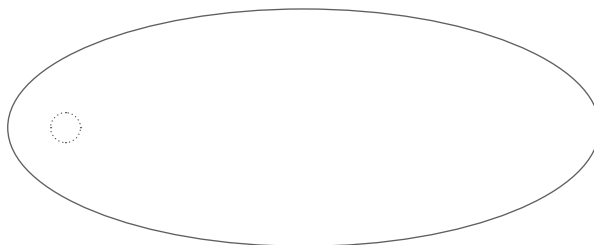
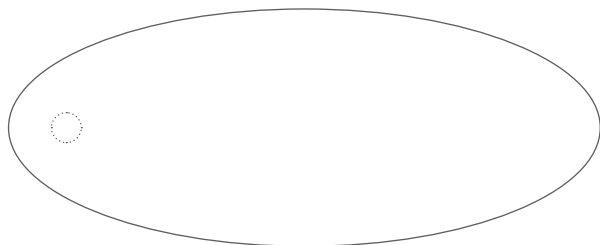
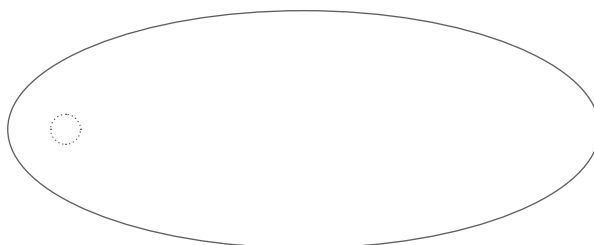
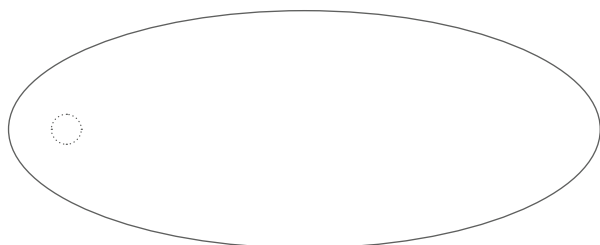
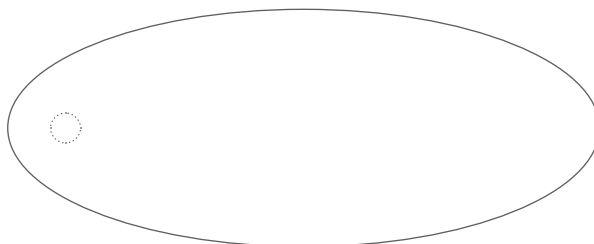
Print this page on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the ovals all around on the solid lines. You can use as many ovals as you wish. Stack the ovals together with the cover on top. Punch a hole on the mark. Fasten with a mini paper fastener. Glue the fan book onto the lapbook.

DAY 10: ST. EPHRAIM THE NEW MARTYR

Fan book

On each piece, the child writes (or draws a picture of) a characteristic of St. Ephraim or a fact from his life.

Examples: St. Ephraim... lived about 600 years ago / his relics were miraculously discovered less than 100 years ago / was a monk who lived in Greece / was tortured on a tree and killed by the Turks for his Christian faith... etc.



Print this page on sturdier paper for best results. Cut the ovals all around on the solid lines. You can use as many ovals as you wish. Stack the ovals together with the cover on top. Punch a hole on the mark. Fasten with a mini paper fastener. Glue the fan book onto the lapbook.

DAY 11: SYNAXIS OF THE SEVENTY APOSTLES

Accordion T-book

ACCORDION

On each of the four parts of the mini book, the child writes or draws a picture of some information about the Holy Seventy Apostles. This can include what our Lord sent them out to do, why the Church honors them, some of their names, something about the Canon of their Synaxis..

DAY 11: Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles



COVER

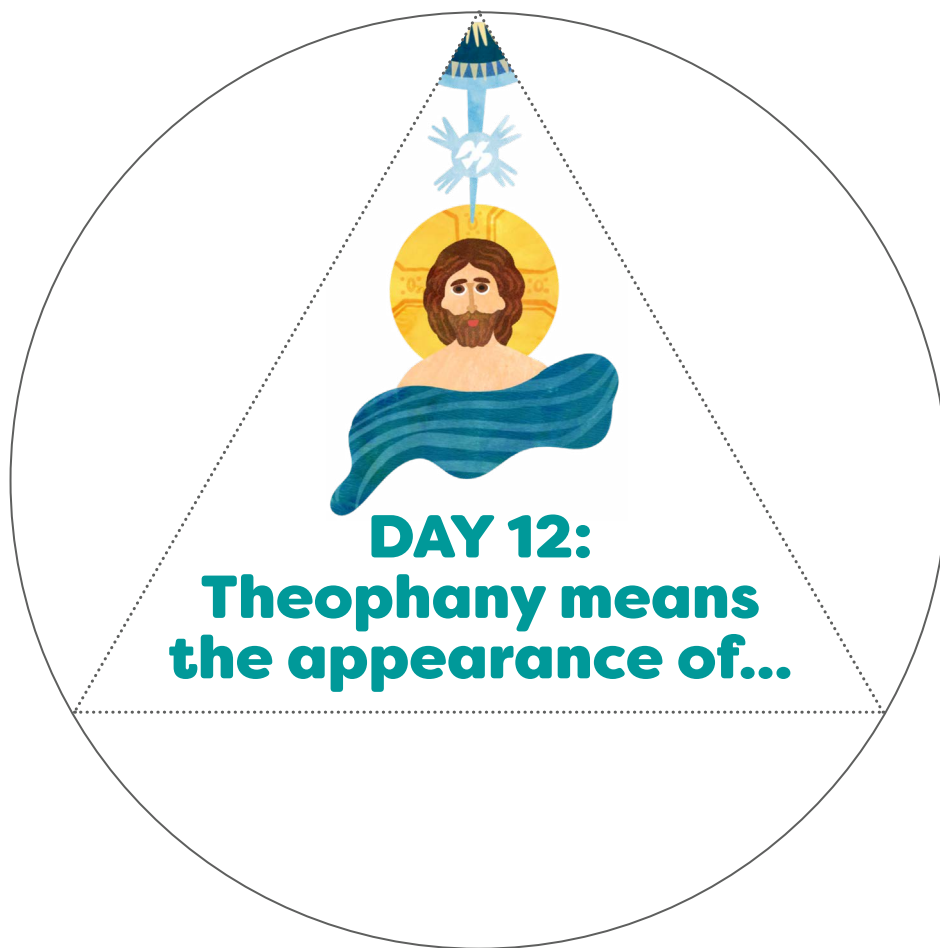
Glue this part on the lapbook.

Cut the shape and cover on the solid lines. Fold on the dotted lines. Glue the back side of the T-book onto the lapbook. The top part becomes an accordion which is folded down and covered by the side part. Glue the cover on the outside of the side part.

DAY 12: EVE OF THEOPHANY

On each flap the child writes a Person of the Holy Trinity.

Triangle petal book



Cut out the circle. Write one answer on each petal. Fold flaps in at the dotted lines. Glue the petal book on the lapbook. To keep the petal book closed, tuck the last flap under.



MOVEABLE FEAST: SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

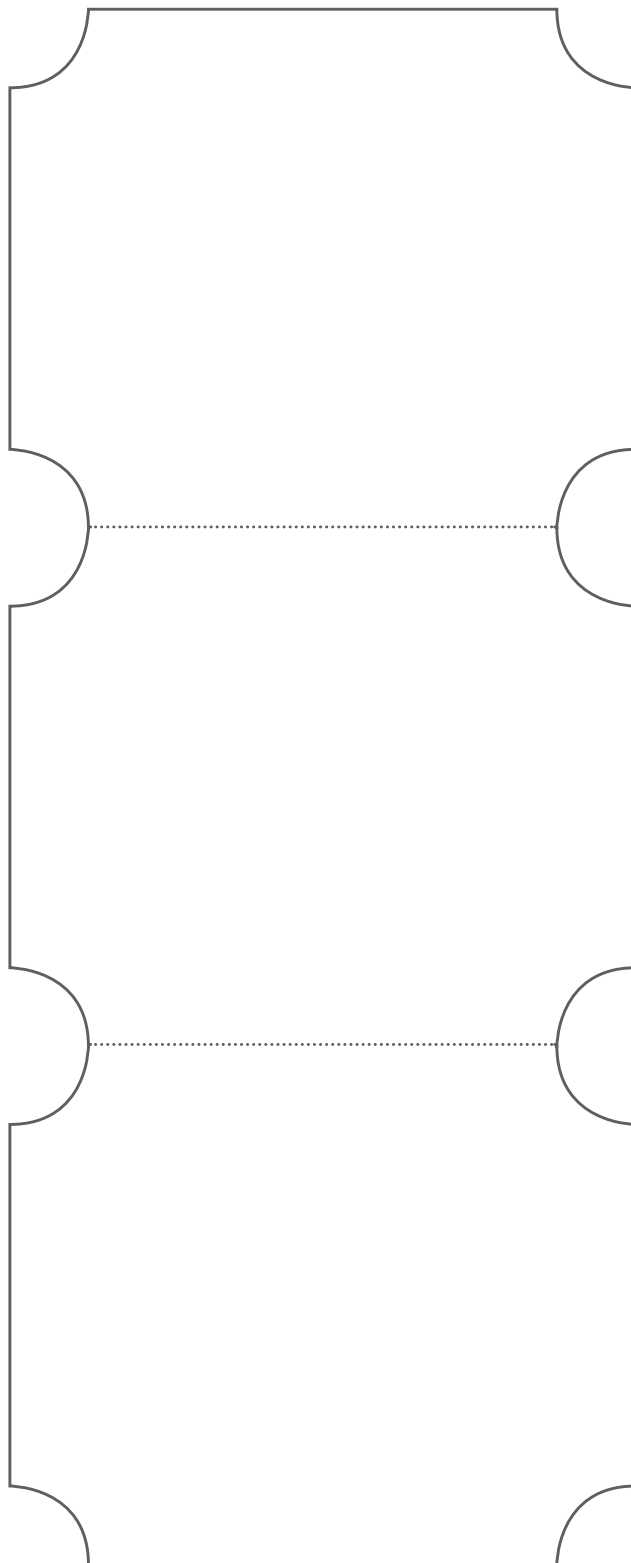
Trifold book

On each of the three parts of the mini book, the child writes about or draws a picture of one of the saints of the day.



Cover

Cut out the cover. Cut out the trifold on the solid lines. Fold on the dotted lines. Glue the cover on the top flap.





Resources for Teaching

our budding rocks of faith

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