



LESSON MODULE · SSS–L0001

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Book Study: The Law of God — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

Lesson Focus: The students will learn about the birth of the Most Holy Theotokos, the parents of the Virgin Mary, Joachim and Anna, and how God prepared Mary from her birth to become the Mother of Jesus Christ.



Introduction

- Who is the Mother of Jesus?
- What do we call her in the Orthodox Church?
- Why do we call Mary the Theotokos?
- Do you think Mary was important to God's plan before Jesus was born?

Theotokos means "Birthgiver of God" or "Mother of God."

We call Mary the Theotokos because the child she gave birth to is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became truly man while remaining truly God.

The Story of Saints Joachim and Anna

The parents of the Virgin Mary were named Joachim and Anna. They were faithful people who loved God. However, they were very sad because they had no children. At that time, having children was considered a great blessing, and Joachim and Anna carried this sorrow for many years. They continued to pray to God. They did not turn away from God because they were suffering. Instead, they remained faithful.

Important point:

Sometimes we pray for something and do not receive the answer immediately. Does that mean God has forgotten us? No. God hears our prayers, even when we don't understand His timing.

The Birth of Mary

God answered the prayers of Joachim and Anna. They were blessed with a daughter, and they named her Mary. Her birth is celebrated by the Church as the Nativity of the Theotokos. The Church celebrates this feast because Mary's birth is part of God's preparation for the coming of Christ.

Mary would eventually become:
The Mother of Jesus Christ
The Mother of God
The Theotokos

Why Is Mary's Birth Important?

Mary's birth is important because God was preparing the way for the Incarnation. The Incarnation means that:

The Son of God became man. God chose Mary to participate in this great mystery.

Mary's life teaches us about:

- Faith
- Humility
- Obedience
- Purity
- Trust in God
- Love for God



Scripture Connection

The prophecy:

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and
you shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14 — SAAS

The Old Testament contains prophecies pointing toward Christ and His coming into the world. The birth of Mary is part of the preparation for this great event.

Memory Verse

Luke 1:38 — NKJV

"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."



Today we learned about the birth of the Virgin Mary. Her birth was part of God's plan to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus Christ. We can learn from the Theotokos and Saints Joachim and Anna to trust God, pray, and remain faithful.

The Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated September 8/21.

Key Vocabulary

Nativity

Birth

Theotokos

"Birthgiver of God" or "Mother of God."

Virgin

Mary, who remained a virgin and became the Mother of Christ.

Annunciation

The announcement by the Archangel Gabriel that Mary would give birth to the Son of God.

Salvation

God's work of saving humanity and bringing us into communion with Him.

Tradition

The life and teaching handed down within the Church.