October 1 / 14

Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saint Sergius School · SSS-L0004



Opening Questions

What does it mean to protect someone?

Who do you ask to pray for you when you need help?

What do you already know about the Mother of God?

What do you think intercession means?

What Is the Protection?

The Orthodox Church celebrates the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos on October 1/14.
The feast is often called the Pokrov.
Pokrov can mean a covering or protection.

POKROV = PROTECTION

The Vision at Blachernae

The faithful were gathered in church for prayer

St. Andrew and Epiphanius saw the vision

They saw the Theotokos praying for the people

She extended her veil over the faithful

What Does the Veil Mean?

THE VEIL HELPS US UNDERSTAND:

HER PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH

THE VEIL IS NOT MAGIC

SHE PRAYS TO HER SON

HER PROTECTION IS CENTRED ON CHRIST

What Is Intercession?

Intercession means praying to God for another person.

We ask parents, priests, friends, and parish members to pray for us.

We also ask the saints to pray for us.

Most Holy Theotokos, pray to God for us.

Honour and Worship

We honour the Theotokos as the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ

We ask her to pray for us as a member of Christ's Church

Worship belongs to God alone

Mary Points Us to Christ

She noticed a need

She brought it to Jesus

She trusted her Son

She told the servants to listen

“Whatever He says to you, do it.”

She always directs us toward Christ

True intercession brings our needs before God.



Look Closely at the Icon

What do you notice first?
Where is the Theotokos?
Where is the protecting veil?

The icon shows the Mother of God at prayer within the worshipping Church.

Mary Points Us to Christ

“Whatever He says to you, do it.”

John 2:5 — NKJV

The Mother of God always directs us toward her Son.

The Church Asks Her Prayers

“Most Holy Theotokos, pray to God for us.”

INTERCESSION

Pray · Trust · Help

Pray for someone

Bring a need to God

Ask others to pray

Trust God's care

Help someone in need

Point toward Christ

The Church Prays with the Theotokos

The hymns of the feast remember the Virgin standing in the church and praying to God for us.

The feast teaches us to ask for her intercession while placing our trust in God.

How does true intercession always lead us toward Christ?

Key Vocabulary

Theotokos

Mother of God — the Virgin Mary, because Jesus Christ is truly God

Protection / Pokrov

the feast remembering her prayerful protection of the Church

Intercession

praying to God for another person

Veil

a visible sign of the prayers of the Mother of God for the Church

Fool-for-Christ

a Christian who accepts an unusual life of deep humility for Christ

Worship

the adoration that belongs to God alone

Activity — Under Her Protection

PRAY | TRUST | HELP

One person I can remember in prayer this week is...

One worry, difficulty, or need I can bring to God is...

One way I can care for someone who needs help is...



Today We Learned

The Theotokos prays for Christ's Church and always leads us toward her Son.

INTERCESSION | PROTECTION | PRAYER | CHRIST

The protecting veil is a sign of her prayerful intercession.

Most Holy Theotokos, pray to God for us.