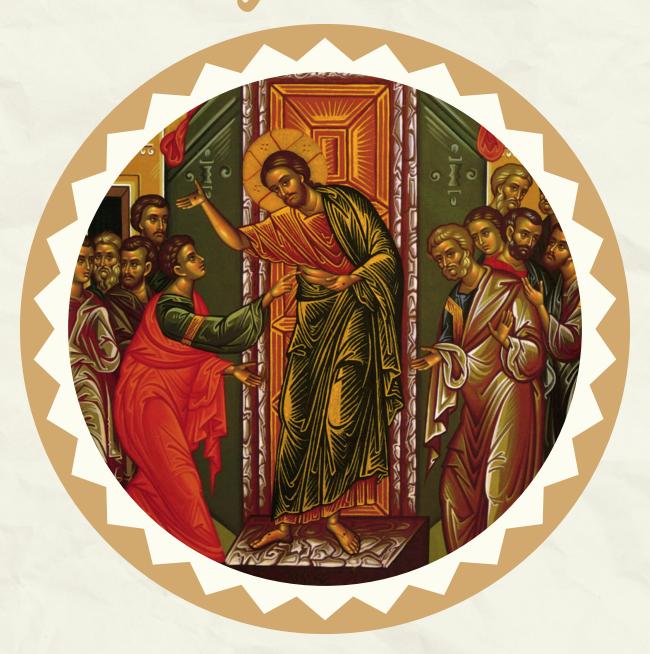
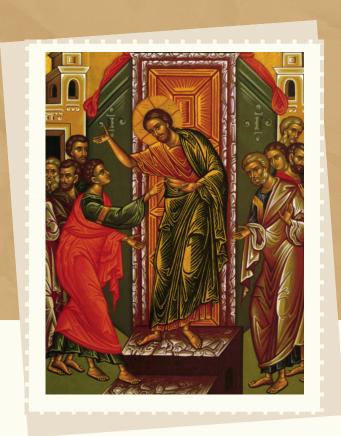


Family Connections



Family Activities for the Sundays of the Paschal Season

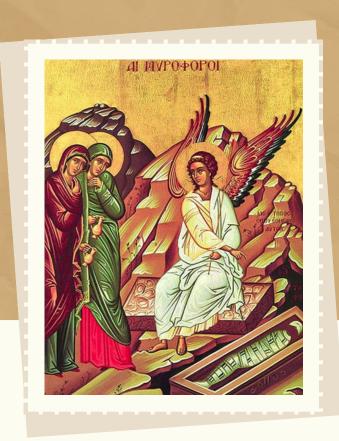


Family Connections Sunday of St. Thomas

Doubting Thomas

We all have a "doubting Thomas" in us. Doubt keeps us from faithfully committing ourselves to the Lord. Discuss together how we sometimes might let our doubts keep us from our Risen Lord. How can we turn to God and ask Him to help us with our doubts?





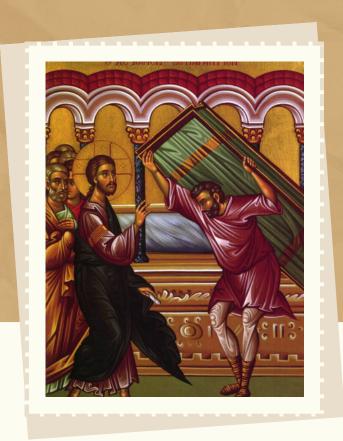
Family Connections

Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

The Myrrhbearing Women

In the Orthodox Church, the Myrrhbearers are called "Apostles to the Apostles; the First Preachers of the Resurrection." As a family, learn more about each of these amazing women. Who were they? How did they continue to proclaim the Gospel of Christ after His Resurrection?

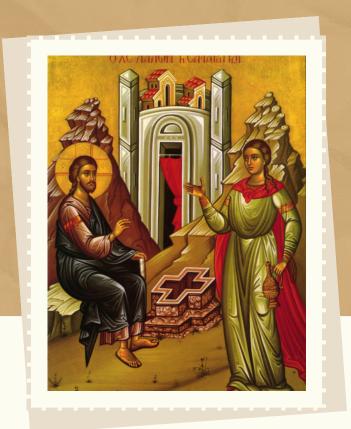




Family Connections Sunday of the Paralytic

Make Your Bed

In modern terms, what Jesus said to the paralytic could sound like, "Get up! Make your bed and get moving." Many self-help professionals, military officers, and moms world over attest to the wisdom of making your bed every morning. This task ushers in a physical and mental sense of accomplishment which springboards into more productive activities. Try this theory out and make your bed every morning this week!

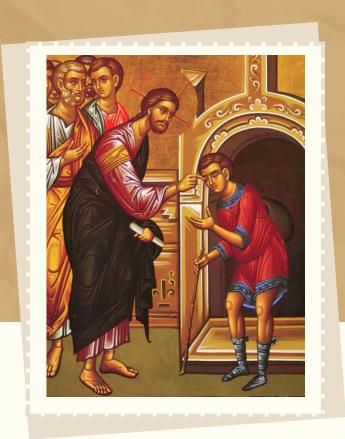


Family Connections Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Filled with Living Water

St. Photini took a water pot to fill from the well but instead she was filled with Living Water, Christ. Find something to represent your family's "water pot." Every day this week have each family member write ways in which they drank of the living water (prayed, read the Bible, etc.) on a piece of paper, then fold the papers and place them in the pot. Over the days the pot will fill-and your family will be filled with the living water.



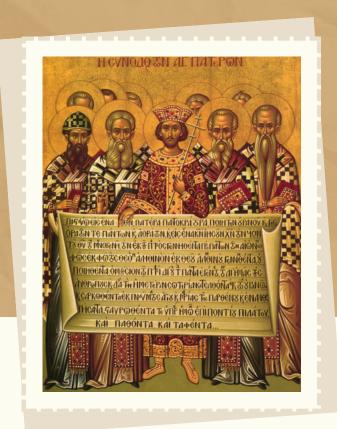


Family Connections Sunday of the Blind Man

Blindfold Please

Take turns blindfolding different members of your family and having another family member guide them around. After everyone has had a turn, discuss what it was like not being able to see. Discuss how we can be spiritually blind and how we can work to see properly as Orthodox Christians.



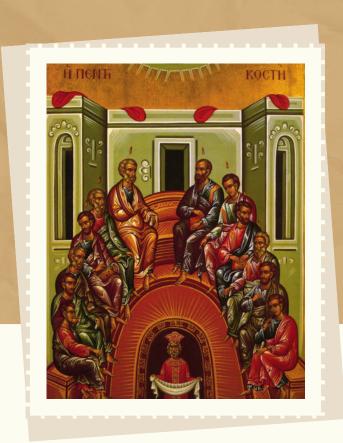


Family Connections Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

I Believe

The first Ecumenical Council formulated and ratified the first seven articles of the Nicene Creed. As we know, the Creed contains the essential beliefs we hold as Orthodox Christians. Gather as a family to recite the Creed. Discuss each line as a family, reflecting on the meaning of each so that everyone has a better understanding when they pray.



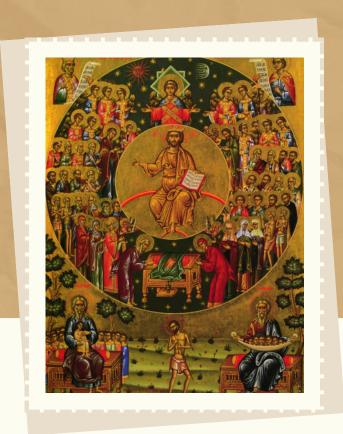


Family Connections Holy Pentecost

Pentecost Mural

Create a mural illustrating the scene from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11. Imagine the scene and draw the vivid images—the strong wind and the tongues of fire that ignited the apostles in undertaking the evangelization of the world.





Family Connections Sunday of All Saints

We Are All Saints

Today we celebrate the memories of the countless men, women, and children who led anonymous Christ-like lives and are now sharing in the blessings of paradise. It is a blessed reminder that ALL of us are called to be saints and that we ALL have that potential by the grace received at our baptism to be counted among them. How can we do this? By looking to the commitment to Christ and faithfulness from every saint throughout the history of the Church and emulating their examples.