

CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS.....

Travel Journal

Children use the Travel Journal as a guidebook throughout the week as they travel on the Ark of Salvation. They will refer to the icon, hymns, and songs during their lessons each day, and they will write in the “Memories” sections. On Day 1 *only*, they attach the Ark of Salvation to the front of their journals and decorate them.

Materials

- * Travel Journals
- * Arks (to color and then cut out; see the last page of this section)
- * Scissors
- * Stickers, glitter glue, markers, crayons, etc.
- * Glue sticks

Procedure

1. Children write their names on the front of their Travel Journals.
2. Color and then cut out the “Ark,” and then glue it to the front cover of the booklet.
3. Decorate around the Ark with glitter glue, stickers, and markers.

Theotokos Medallion

Over five days, each child will create and paint a medallion with an icon of the Theotokos, to wear as a necklace for the closing program and to take home to hang in his or her icon corner permanently (or wear again). See the Resources section of the Director Guide for more information about gathering the materials.

Materials

- * Crayola Model Magic dough
- * Plastic knife to cut the modeling compound into cubes
- * Newspaper
- * Small Theotokos stamp
- * Wax paper
- * Permanent marker for writing names on wax paper (on Day 1) and medallion (Day 5)
- * Toothpick
- * Cookie cooling rack
- * Gold acrylic paint (for Days 2 and 3)

- * Black acrylic paint diluted with water (for Day 4)
- * 2 paint smocks (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Newspaper or drop cloth (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * 2 paintbrushes (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Small cups or lids for paint (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Water for rinsing brushes (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Paper towels (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Hand wipes or wet cloth (for Days 2, 3, and 4)
- * Necklace cord (for Day 5)

Preparation

Cut the dough into pieces about 1.5” cubes, and place the cubes in a plastic bag to keep them from drying. One four-ounce block can be cut into 16 cubes.

Procedure

On Day 1, the children shape their medallions:

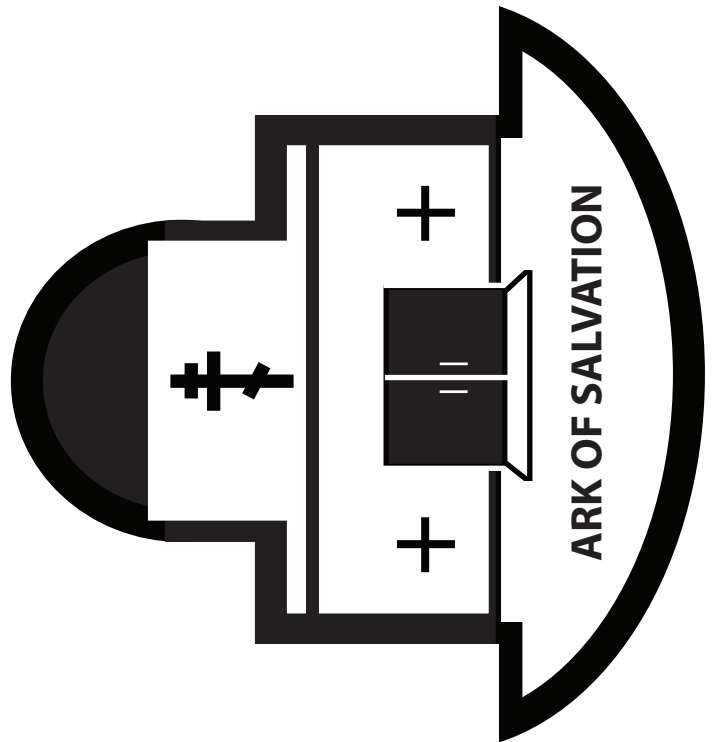
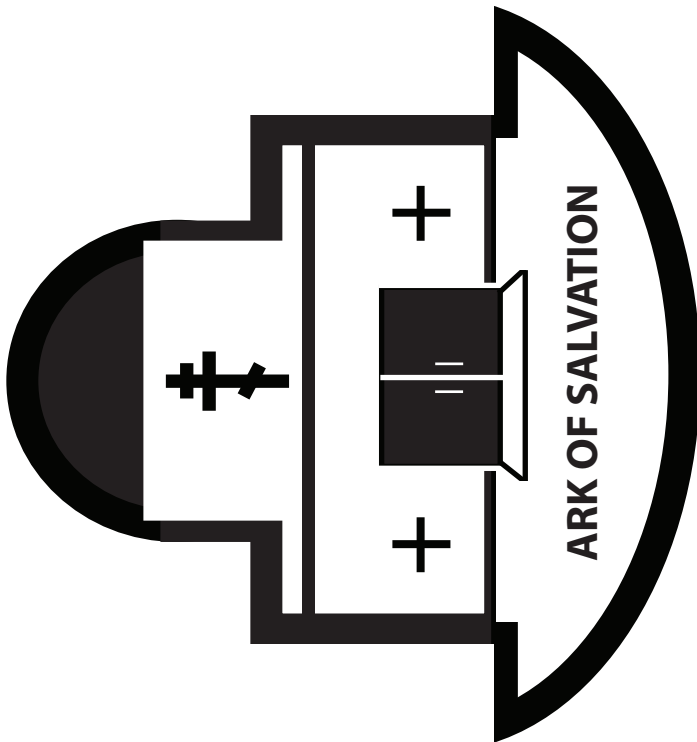
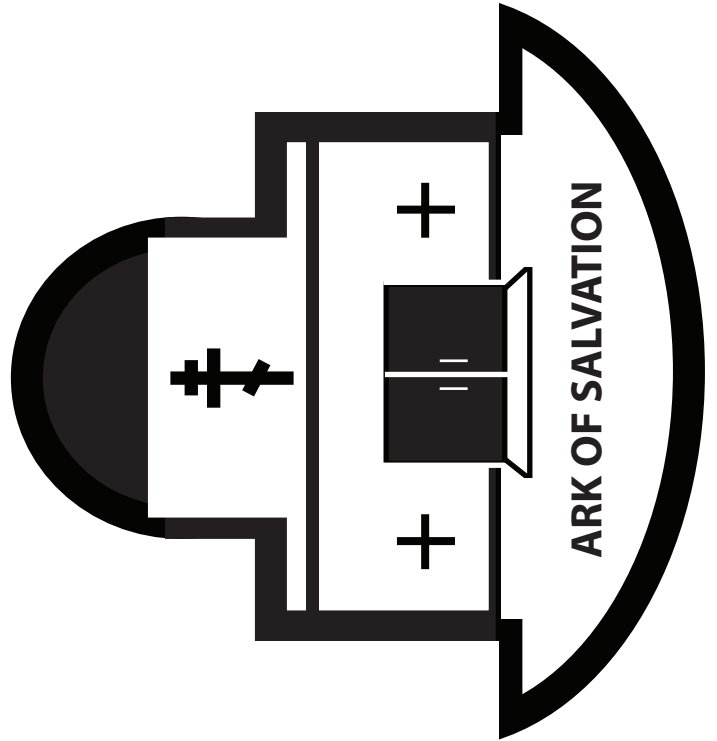
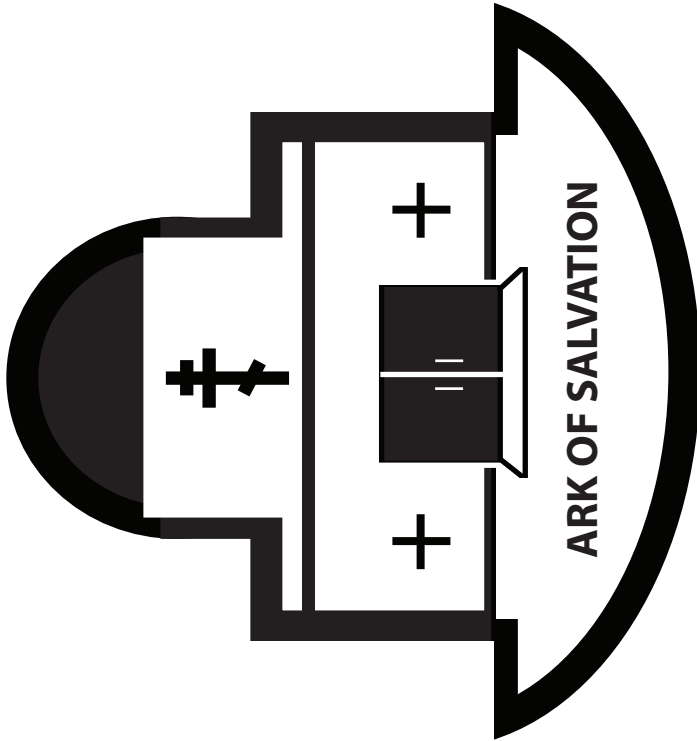
1. Make sure hands are clean. Give each child one cube of dough. Let them handle it. Discuss how we are like clay in the hands of a potter; God is like a potter, and He desires to make a beautiful person from us, but we must yield to Him and cooperate with Him, just as the Theotokos did. Tell them how she said, “Let it be done to me according to Your Word.”
2. Have the children roll their dough into a perfect ball and then put it on a piece of wax paper **with their name on it**. Have them press down with the stamp until the dough makes a good impression of the icon. It’s OK to do it several times if necessary to get a complete impression. Before removing dough from the stamp, use a toothpick to **scratch the child’s initials on back side**. Teachers will need to assist them in removing the dough from the stamp without flattening it, and then place it gently back on the labeled wax paper.
3. Have the children use a toothpick to make a hole at the top of the medallion (big enough for the cord you’ll pass through it later), and then place it on the drying rack. Teachers should later make sure the medallions are lying flat and not curled on the edges. Medallions will dry overnight and be ready for painting the following day.

Tips from Your Travel Agent

Each day, say to the children as they work on their medallions:

- * The Theotokos is our guide, helper, intercessor, and companion as we journey through life. If we study the life of the Theotokos, we can follow her example.
- * We can remember how the Theotokos was born, and then think about our own birth, the blessing we received when we were eight days old, and the prayers and blessing for mother and baby after forty days. This is how the Church prepares us for our life’s journey.





CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS.....

Theotokos Medallion

Preparation

Prepare a painting area in one corner of the classroom, and protect it from paint splatters with a plastic tablecloth or drop cloth. When children come up (two at a time) to paint their medallions, have them wear smocks to protect their clothes, and wipe their hands when they finish with a wet rag or wipe.

Procedure

Have children paint just the top (icon) side of their medallions using gold paint, leaving the medallions in place on their labeled wax paper. Teachers then move the medallions to drying rack to dry overnight.

Tips from Your Travel Agent

Each day remind the children as they work on their medallions:

- * The Theotokos is our guide, helper, intercessor, and companion as we journey through life. If we study the life of the Theotokos, we can follow her example.
- * Today we learned how the Mother of God was brought to the Temple as a little child. The journey of the Theotokos into the Temple is like our own experience of Holy Baptism and Chrismation and growing up in the Church.

Luggage Tag

Prepare materials as instructed on kit (available from party supplier, or make your own). Follow directions to create a tag to hang on each child's goody bag.

Sailor Hat (alternative to luggage tag)

Materials

- * Sailor hats
- * Permanent marker
- * Fabric markers
- * Fabric glue
- * Jewels, sequins, etc.

Procedure

Write the children's names inside their hats with a permanent marker.

Allow children to decorate their hats using fabric markers, glue, and decorations. Have the children wear their hats to the Daily Assemblies and Closing Program.



CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS.....

Theotokos Medallion

Children paint the back side of their medallions at painting area. Teachers then move the medallions to the drying rack to dry overnight.

Postcard

Materials

- * Blank postcards (copy the template on the next page onto heavy cardstock and cut out cards)
- * Theotokos stamps
- * Glitter glue
- * Stamp pads in several colors

Procedure

Have children decorate the blank side of one or more postcards using the Theotokos stamp, Orthodox-style crosses (optional), markers, and glitter glue.

Children write (or dictate to a teacher) short messages, the memory verse, or a part of the song or hymn on the lined side of the cards.

Children write (or dictate to a teacher) the names of the persons to receive the cards (suggest godparents, grandparents, etc.). Parents can address and mail the cards, in an envelope if necessary to protect the decoration.

Tips from Your Travel Agent

Each day remind the children as they work on their medallions:

- * The Theotokos is our guide, helper, intercessor, and companion as we journey through life. If we study the life of the Theotokos, we can follow her example.
- * We learn to follow the example of the Theotokos by saying yes to God. We show that we are willing to do God's will by our good behavior toward our family members and friends, and by our attentiveness and participation at church.



From _____

To _____

From _____

To _____

From _____

To _____

From _____

To _____

CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS.....

Theotokos Medallion: Day 4

Materials

- * Black acrylic paint diluted with water
- * Paintbrushes, paint cups/lids, water cups, drop cloth, and painting smocks
- * Paper towels
- * Hand wipes (or rags)

Procedure

1. Have children paint black “wash” over the icon side of their medallions to give them an antiqued effect. While the wash is still wet, wipe it off with a paper towel, leaving just the dark highlighting.
2. Teachers then move the medallions to the drying rack to dry overnight.

Theotokos Medallion: Day 5

Materials

- * Cut cords to the approximate length needed (one per child)
- * Permanent marker
- * Pushpins or hooks to securely hang medallions from bulletin board

Procedure

1. When the medallions are dry, have children thread precut lengths of cord through the holes (measure so that the finished tied medallions can fit over their heads and hang in the middle of their chests), and write their names on the backs of the medallions with a permanent marker.
2. Hang the medallions from the bulletin board in classroom.
3. Before the Closing Program, have children put on their medallions to wear for the program and to take home with them.

Bookmark

Materials

- * Blank construction paper or cardstock cut to bookmark size
- * Ribbon or yarn
- * Stamps and stamp pads
- * Markers, glitter glue, etc.



Procedure

1. Have each child decorate one or more bookmarks using stamps (including Orthodox-style crosses), markers, glitter, etc.
2. Thread lengths of ribbon or yarn through the tops of the bookmarks.

Tips from Your Travel Agent

Each day, remind the children as they work on their medallions:

- * The Theotokos is our guide, helper, intercessor, and companion as we journey through life. If we study the life of the Theotokos, we can do the things she did.
- * We learn that although one day our earthly lives will come to an end, we can follow the example of the Theotokos and live a life that honors God.
- * We can pray to the Theotokos (who never goes to sleep or gets bored) and ask her to pray for us all the time so that we can love God just as she does.

