

Sunday, October 1, 2017: Feast of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Welcome: Spend some time checking in with the students.

Opening Prayer: Teach children, “Rejoice, Mother of God,” the Byzantine version of “Hail Mary.”

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28 *****TODAY IS CHILDREN’S HOMILY! Listen to Gospel in Church and hold small blue candles.**

Lesson: Virgin Mary as our mother and protector

- Story of St. Andrew’s vision during siege of Constantinople by Saracens (check out Royal Doors for info on the feast – <http://www.royaldoors.net/2014/09/feast-of-the-protection-of-the-most-holy-mother-of-god/>)

- We celebrate this feast because Mary is known as the Patroness and Protector of Ukraine. As Ukrainian Catholics, we are descendants of the earliest Christians in the Ukrainian homeland. Because of this feast, we know we can turn to Mary in any time of need and pray for her intercession to her son, Jesus.

Craft: Decorating frame mats for *Rejoice, Mother of God* prayer

- Materials: frame mats, *Rejoice, Mother of God* prayer cards, yarn, white glue, glue sticks, tape, pencil crayons, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter glue, pom poms, pipe cleaners, plus anything you want to decorate with

How To: Hand out frame mats to each child and give decorating supplies. Cut out individual *Rejoice, Mother of God* prayer cards from worksheet. When children are finished decorating the mats, tape the prayer cards to the mat so that the prayer shows through the hole in the frame. Tape a loop of yarn to the top of the mat so the frame can hang on the wall.

End of Class: Hand out “Car Qs” to children, and “Cheat Sheet” to parents.

Rejoice, Mother of God,
Virgin Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb;
for you have borne
Christ, the Saviour
and Redeemer of
our souls.

Amen.



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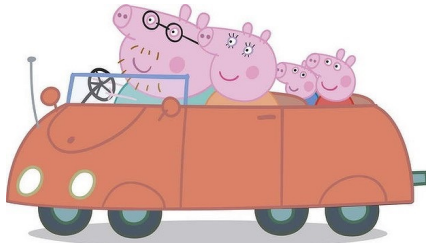


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car Qs

Sunday, October 1st



<https://vignette2.wikia.nocookie.net/peppapedia/images/1/18/Shah.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20141126051557>

1. Who had a vision of the Mother of God coming to protect him and others while they were hiding from attackers inside a church in Constantinople?
2. Which country is Mary the patroness of?
3. True or false: Mary is also our mother and protects us as if we were her own children.

Praying Together:

Mary, we love you and know that you love us like your own son, Jesus. Pray to Him for us that we may always be protected. Amen.

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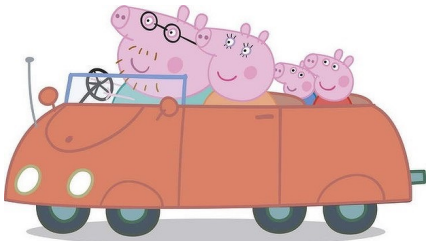
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Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Oct. 1/17, Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God

1. Who had a vision of the Mother of God coming to protect him and others while they were hiding from attackers inside a church in Constantinople?
 1. St. Andrew, the Fool for Christ.
 2. From *A Byzantine Rite: Liturgical Year*, “the Saracens besieged the capital of Constantinople. The people, terror-stricken, gathered in the church of the Most Holy Mother of God at Blachernae where her mantle¹ was preserved, and there they held an all-night prayer vigil. The greatly distressed people filled the church to overflowing. Among the gathering were St. Andrew and his disciple, Epiphany, both of whom also prayed for the protection of the city. After the service, St. Andrew saw the Most Holy Mother of God in radiant light as she was approaching from the royal doors (a name the Greeks gave to the main doors of the church) in the company of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Theologian and amid the singing of a great choir of Saints. The Mother of God proceeded toward the altar where she knelt down and prayed long, shedding tears. Afterwards she arose, removed from her head a luminous veil, and stretched it out wide over the people in church. Then she disappeared. St. Andrew and his disciple, Epiphany, saw the vision and understood that the Mother of God came to rescue the city. News of the miracle spread throughout the whole city like a flash of lightning. The enemy retreated and the city was saved.”
2. Which country is Mary patroness of?
 1. Ukraine.
 2. Ukrainians' devotion to the Mother of God dates back to Kyivan Rus'. Various rulers throughout Ukraine's history have dedicated battles, churches, and people to the Mother of God, with miraculous results. For more information, check out *A Byzantine Rite: Liturgical Year*, p. 229-231 as well as *Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha*, para. 314-315 on p. 111.
3. True or false: Mary is also our mother and protects us as if we were her own children
 1. True
 2. Through Christ we are known as “children of God” (John 1:10-12; Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:26-29, 4:6-7). Being brothers and sisters in Christ also means that Mary, Jesus' mother, becomes our mother. Some people also cite John 19:25-27 (where Jesus gives the beloved disciple, John, his mother, Mary, as his mother) as an example where Mary, through John, becomes the mother of all humanity.

¹ What is Mary's “mantle”? The mantle is the piece of cloth that is generally depicted as covering Mary's head, a cloak of sorts. See this discussion at <https://forums.catholic.com/t/marys-mantle/166338>.