

WEEK 28: ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

ALL GRADES

GOALS

To encourage our students to recall and remember our lessons this year, especially the icons

LESSON

Materials Needed: All the icons from our lessons this year; Post-it Notes (Older Students); Pens/Markers (Older Students)

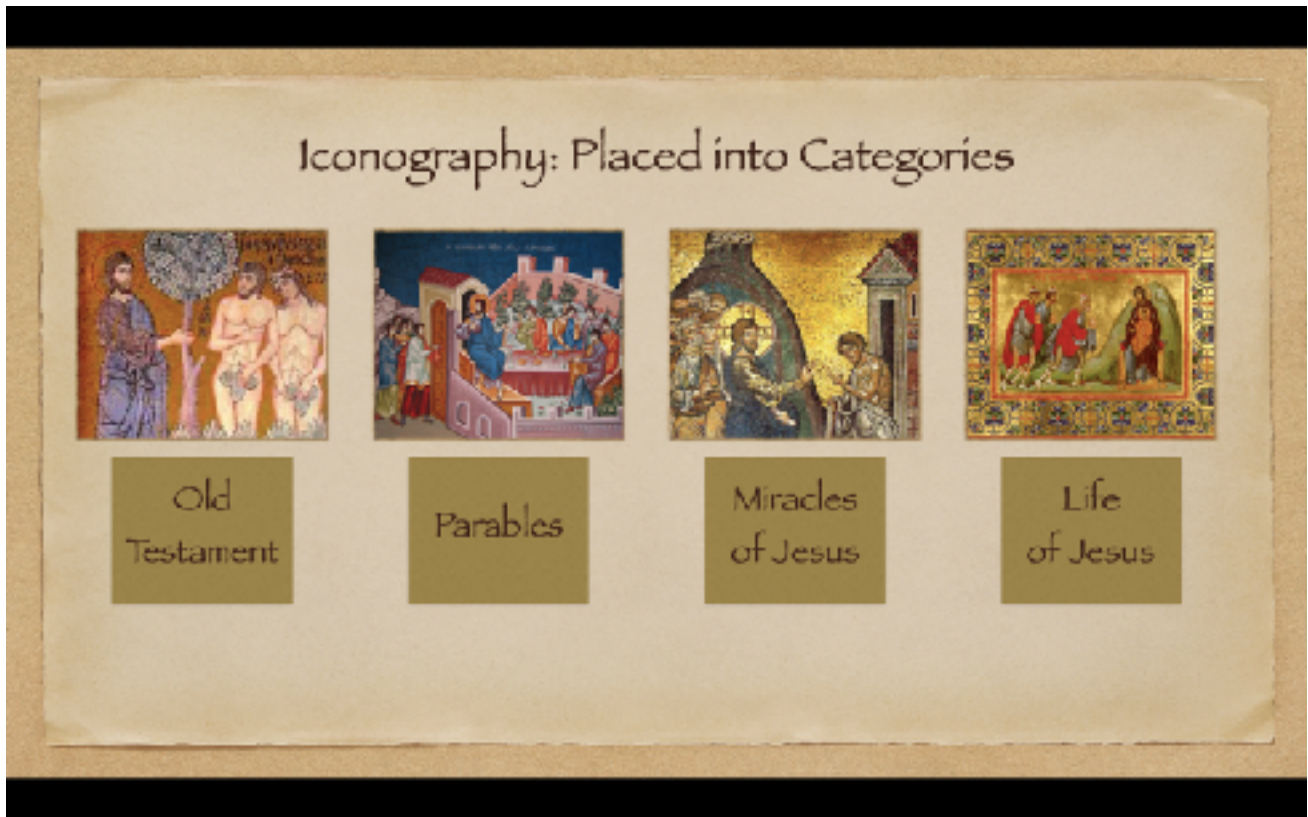
REVIEW: PRE-K TO 2ND GRADE

- Place all of the icons from your previous lessons on a table in your room.
- Ask the children to find all of the icons with Jesus and place them in a separate pile or line up holding each icon with Jesus. “How do you know this is Jesus?” We want the children to articulate how they know - beyond, “It looks like Him.” (We can look for a cross inside Jesus’ halo. We can look for IC XC on the icon, which stands for “Jesus Christ”.) Then ask the children to find all the icons with the Theotokos. “How do you know this is the Theotokos?” (Oftentimes, she is holding Jesus in her arms. We can also look for the three stars that will be on her forehead and shoulders.)
- Show n’ Tell: Ask each child to choose one icon and they will each share as much as they know about this icon with the class. Feel free to prompt them with some questions if they get shy or forget. “Who’s on the icon?” “What’s happening here?”



REVIEW: 3RD & 4TH GRADE

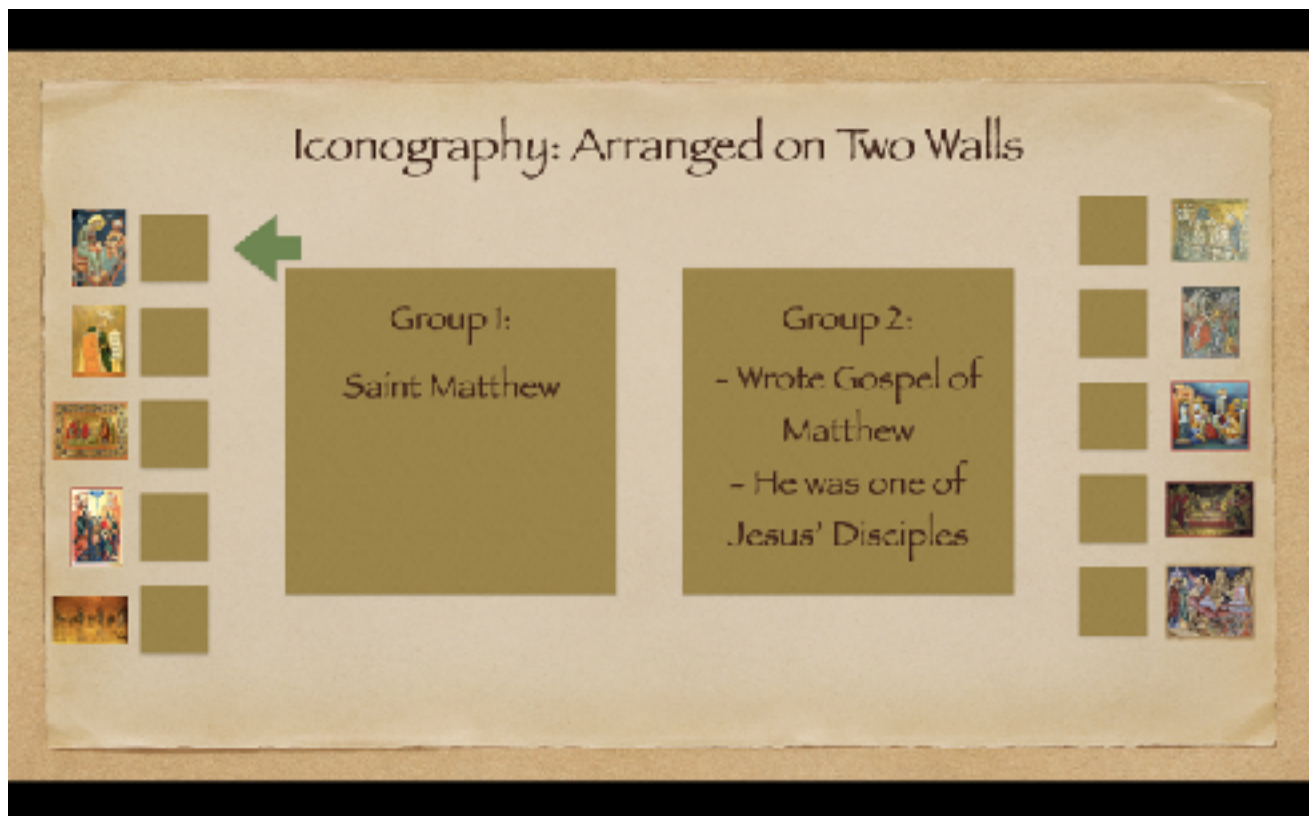
- Categorize all of the icons from our previous lessons: Space out 4 post-it notes on one table with “Old Testament,” “Parables,” “Miracles,” and “Life of Jesus”



- Sequence the icons that depict the life of Christ (Do not include parables or miracles)
 - Show n' Tell: Ask each student to choose an icon and share with everyone everything they know about this icon.
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REVIEW: 5TH GRADE & UP

- Line all of the icons from our previous lessons on two walls of the classroom
- Split the class into two groups; One group for one wall of icons and the other group for the opposite wall of icons
- Provide post-it notes and pens/markers to the two groups
- Each group will collectively work to write what they know about the icon on one post-it note. Place each sticky note under the corresponding icon.
- Then have the groups switch sides and collectively write different details than the other group on the sticky note and place next to the other sticky note.
- Discuss as a class any pertinent info left out



RECALLING THE ICONS FROM OUR PREVIOUS LESSONS



WEEK 2 - LIFE OF SAINT MATTHEW

- He is an evangelist - wrote the Gospel of Matthew
- He is one of the 12 Disciples of Jesus and was a tax collector before being called by Jesus to follow Him
- He is one of the 12 Apostles, who were sent out to spread the news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection
- He is commemorated on November 16th



WEEK 4 - GENEALOGY OF CHRIST (Older Children)

- King David was a great king and prophet of the Old Testament.
- Ruled over Israel around 1,000 B.C.
- Extremely dedicated to God
- Got rid of the idols in his land
- Wrote many of the Psalms we have in our Bible
- Brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
- The Messiah would come from King David's family
- His son is King Solomon and he built the first Temple in Jerusalem where the Ark of the Covenant was kept until invaders took it



WEEK 4 - GENEALOGY OF CHRIST (Younger Children)

- Theotokos is the mother of Jesus
- Oftentimes, you will see her holding her Son in an icon
- You will see three stars on her clothing - head and shoulders



WEEK 5 - CONCERNING THE MAGI & THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
(Older Children)

- The magi traveled from the east to find Jesus
- They brought treasure of gold, frankincense, and myrrh
- Gold: an offering for a king
- Frankincense: an offering to God
- Myrrh: foreshadowing His saving death (myrrh was used to prepare the dead for burial)
- The magi were Gentiles and St. Matthew includes the story of them with us in order to share that Jesus came for the benefit of everyone - both Jews and Gentiles.



WEEK 5 - CONCERNING THE MAGI & THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

- Mary, the Theotokos is in the center of the icon with Jesus
- Animals are present: “The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master’s crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me.” (Isaiah 1:3)
- Jesus’ cave, manger, and swaddling clothes foreshadow His tomb
- Bottom left: Satan is troubling Joseph
- Bottom right: Jesus is being washed and cared for
- Top left: Magi traveling to see Jesus and angels
- Top right: Angel telling the shepherd that the Savior has been born
- Top: Star - “A long ray from the star points directly to the cave. This ray connects the star with a part of the sphere which goes beyond the limits of the icon – a symbolic representation of the heavenly world. In this way the icon shows that the star is not only a cosmic phenomenon, but also a messenger from the world on high, bringing tidings of the birth of ‘the heavenly One upon earth’.” (Ouspensky & Lossky, *The Meaning of Icons*)



WEEK 6 - JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

- Theophany (Jan. 6th) is one of our major feast days
- St. John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River
- Bottom right: Ax and tree: “And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 3:10
- Holy Trinity is depicted: **God the Father** - “And behold, the heavens were opened to Him” (Matthew 3:16) “a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17); **Holy Spirit** - “And He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” (Matthew 3:16); and the **Son**, Jesus - “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water” (Matthew 3:16)



WEEK 7 - TEMPTATIONS OF CHRIST (Older Children)

- Jesus leads us through His example
- The devil attempts to test Jesus in the desert
- 1. How did the devil tempt Jesus? First, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” We all need to eat, even Jesus - but one loaf of bread would be enough for Jesus’ needs. The devil tells him to turn multiple stones into loaves of bread. He does this to see if Jesus will eat more bread than is necessary - indulging in gluttony. Jesus does not do as the devil asks and instead shows self control by way of His fasting.
- 2. Next, the devil takes Jesus to a high point on top of the temple in Jerusalem. The devil challenges Jesus again - IF He is the Son of God - then He should throw Himself down to the ground from this high spot because the angels will catch Him. Jesus responds humbly back to the devil, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” The miracles of Jesus were always for the benefit of others, never for Himself. Think about the miracles we’ve read in the Bible. Each of them are subtle - the water turns to wine without any performance, countless people are healed by a few words from Jesus and sometimes without any at all - as with the woman who simply touched Jesus’ clothes and was instantly healed. If Jesus

threw himself off of the pinnacle of the temple, it would be to show off and boast to others that He is so amazing that even angels would catch Him. But...God never casts anyone down, that is the devil's work. God always heals. He always lifts people up. We are called to do the same as Jesus - to use our gifts and talents in support of one another, without ever shining a boastful or prideful spotlight on ourselves.

- 3. Finally, the devil takes Jesus up on a very high mountain and tells Jesus that if He worships him, then the devil will give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. This is a temptation all of us face - to turn away from God and seek high status in the world - through the best job, the best house, acquiring the most money, etc. Jesus reminds the devil that it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."



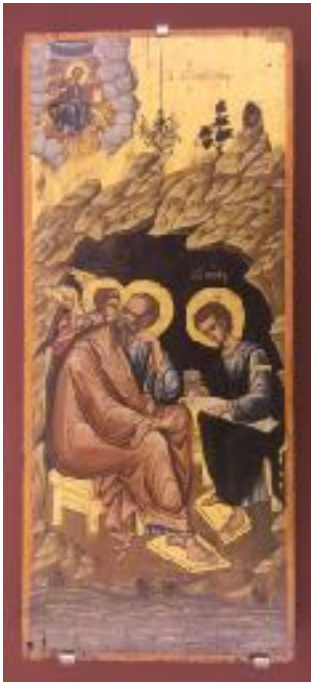
WEEK 7 - FIRST DISCIPLES (Younger Children)

- A disciple is a student. In this case, these men were Jesus' disciples. They left everything and followed Him.
- Jesus calls two fishermen to be His first disciples - Sts. Andrew and Peter. They are brothers.



WEEK 7 - FIRST DISCIPLES (Younger Children)

- Jesus calls two more fishermen to be his disciples - Sts. James(left) and John. They are also brothers.
- Sts. Peter, James, and John were part of Jesus' inner circle of disciples.



WEEK 7 - FIRST DISCIPLES (Younger Children)

- St. John (left) is also the one who wrote the Gospel of John. He is known as St. John the Theologian or St. John the Evangelist.
- Jesus entrusted His mother's care into the hands of St. John just before He died.



WEEK 10 - MIRACLES OF JESUS: HEALING OF THE LEPER

- Jesus healed many, many people. The evangelists shared some of these miracles with us in the gospels.
- A leper is someone who has sores all over his body. They were outcasted from the community. It was a big deal if you got leprosy!
- The leper approaches Jesus after He descends from the mountain. The mountain is shown on the left side of the icon with Jesus and "the multitudes", including the Disciples. The city is shown in the background on the right side of the icon, along with the leper seeking Jesus.



WEEK 11 - MIRACLES OF JESUS: HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

- A paralytic is someone who can't move part or all of their body.
- The friends of this paralytic were determined to place their immobilized friend in front of Jesus, but the crowds were preventing them from entering the house. They were so determined that they carried the paralytic on top of the roof, cut a hole in the roof, and then lowered their friend in front of Jesus.



WEEK 12 - THE TWELVE

- A disciple is a student of someone. When we refer to the 12 Disciples, we are referring to specific people who were disciples of Jesus.
- An apostle is someone who is “sent out” to teach others about Jesus.
- The 12 apostles are: Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, and Paul (who replaced Judas Iscariot). We remember them on June 30th.
- There are also many, many other apostles as well. We have the 70 apostles who were also sent out to teach about Jesus and we have saints who have been given a title of apostle, such as “Apostle to the North” or “Equal-to-the-Apostles”.



WEEK 15 - FEEDING OF THE 5,000

- The news about Jesus’ teachings and miracles spread far and wide, which resulted in large crowds continually seeking Him out. Thousands of people found themselves in the desert with Jesus and many of them have traveled a great distance. At this point in history, they do not have restaurants, stores, or non-perishable food in the same capacity that we have today. This is a rough situation as food has run out!
- Jesus has compassion on the needs of the people around Him. They had such great faith to travel all this way to be healed by Him. He, in turn, heals and nourishes them - both body and soul.
- With both the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000, we are taught that we should always say a prayer of thanksgiving before every meal, just as Jesus did. St. Theophylact also tells us that we are taught a lesson in hospitality - when someone comes to your home, invite them to sit down and offer them something to eat.
- In this icon, Jesus has blessed the food and multiplied the bread and fish. The disciples are passing out the food to everyone.



WEEK 16 - TRANSFIGURATION

- One of our major feast days: August 6th
- Jesus did not take all of the disciples up the mountain. He only took Peter, James, and John - sometimes referred to as “the inner circle.”
- The mountain in this passage is Mount Tabor in Israel. It is located to the east of Nazareth and to the west of the Sea of Galilee.
- Jesus transfigured (changed appearance) in front of these disciples. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light.
- Then the disciples saw Moses (right) and Elijah (left) on either side of Jesus. (Jesus is the central, main figure in the icon.) Moses represented the Law (first 5 books of the Old Testament) and Elijah represented the prophets - the Old Testament. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament.
- Peter (bottom left), John (bottom middle), and James (bottom right) were not expecting Jesus’ transfiguration. You can see them at the bottom of the icon on the ground and trying to process what is happening in front of them.



WEEK 17 - CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- Christ is carrying a lamb on His shoulders. This lamb represents each and every one of us and Jesus came looking to find us when we were lost. Shepherds will carry a lamb on their shoulders to protect them - from the cold, a fire in the field, wild animals, or to bring them back to safety after they have wandered off.
- Christ has a staff secured against Him with His arm. Shepherds would use a staff while walking in the fields and watching their sheep. It would be used to stabilize themselves just like a walking stick would be used when you go for a hike. It was not always completely flat where the sheep were grazing. The staff was also used to protect the sheep or guide them where they needed to go.
- Finally, we see the cross of Christ’s crucifixion behind Him. Jesus died and then rose from the dead so that we could be in heaven with Him.



WEEK 18 - JESUS COUNCILS THE RICH YOUNG RULER

- Jesus replies to this rich man, “*Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.*” Jesus is referring to the 10 Commandments.
- This icon: Moses receives the 10 Commandments from God.
- The 10 Commandments are:
 1. I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt not have any other gods before me.
 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images...Thou shalt not bow down before them.
 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord they God in vain.
 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 5. Honor thy father and mother
 6. Thou shalt not kill.
 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 8. Thou shalt not steal.
 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house.
(nor anything or anyone within their home)



WEEK 19 - PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

- Matthew 20:1-16
- Jesus begins this parable with, “For the kingdom of heaven is like...” He is teaching us about the kingdom of heaven. The landowner is the most important person in this story. With this in mind, who do you think the landowner is in this parable? (Christ - He is the master of the land, that is, the Church)
- The landowner goes out early in the morning to hire people to work in his vineyard. St. Theophylact explains that the laborers are each of us and we are called to labor and work in the vineyard, which is our soul.
- Someone who works in a vineyard will do their best to remove weeds around grapevines. They will also prune off the dead or non-fruiting branches of the vine. Likewise, we are called to get rid of all the things that don't produce fruit in our lives or threaten to choke out God. We oftentimes refer to these things as passions because we tend to obsess about them more than we think about God.



WEEK 20 - ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

- Major feast day - also known as Palm Sunday
- We celebrate Palm Sunday every year on the day after Lazarus Saturday and the Sunday before Pascha.
- Jesus had been in Bethany, two miles east of Jerusalem, where He brought Lazarus back to life after being dead for four days. Many people witnessed this immense miracle and news spread quickly! Some of these witnesses went straight to Jerusalem to tell the members of the Sanhedrin about the latest miracle Jesus had done. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, per se, for the Jewish council. They held a meeting and agreed that Jesus had to die in order to keep Rome from coming in and getting rid of them for not keeping the peace.
- Meanwhile, Jesus starts traveling towards Jerusalem. They reach the foot of the east side of the Mount of Olives in Bethphage. This is when Jesus sends two disciples to get a young donkey for Him. Jesus rode this donkey into the great city of Jerusalem and a huge crowd began taking off their coats and laying them on the ground or placing palm branches from nearby trees along Jesus' path. It was not uncommon for the people to welcome victorious kings into the city in this manner and **this was the first time the people were publicly proclaiming Jesus to be the Messiah, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"**



WEEK 23 - NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR (Older Children)

- “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”
- This is the icon of the Last Judgement.
- In the center of the icon, you see Christ and to the right, Theotokos, and to the left, St. John the Baptist. Surrounding them are the apostles and many others.
- Below Christ, Adam and Eve are bowing to Christ. Bathed in white light on the other side of Adam and Eve, we see the righteous - the sheep. On the opposite side of Adam and Eve, we see a river of everlasting fire for the unrighteous - the goats.



WEEK 23 - NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR (Younger Children)

- “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be...”
- God flooded the earth because people were being very sinful. When the water receded and Noah could go back on land again, he and his family gave thanks to God. God gave us the rainbow as a promise that He would never flood the earth again.
- Where’s Noah? Where’s the ark? The animals? Jesus? The rainbow?



WEEK 24 - PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

- During this time, Jewish weddings were held at night and the arrival of the bridegroom at the bride's home would be the start of the wedding feast. The bridegroom would bring the bride and her attendants back to his home in a procession, whereby the wedding feast would commence and last for days.
- In this parable, for whatever reason, the bridegroom was delayed and everyone took a nap while waiting for him. At midnight, someone who was keeping watch for the bridegroom, yelled out, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!"
- The virgins would be young, unmarried girls who would most likely be the bride's sisters, cousins, or extremely close friends. They would be there for the support of the bride and wait with her as she anticipated her bridegroom - just like bridesmaids today.
- People would carry around oil lamps or torches after the sun set. The lamps were small earthenware vessels which held some oil and a wick. They would also use sticks wrapped with a type of cloth dipped in oil and then used it as a torch. Either way, the lamp would not last long without having more oil. As part of the procession, the girls were helping to light the way from the bride's home to the bridegroom's home. Half of the girls were prepared and had brought additional oil for their lamps while the other half of the girls did not have any extra oil for when their lamps burned out.
- In this parable, we learn the Bridegroom is Christ, the bride is the Church as a whole, and the attendants are all of us. The lamps are our souls and we need to continuously be prepared for our death. We do this by keeping alert (guarding ourselves against the passions) and diligently keeping the commands given to us by Christ (we have been learning from Christ in the gospels) because we do not know when the moment of our deaths will occur. Therefore, we must always be prepared for our death. Everyday, we can diligently work towards acquiring the characteristics of Jesus - and we call these characteristics the virtues or the fruits of the Holy Spirit.



WEEK 25 - EVENTS PRIOR TO JESUS' ARREST & HIS ARREST

- **1. Mary, sister of Lazarus, anoints Jesus** in preparation for His upcoming burial. She uses an alabaster flask filled with expensive spikenard oil to pour over Jesus' head and on His feet. Judas Iscariot (John 12:4) asks why this oil was basically wasted when it could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus reprimands Judas and tells him, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. **For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.** Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a **memorial to her.**"
- **2. Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests.** Hundreds of thousands of people have traveled to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover and the crowds of people loved Jesus dearly. He healed countless numbers of them. The Jewish leadership, however, did not feel the same way about Jesus and wanted to get rid of Him. They could not arrest Him publicly because the crowds would likely riot against Jesus' arrest. They had to do it secretly and deceptively - and when Judas came to them asking what he would receive if he told them where to find Jesus, they agreed to pay Judas 30 pieces of silver.
- **3. Jesus celebrates the Passover with His Disciples.** The Passover meal had to be eaten in Jerusalem, but this was an extremely dangerous place for Jesus to be right now given how most of the Jewish leadership felt about Him. During this meal, we read about the very first celebration of Holy Communion. We refer to the icon for this event as "the Mystical Supper."
- **4. Jesus predicts Peter's denial of Him.** During the meal, Jesus tells His Disciples that tonight all of them will stumble because of Him. They can't believe this! Surely not! Peter speaks up and promises Jesus that there's no way he would ever say he doesn't know Jesus! Jesus responds, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (*No icon provided in this lesson specifically for this moment*)





- **5. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.** Jesus knows that He will be arrested today and all the events that will follow. He willingly allows all of this to happen because He knows that ultimately His death and resurrection is for the salvation of all of humanity. It's a super huge deal! His disciples are tired, however, and fall asleep multiple times while Jesus is praying.



- **6. Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.** The chief priests and elders of the people had sent soldiers with Judas to arrest Jesus. It is late at night and extremely dark. In order to make sure they arrest Jesus and not someone else in the dim light, Judas agrees to show the guards who to arrest by giving Jesus a common greeting of the time, a kiss. Peter tries to protect Jesus when he realizes what is happening and cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Jesus stops Peter and insists that he put up his sword. Jesus is teaching us that the Kingdom of God is never taken by force, but rather by voluntarily aligning our will with God's.
- **7. Jesus then faces the Sanhedrin, the Jewish leadership council.** They had to secretly attempt to convict Jesus in the middle of the night when everyone else was asleep, but they also needed a legitimate reason to convict Him guilty of the death penalty when they presented Him to Pilate the next day. All night long, they called up witnesses that would testify against Jesus, however they could not find two people in agreement about Jesus' wrongdoings - and they needed at least two witnesses. Finally, the high priest directly asks Jesus if He is the Son of God. Jesus tells the high priest yes. Surely, Jesus was not actually the Son of God. The Sanhedrin could convict Him for blasphemy!
- **8. Peter denies Jesus three times.** As soon as Jesus was arrested, His Disciples ran off and hid. They knew they were in danger of being arrested too for being associated with Jesus. Peter tried to discreetly hide in the courtyard of the high priest amongst the servants. However, this didn't work because people started recognizing him. Peter wanted to help Jesus anyway he could - he didn't know how, but he knew if he got arrested too then he couldn't help Jesus. Peter denied knowing Jesus 3 times.

WEEK 26 - JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, AND BURIAL



- The soldiers mock Jesus
- Icon of the Bridegroom: This icon depicts Jesus wearing a crown of thorns, holding a reed in His right hand, and dressed in a scarlet robe. They did this to make fun of Jesus before sending Him off to be crucified.
- During Holy Week, we have the Bridegroom Services on the evening of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, and Holy Tuesday. This icon will be in the church for us to venerate.
- A man named Simon, who was from the city of Cyrene in northern Africa, was told to help carry Jesus' Cross.



- Looking at the icon of the crucifixion provided in this lesson, this event is occurring outside of the city of Jerusalem depicted by the city walls in the background. Jesus is in the middle of the icon while the robbers are on either side of Him and a sign is hung above Jesus' head with the accusation, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." There is a skull at the bottom of the icon, directly below Jesus. He was crucified at Golgotha, the Place of a Skull. On the right side of the icon, a man offers Jesus a sponge filled with sour wine on a reed. Also on the right side, we see a centurion wearing a soldier's uniform and lifting his arm up towards Jesus as he declares, "Truly this was the Son of God!" The beloved St. John (the Theologian) is between these two men in the foreground. On the left side of the icon, in the foreground we see Mary Magdalene, the Theotokos (who is described as Mary the mother of James and Joses - who is the stepmom to St. Joseph's children), and Salome (the mother of James and John). In the background, we see the soldier who pierces Jesus' side. (John 19:33-34)



- In the icon provided in the children's Bible, we see the Theotokos tenderly holding her Son as He is about to be placed in His tomb. Joseph of Arimathea is ready to place Jesus in the tomb as everyone else is lifting Him into it. The myrrh-bearing women watched where they placed Jesus in the tomb.

WEEK 27 - JESUS' RESURRECTION



- 1. In the center of this icon of the Resurrection, we see Christ dressed in white - He is the light of the world. On either side of Him, we see Adam and Eve (Genesis 2 & 3), symbols of all of humanity who were created in the image and likeness of God, but distorted that image through sin. Christ is pulling Adam and Eve up by the wrists. Below Christ in the icon, the gates of Hades have been broken by Him. On the left side of the icon, we see several people - three of whom are Kings David and Solomon, as well as St. John the Baptist and Forerunner. On the right side of the icon, the person holding the shepherd's staff is Abel, the first person to die. You will often see all of these people in the icon of the Resurrection (or Descent into Hades).



- 2. The Myrrh-bearing women go to Jesus' tomb. They find an empty tomb and an angel there instead. Jesus has risen!
- 3. "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary...and as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, 'Rejoice!' So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.'"

