

LAYOUT GUIDE FOR REPRODUCING

CELEBRATING THE MAJOR FEAST DAYS AT HOME: A Guide for Families

by
Phyllis Meshel Onest

The **Feast Day Tract Master Set 5** is designed to form a 4-page leaflet that is folded in half, with the icon as the cover. We will be rearranging and taping the pages to form a booklet containing all the Feast Days. The set can be ordered from the Department of Religious Education / 50 Goddard Avenue / Brookline, MA 02445-7415 / 800-566-1088 (\$15.00+SH) or from the Orthodox Christian Publications Center / P.O. Box 588 / Wayne, NJ 07474-0588. (\$15.00 plus SH Under \$40, \$4.00; Add 12% for \$41.00 or more).

DIRECTIONS:

1. Work with a photocopy of **Feast Day Tract Master Set 5**.
2. On the back of each sheet mark the name of the Feast Day and page number on each half. Page 1 contains the Icon. Page 2 begins with the "Scriptural References". Page 3 contains at least the "For Parents" section. Page 4 contains at least "The Icon" section.
3. Cut each page as you begin to work with it so that the pages do not get out of order. Do not cut the two pages for the Annunciation; they will be used as is.
4. The cover and inside page have been included. Feel free to add notes/comments on the back cover before copying.

TAPE LEFT / RIGHT

Dormition p. 4 / Nativity of Theotokos p. 1
Dormition p. 2 / Nativity of Theotokos p. 3

Transfiguration p. 4 / Elevation p. 1
Transfiguration p. 2 / Elevation p. 3

Descent of H.S. p.4 / Entrance of Theotokos p.1
Descent of H.S. p.2 / Entrance of Theotokos p. 3

Ascension p.4 / Nativity of Our Lord p. 1
Ascension p. 2 / Nativity of Our Lord p. 3

Resurrection p. 4 / Theophany p. 1
Resurrection p. 2 Theophany p. 3

Entrance into Jerusalem. p.4 / Meeting p. 1
Entrance into Jerusalem p.2 / Meeting p.3
Annunciation p. 4 / Annunciation p. 1

DUPLEX WITH

Nativity of Theotokos p. 2 / Dormition p. 3
Nativity of Theotokos p. 4 / Dormition p. I

Elevation p. 2 / Transfiguration p. 3
Elevation p. 4 / Transfiguration p. I

Entrance of Theotokos p. 2 / Descent of H.S. p. 3
Entrance of Theotokos p. 4 / Descent of H.S. p. I

Nativity of Our Lord p.2 / Ascension p.3
Nativity of Our Lord p. 4 / Ascension p. I

Theophany p. 2 / Resurrection p. 3
Theophany p. 4 / Resurrection p. I

Meeting p.2 / Entrance into Jerusalem p.3
Meeting p.4 / Entrance into Jerusalem p. I
Annunciation p. 2 / Annunciation p. 3

TAPE LEFT /RIGHT

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT....

The following introduction and feast day information was published by Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America [1992] as a series of pamphlets entitled the "Feast Day Tract Masters." The originals have been reformatted to produce this booklet. Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div., Director of Religious Education, Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh

In America today, we Orthodox are tempted to think that we face brand-new problems. Many of us find it hard to put the Church at the center of our lives, which seems to us to be busier and more full of distractions than the lives of our ancestors. Our children often feel isolated as Orthodox in a largely secular and certainly non-Orthodox society.

But in reality these problems are not at all new; we share them with our mothers and fathers in the faith. St. John Chrysostom wrote about the social isolation of a child who is being raised as a Christian [in the 4th century. He urged parents to give such a child may special attentions, to compensate for the inevitable feelings of separation from and even ostracism by the child's peers. He also reminded busy parents that they must not become too busy to pray and to take part in the joyous celebrations of the Church.

So we can be comforted by the fact that our problems have been faced before. But we still need practical suggestions about how to incorporate the feast and season of the Church into our own lives. This booklet on the major feasts of the Orthodox Church is intended to provide such suggestions.

Reading over the booklet you will see that it offers ways to make the icons, troparia, prayers, and special traditions of the feasts part of your family's daily life. Specifically, you

[Continued on the inside of the back cover.]

can enhance mealtimes and family prayer times with these small additions of worship.

By following the suggestions for decorating festal icons in your home and having special activities together (e.g. making a cake for the Theotokos' birthday), you can give children reasons to enjoy and be proud of the way the Orthodox Church celebrates.

If you read with your children the Scriptural passages for the various feasts, you will be going a long way toward familiarizing them with the Bible. This will not only help them know their faith better, but will stand them in good stead with their non-Orthodox friends who seem to know the Bible better than they. And by studying the festal icons together, according to the information given in this booklet, you will help them know and appreciate one of the great spiritual treasures of the Church - the "windows to heaven" which icons are meant to be.

Please make the time to read and share what you have learned with your children. The religious training of children primarily belongs to the parents. The parish and church school are there to guide and to reinforce.

“Train a child in the way he should to, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 6:22



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