



Welcome to the AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Dear parents, participants, and friends of the Academy — welcome to August. Our new season of learning begins at the end of this month, and we begin it with the words of Solomon: *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). That verse is our whole work in a single sentence — the faith our children receive now is meant to stay with them for life.

This month we also keep the Fast of the Holy Theotokos together. Inside you will find our mission and vision, what we are teaching this season, sayings of the Fathers to read with your family, and an open invitation to serve alongside us. Register, take part, and help us spread the word. Thank you for being part of the Theotokos Junior Academy family.

Deep Roots in Christ



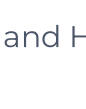
OUR MISSION

To partner with families and the Church in equipping the next generation with the truth of the Gospel, the life of the Church, and a lasting faith to hold them throughout their lives.



OUR VISION

To see a generation of Orthodox Christian youth who know their faith, love the Church, and courageously live Christ in the world — today and for generations to come.



Teach the Truth

of Scripture and Holy Tradition



Support Families

as the primary educators



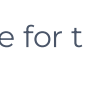
Deeply Rooted

in Christ and His Gospel



Compassionate

servants of the Church and others



Nurture Orthodox Identity

and a love for the Church



Form Hearts

that live the faith every day



Confident

in their faith and able to defend it



Well-Equipped

for life, leadership, and eternity

THIS MONTH IN THE CHURCH

The Fast of the Holy Theotokos

AUGUST 7 – AUGUST 21

For fifteen days we fast and pray with the whole Church, honoring the Mother of our Lord and preparing to celebrate her feast. It is a short fast with a wide heart — a season for families to pray together, read together, and give together. Below are the acclamations of St. Cyril of Alexandria — one for each day of the fast, with Scripture to read alongside.

“Hail to You!”

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA · HOMILY 11

Preached in the days of the Council of Ephesus, when the Church confessed the Virgin Mary as *Theotokos* — the Mother of God. Notice how every praise of the Mother leads straight to her Son. Read one each day of the fast, together with the verse beside it.

- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the prophets glorify God, and the shepherds sing with the angels.*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”
LUKE 2:14
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the ineffable grace of God came forth.*

“The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”
TITUS 2:11
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the True Light, our Lord Jesus Christ, came forth.*

“I am the light of the world.”
JOHN 8:12
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom the Light has shone upon those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.”
MATTHEW 4:16 · ISAIAH 9:2 · LUKE 1:79
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom came the True Light that enlightens every man.*

“That was the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world.”
JOHN 1:9
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why it is proclaimed in the Gospels.*

“Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”
MATTHEW 21:9
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, the indestructible temple that the prophet David proclaims.*

“Holy is Your temple, wonderful in righteousness.”
PSALM 65:4-5
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary the Theotokos, the Virgin-Mother, the Light-Bearer, the incorrupt vessel.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the angels take part in the chorus and the archangels send up most glorious hymns.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the Magi adored Him beneath the illustrious star that guided them.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the honor of the twelve Apostles was chosen.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why John, still in his mother’s womb, leapt and adored the lamp of the never-ending light.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, the reason why the baptism of the Jordan and its awe-inspiring holiness shone forth.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom John and the Jordan are sanctified, and the devil is cast out.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom the ever-faithful souls receive salvation.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, for the King entered into your city and came forth as He willed, and your gate remained shut.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, the most precious creature in the whole world.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, the incorrupt dove; Hail to you, O Mary, the treasure of the world.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, the inextinguishable lamp, for out of you was born the Sun of Righteousness.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary, the temple in which God is received and in which what is holy is accepted.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, because of you the Orthodox churches have been established in the cities, villages, and islands.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, because through you the Conqueror of death and the Destroyer of Hades has come forth.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom the Maker of the first creation has come and repaired the transgression of our first parents.*
- ✦ *Hail to you, O Mary Theotokos, through whom He Who is Captain of the Heavenly Kingdom has come to us.*

Acclamations from St. Cyril of Alexandria, Homily 11 (PG 77:1030), adapted for our families from *Sayings of the Fathers on the Holy Theotokos* (Treasures of the Fathers of the Church), pp. 72–74. Scripture quotations are from the King James Version. Families are encouraged to read the full homily in the book itself.

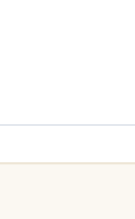
OUR PROGRAMS



BIBLE STUDY GRADES 3–12

This season we are studying the Gospel of St. Luke, chapters 13–24. These are the chapters of the journey to Jerusalem and everything waiting at the end of it — the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son; the ten lepers and the one who returned to give thanks; Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree; the entry into Jerusalem; the Last Supper; the Cross; and the Resurrection and the road to Emmaus. Participants read the text closely, chapter by chapter, the way the Church has always read it.

Lessons are taught at each age level, so a third grader and a high school participant both meet God’s Word in a way they can understand and carry with them. Each class includes reading, discussion, and the questions participants bring themselves, along with the teaching of the Fathers, so that Scripture becomes something our children pray with and live by, not only something they study.



APOLOGETICS GRADES 6–12

Our youth are asked hard questions every day — at school, online, and among friends. Apologetics gives them real answers. Participants learn why we believe what we believe about God, Christ, the Church, the Scriptures, and the Sacraments, and how to respond to the objections they actually encounter.

The goal is not to win arguments but to stand firm with humility. Class discussion is open, honest, and safe, so that participants can raise their own doubts and leave with a faith they can explain — always, as St. Peter writes, with gentleness and respect.



LITURGICAL RITES COMING SOON

Learning the beauty and meaning of our prayers, feasts, hymns, and the rites of the Church — why we do what we do, and how the liturgical life of the Church forms us. Details will be announced soon.

Registration Is Open

Our new season begins at the end of August, and space in each class is limited. Register your child today so they can start the year with their class from day one.

REGISTER TODAY
theotokosjunior.org

AN INVITATION TO SERVE

Come and Serve With Us

“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few.”

LUKE 10:2

Our Academy is growing, and we are looking for more servants to stand with us. **You do not need to be a theologian, a teacher, or a technology expert.** You need only the desire to serve and whatever time God has given you — an hour a week, one class a month, or a single skill offered once. There is a place here for every gift.



TEACH A CLASS

Lead or co-teach a group. Curriculum, lesson plans, and training are all provided — bring your love and creativity.



TECHNOLOGY

Host our online sessions, manage recordings, and keep every class running smoothly.



ASSIST A TEACHER

Support a session, encourage the participants, and help keep the group connected week to week.



ADMIN & FOLLOW-UP

Registration, attendance, reminders, and a warm welcome for every new family who joins us.



MEDIA & DESIGN

Graphics, video editing, social media, and our website. If you have an eye for design, we need you.



PRAY & INVITE

The quietest service and the strongest. Pray for our participants, and invite one family you know.

All you need is a willing heart to commit.

Tell us what you love to do and how much time you can commit, and we will find the service that fits your allotted time. Training and support come with every service. No one serves alone here.

SERVE WITH US
theotokosjunior@gmail.com

A MESSAGE TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

A new season of classes begins at the end of August, and a holy fast is with us to prepare our hearts for it.

Fasting is not only about food. It is about making room — for prayer, for God’s Word, and for the people around us. Let us open our hearts to God’s Word, grow in our knowledge, and support one another as we walk this journey of faith together.

Bring a friend. Be proactive this season and invite one or two of your friends to come with you. Tell them what you are learning and let them benefit from it too. Some of them are only waiting for someone to ask — and that someone could be you.

Be faithful in the little things, and God will do great things in you.

“*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*”

LUKE 1:46–47



GOD’S WORD



THE CHURCH



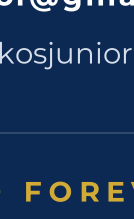
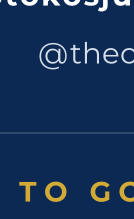
A LIFE IN CHRIST

Planting Today. Growing Forever.



Help Us Spread the Word

Do you know a family who would love this? Forward this newsletter, share it on WhatsApp, or simply invite them to visit **theotokosjunior.org**. Every individual you tell is someone whom you can help to know Christ more deeply this year.



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◆ GLORY BE TO GOD FOREVER! AMEN. ◆