

Lesson #7
Icons of Jesus and the Theotokos
Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 1st-2nd Grade

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Objective:

- Students will learn to recognize the icons of Jesus Christ and the Theotokos.
- Students will understand the importance of icons in Orthodox Christian worship and prayer.

1. Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin with a simple prayer to invite God into the learning session. *Example:*

"Jesus Christ, our Lord, thank You for this time together. Help us learn about You and Your Holy Mother through the beautiful icons. Amen."

2. Introduction to Icons (5 minutes)

Explain what an icon is in simple terms:

- Icons are special pictures of Jesus, His Mother (the Theotokos), and the saints.
- We do not just look at icons like regular pictures, but we honor them. They help us pray and feel close to God.

3. Icons of Jesus and the Theotokos (10 minutes)

Introduce the students to the key icons of Jesus Christ and the Theotokos.

- **Icon of Jesus Christ:**

Show the students a large, clear image of the "Pantocrator" (Christ the Almighty) icon. Point out the key features:

- Jesus is holding the Gospel in His hand.
- He often has His other hand raised in blessing.
- Around His head is a cross with Greek letters that mean "He Who Is" (Ο ΩΝ).

- **Icon of the Theotokos:**

Show the icon of "Theotokos of the Sign" or "Theotokos Eleousa" (the Merciful).

- The Theotokos holds baby Jesus close to her.
- She often has her hands raised in prayer, with baby Jesus in a circle over her heart.
- There are letters around her that mean "Mother of God" (ΜΡ ΘΥ).

4. Significance of Icons (5 minutes)

Explain why we use icons in church and at home:

- Icons help us feel close to Jesus and the Theotokos.
- We honor icons with a bow or a kiss, but we worship only God.
- Icons are windows to heaven—they remind us that Jesus and His Mother are always near.

5. Classroom Activities (15 minutes)

Activity 1: Holy Theotokos Icon Matching Game

Prepare several small pictures of different icons of the Theotokos. *Please refer to the example on the DRE website. Print, cut, and mix them up, and have the students match the correct icons of the Theotokos. Let the children take turns selecting and explaining why they recognize the icons.

Activity 2: Draw Your Own Icon Frame

Provide the children with paper or cardboard to make a frame for an icon. Inside the frame, they can draw their own versions of the icons of Jesus or the Theotokos. Please encourage them to include details such as halos and gestures.

Activity 3: Icon Procession

Organize a small procession around the classroom or church with children holding icons of Jesus and the Theotokos. This activity can also be emphasized during the first week of Great Lent when we celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Teach them how we hold the icons with reverence and sing a simple hymn, such as "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos."

6. Closing Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Conclude by thanking God for the beautiful icons and how they help us feel close to Him and the Theotokos. "Dear Jesus, thank You for the icons that remind us of Your love. Help us remember that You and Your Holy Mother are always with us. Amen."

STUDENT'S WORKBOOK PAGE

ICONS OF JESUS CHRIST AND HOLY THEOTOKOS

Activity 1: Find Identical Pictures

Activity 2: Complete the Picture

Activity 3: Color the Icon of Jesus Christ

Activity 4: Color the Icon of the Holy Theotokos

The activity pages are included below.

Jesus Christ



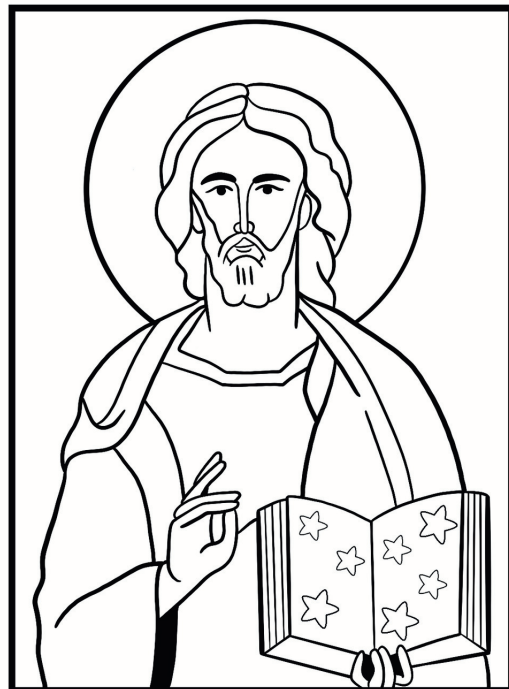
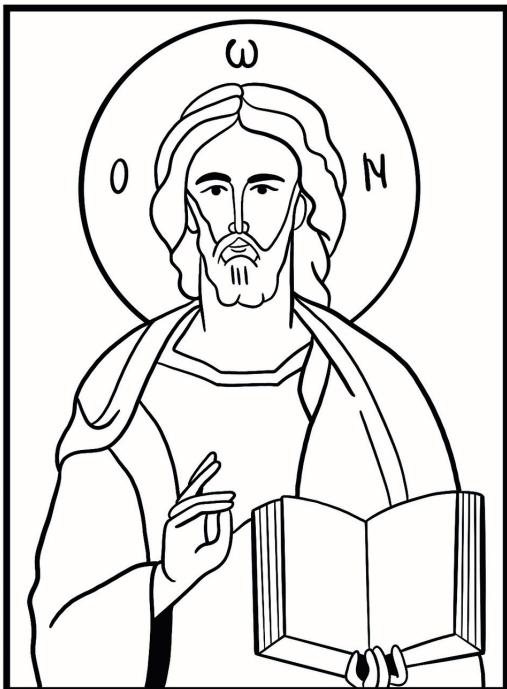
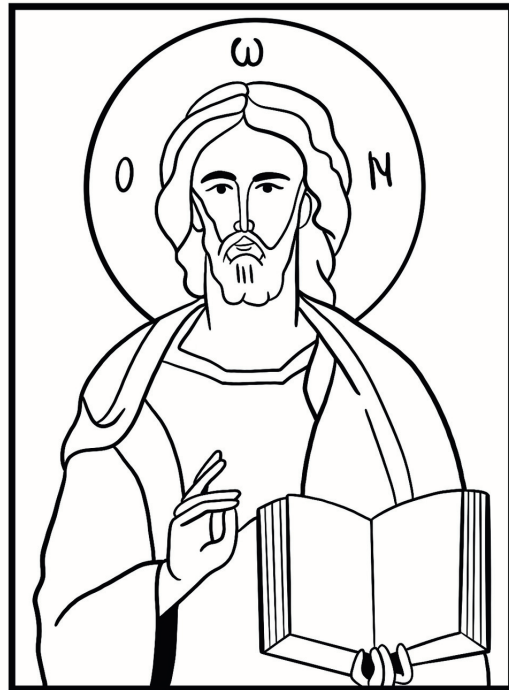
Holy Theotokos







FIND IDENTICAL PICTURES

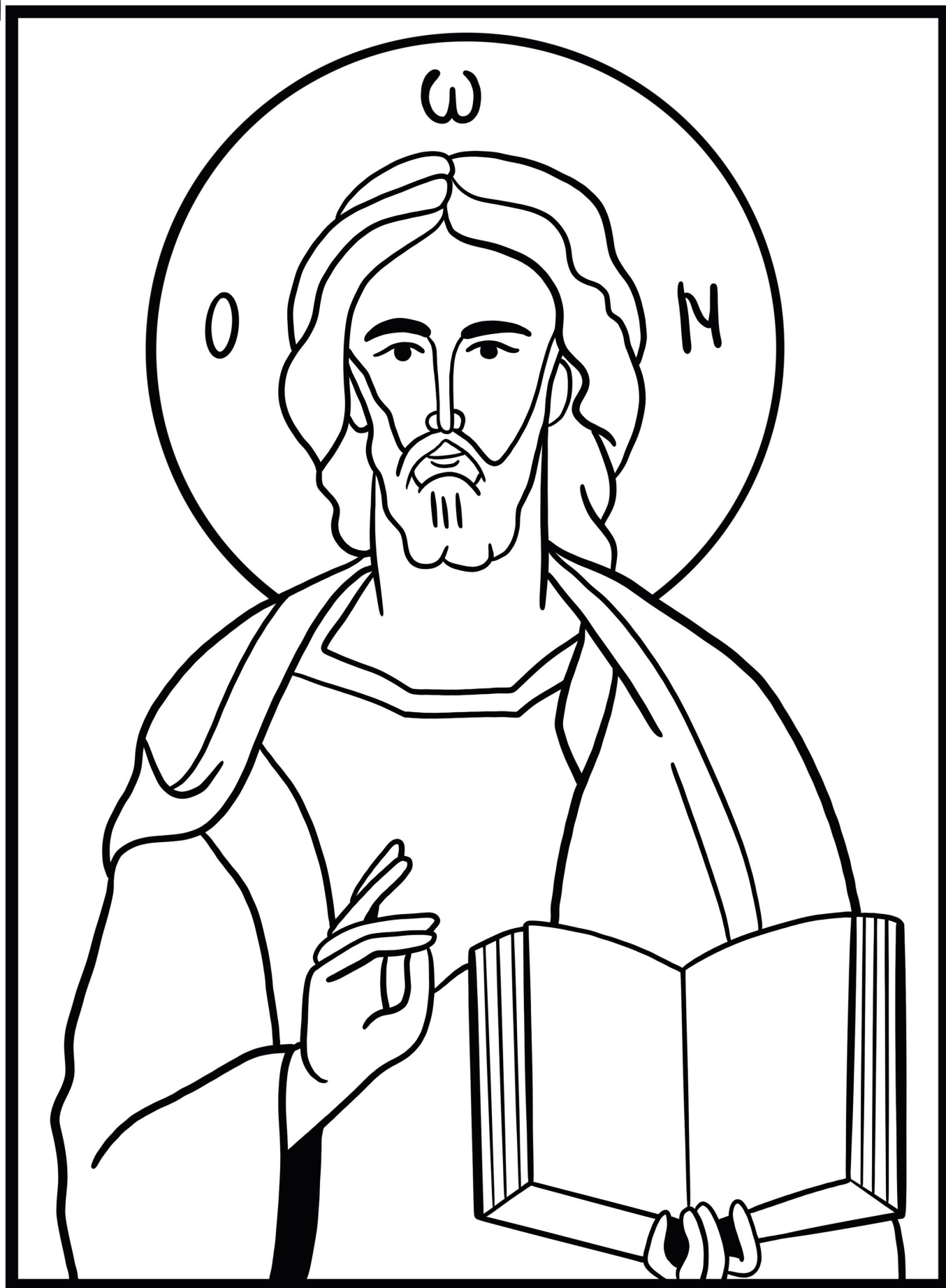


COMPLETE THE PICTURE





Color the Icon



Color the Icon

