

## Level 1: Jesus is God's Son

*Focus:* **God's Son is "Born on earth as a Little Child"**

Children will become familiar with the stories of the coming of God's Son to us on earth, as He is born of Mary as a "little child." They will be introduced to the concept of "waiting" and "listening" for something good, and preparing to "meet the Lord." The birth of Christ is set within the context of human family and God's family.

### Session 1 What is the Nativity Fast?

- **Give examples** of things you had to wait to happen (or receive). **Describe** how you felt and whether or not the waiting was difficult, or worthwhile.
- **Compare** waiting for special events in your life to the Church waiting for the birth of Jesus during the Nativity Fast.
- **Anticipate** the coming of Jesus Christ as a very important event.
- **Identify** the people and things that are featured in the icon of the Nativity of Our Lord.

### Session 2 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

- **Explain** how silence is important for being able to listen.
- **Tell** how Mary listened for and responded to God's call.
- **Listen**, in the hymns of the services, for examples of preparation for the coming of Christ.
- **Demonstrate** an understanding of the icon of the feast of the Presentation.
- **Draw** a picture of an event in Mary's life.

### Session 3 The "Winter" Saints

- **Define** saints as special people (friends) of God.
- **Tell** the story of St. Romanos the "sweet-singer."
- **Find** the image of St. Romanos in the icon, and the singers with him.

### Session 4 St. Nicholas of Myra and Lycia

- **Recognize** what (or who) a bishop is.
- **Identify** St. Nicholas as a bishop and identify our own bishop.
- **Tell** a story about an event in St. Nicholas' life and how he helped someone.
- **Demonstrate** an understanding of how to do good for others by helping in a charitable project.

### Session 5 The Ancestors of Christ

- **Name** and **describe** your family members.
- **Demonstrate** an understanding that our parents, grandparents, etc. are our ancestors (those who have come

### Session 6 The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

- **Develop** an understanding of ourselves as members of God's Family.
- **Name** members of God's family that you know.

before us).

- **Create** a nativity scene as a class, waiting to add the baby Jesus after the other preparations are complete.

- **Tell** how we become members of God's family.
- **Identify** ancestors of Jesus (his earthly parents and grandparents).

### Session 7 The Prefeast of the Nativity

- Using the icon, **identify** the main characters present at the birth of Jesus.
- **Sing** the troparion of the Nativity (and/or the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ode of the Christmas Kanon: "Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ is from heaven, go to meet Him!")

### Session 8 "God is With Us!"

- **Present**, in a tableau as a class, the story of the Nativity as presented in the verse: "What shall we offer...?"
- **Sing** the refrain: "God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!"