

THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Prayer: “O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of understanding Thy Word, and teach me to do Thy will.

Parent Explains: What would you do if somebody came into your house and destroyed all your pictures? Or cut up some of the pictures of your friends? Or burned the precious photos of your grandparents?

That is exactly what people called iconoclasts did 1300 years ago. Iconoclasts were people who destroyed icons. They wanted to take away all the icons and destroy them. They thought that people who were worshipping the icons were breaking God’s commandment not to worship idols.

The Orthodox explained that they do not worship the icon, but venerate the person shown in the icon. We pray with icons because we know that God became a real person Who lived here on earth. When we kiss an icon of Jesus and say a prayer, we are not kissing and praying to wood and paint, but sending a kiss and prayer to Jesus, who is real in heaven.

On the first Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy by celebrating the return of icons and the victory over the iconoclasts. This Triumph makes us so happy that we talk about it loudly in Church. We might even shout! Orthodox people all over the world will carry icons in processions and say these words loudly:

**“This is the faith of the Apostles,
This is the faith of the Fathers,
This is the faith of the Orthodox,
This is the faith which established the universe!”**

On this day no one will mind if you shout these words in Church. Today is a day to celebrate Christ’s victory and His Church’s Triumph!

Discussion: Allow children to answer each question.

Who were the iconoclasts? *(People who wanted to take away icons and destroy them.)*

Why did they want to destroy icons? *(They believed people were disobeying God by worshipping icons.)*

Do we worship icons in the Orthodox Church? *(No, we venerate the person shown in the icon to show our love and respect.)*

What does the Church proclaim loudly on Orthodoxy Sunday?

(This is the Faith of the Apostles, this is the Faith of our Fathers, this is the Faith of the Orthodox, this is the Faith which established the universe.)

To celebrate Orthodoxy Sunday learn more about icons by viewing a fun, short video. Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search Orthodox Pebbles-All About Icons.

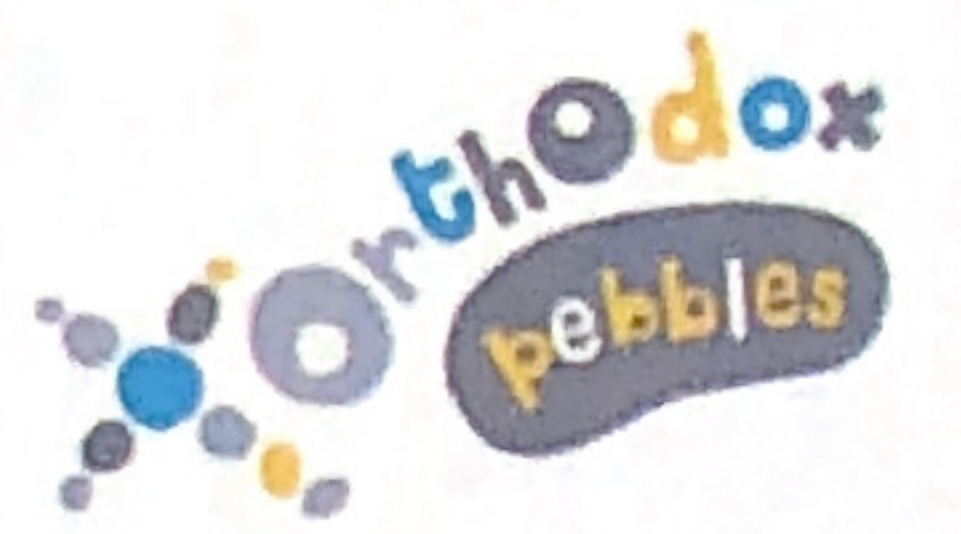
Activities: Copies of and materials for these activities are available at church.

- Sunday of Orthodoxy Crossword Puzzle
- Restoration of Icons Coloring Sheet
- Make your own icon corner- Cut and Glue Activity
- Craft Packet : Popsicle Stick-Framed Icon

RESTORATION OF THE ICONS'



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Name:

Fill in the crossword puzzle using the following words:

ORTHODOXY - HEAVENLY - VENERATE

1. We _____ holy icons by kissing them.
2. We celebrate holy icons on the Sunday of _____.
3. Holy icons are golden to remind us of God's _____ Kingdom.

