

www.smfsus.org

### **HIS HOLINESS POPE TAWADROS II**



### **118<sup>TH</sup> POPE OF ALEXANDRIA AND PATRIARCH OF THE SEE OF SAINT MARK**



# Rejoice

Table of Contents	Page
St. Mark Festival Anthem- Rejoice	2
My Joy Comes from the Lord – The Nativity Star	3
My Joy is in His House – Processions in the Church	6
My Joy is Living His Commandments – The Eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia Believes	9
My Joy Stays with Me if I am with the Lord – Elijah and the Widow	12
My Joy Shows in My Behavior – St. Verena Made People Happy	15
Memorization	18
Coptic	19
Hymns & Rituals	26

Visit the St. Mark Festival's website at <u>www.smfsus.org</u> to find the material for the festival and for guidelines and information on the tests



### St. Mark Festival 2023 Anthem

By the grace of God we grow And give fruits a hundredfold X2 And His Spirit dwells within us Gives us joy as the Bible told

Rejoice in your faith and church Handed down to us by God Be firm in prayers and doctrine And build your life on His word

(Our Lord wants us faithful Glorified and joyful) x2 Always joyful

For He has redeemed us on the cross And gave us eternal life When you're a temple for His dwelling Sadness will not be a choice

Praise and thank God every day and you... And you will surely rejoice!

x2

## **My Joy Comes From the Lord**

### **The Nativity Star**

### Matthew 2:1-12

This story teaches us that true joy comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.

A long time ago, around the time of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, a star appeared in the sky. This star was different from the rest of the stars. 3 wise men studied the stars and when they saw this special star, they knew that a great King would be born. They followed the star until it led them to Jerusalem.





They went to King Herod's palace and asked the king, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).

When King Herod heard this, he was sad and worried that this new King would take his place. The chief priests told the king that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. King Herod told the wise men to "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him" (Matthew 2:8). The 3 wise men left King Herod's palace.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" (Matthew 2:10).

They followed the star and it led them to where the young Child was.

It was our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, who was born in Bethlehem. The 3 wise men were very happy and they worshiped Him. They offered Him their best gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Then they had a dream that they should not return to Herod, so they took a different path back to their country.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven for us because He loves us very much.

He was born from the Virgin St. Mary to live with us on Earth.

His name is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

He died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us and to take us to be with Him in heaven forever.

"When they saw the star,

they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy". (Matthew 2:10)



### The Nativity Star



"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy". (Matthew 2:10)

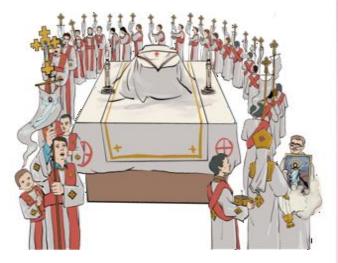
### My Joy is in His House Processions in the Church

Learning about the Rite of Processions in the church, teaches us how the church expresses joy.

When we have a feast in the church, the priests and the deacons go around the church holding crosses and an icon (a picture) of the feast we are celebrating. They sing hymns and play the cymbals and the triangle. This is called a **procession**.

### Let us learn about the order of the procession.

A deacon leads the procession while holding a big cross with a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross on one side and His Resurrection on the other side. The other deacons follow him holding smaller crosses.



Then a deacon holds an icon of the feast and walks backwards while facing the priest. The priest offers incense in front of the icon. Another deacon follows the priest holding the box of incense.

In the church, incense means that God is with us. As the incense goes up, our prayers go up to heaven and God hears them.



The procession starts in the sanctuary where the priest and deacons go around the altar 3 times. Then, they leave the sanctuary and go around the church 3 times.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> processions go from left to right (North to South). During the 3<sup>rd</sup> procession, the priest and the deacons go down the middle of the church, returning to the sanctuary.

There, they will have one last procession around the altar. The deacon holding the icon stands in front of the altar (facing the congregation), while the priest offers incense.



Processions in the church bring us great joy. We have many processions throughout the year. These are a few:

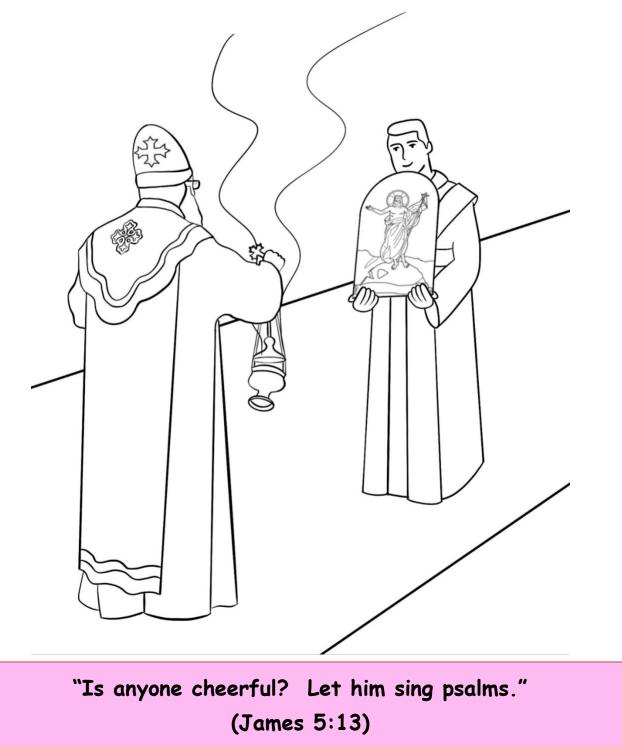
- On the Feast of the Resurrection
- During the Holy 50 days.
- On the **feasts of the saints**, to celebrate their lives that they lived pleasing the Lord.

Our Church is a beautiful church filled with joy. It teaches us to show our joy by praising our Lord.

"Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms." (James 5:13)



### **Processions in the Church**



### **My Joy is Living His Commandments**

### The Eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia Believes Acts 8:27-39

This story teaches us that the word of God (The Holy Bible) is the source of our joy.

The eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia was a man of great authority. He was in charge of the queen's treasury. On his way back from Jerusalem, he was sitting in his chariot (a cart pulled by horses). He was reading from the Book of Isaiah the prophet in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

At that time, an angel of the Lord told St. Philip the Apostle to talk to the eunuch.

He asked him: "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The eunuch answered: "How can I unless someone guides me? Can

you sit with me and explain it to me?"

St. Philip explained to him that what he was reading from the Old Testament was about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The eunuch rejoiced because he understood the word of God and he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.



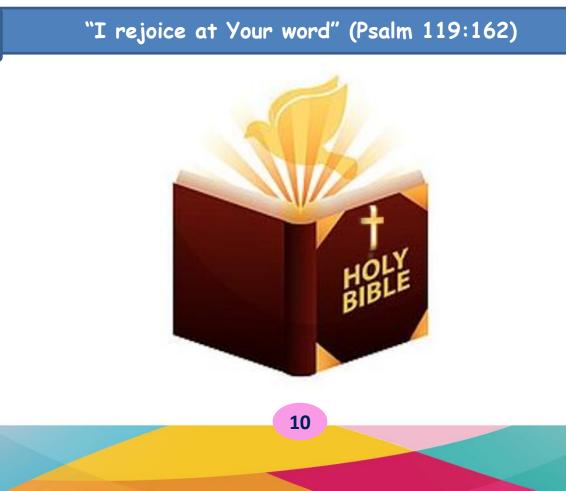
As they passed by some water, the eunuch asked St. Philip if he could be baptized. St. Philip told him that "if you believe with all your heart, you may" (Acts 8:37).

The eunuch said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37), and St. Philip the Apostle baptized him in the water.

The eunuch was very happy that he became Christian and he was a child of God.

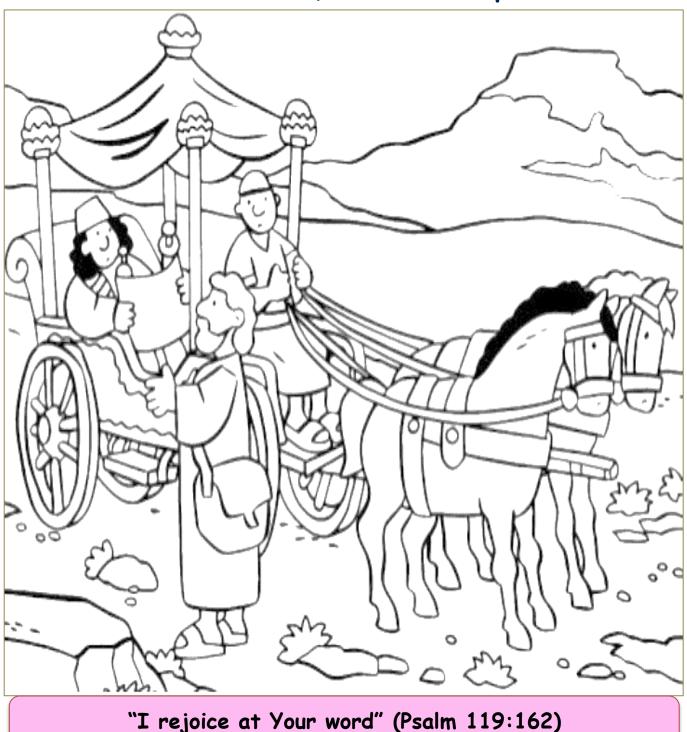


When we read the word of God, it brings joy into our lives.



# **Color the Picture**

### The Eunuch of the Queen of Ethiopia Believes



### **My Joy Stays with Me When I am with the Lord** Elijah and the Widow

### 1 Kings 17:2-16

This story teaches us that being with our Lord Jesus Christ, through prayer, gives us joy.

Elijah the prophet was a man of God. He prayed to God all the time and knew that God was always with him. He always obeyed God and did what was asked of him.

At that time, there was no food in the land. God told Elijah to drink water from Brook Cherith (a small creek) and He sent ravens to bring him food to eat. The ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and evening.





After many days, the brook dried up, but God had plans for Elijah and never forgot him. God told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath to stay at the house of a widow who lived with her son. She would take care of him.

When he arrived at the widow's house, he found her gathering sticks. He asked, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink... and bring me a morsel of bread in your hand" (1 Kings 17:10-11).



The widow told him that she did not have any bread, and all that she had was a handful of flour and a little oil. She planned to use them to prepare bread for herself and her son. After she made this last piece of bread, they would have nothing to eat.

Elijah told her not to fear and to make him a small cake first and then to make one for herself and her son. For the Lord said: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth" (1 Kings 17:14).



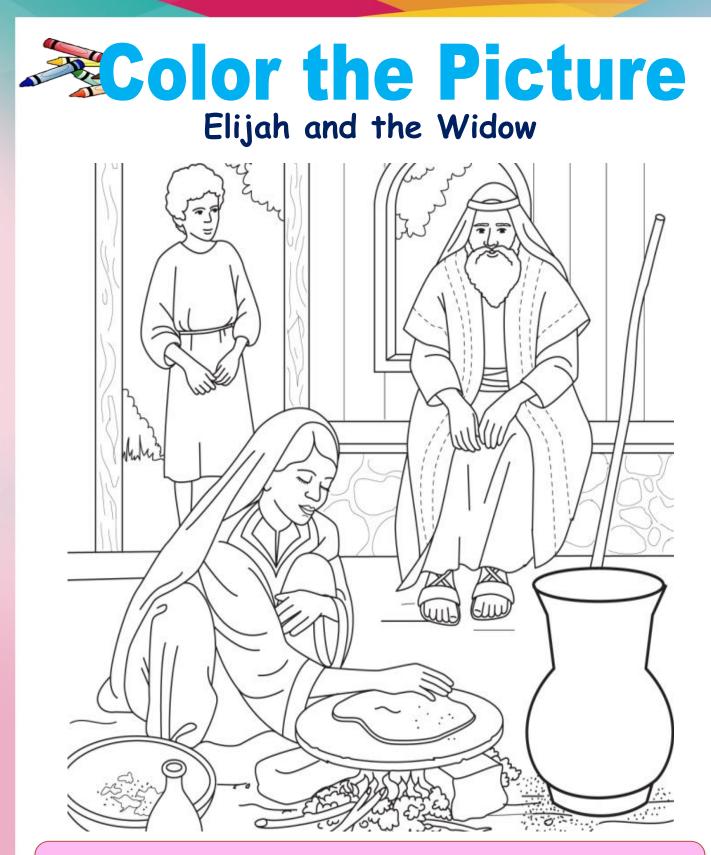
This meant that the flour and oil would not finish until it rained, and the plants grow, so that they would have food again.

The widow believed Elijah, the man of God, and obeyed him. God took care of her and she had enough food for Elijah and her family. They were all joyful.



When we obey our Lord Jesus Christ and follow His commandments, we always have joy.

"Let those who also love Your name be joyful in You." (Psalm 5:11)



"Let those who also love Your name be joyful in You." (Psalm 5:11)

### **My Joy Shows In My Behavior**

### St. Verena Made People Happy

Synaxarion of the 4th day of the Coptic month of Thoout (September 14)

This story teaches us that when we help others, we make them happy and we are also happy.

St. Verena was born in a village in Egypt. Her name means "the good fruit." Her parents taught her to love God, to pray to Him, and to love and help others from a young age. For these reasons, everyone loved her.

St. Verena traveled with soldiers, led by St. Maurice, to a country called Switzerland (in Europe). As she lived there, she prayed, she fasted, and she did handywork. She helped all the people around her and taught young girls how to take care of themselves.

Many people loved her because she served everyone. They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ because of her.

She was able to please God by telling people about Him and spreading His word. She made people happy by helping them, teaching them about cleanliness, and taking care of themselves and their homes.







When the ruler heard about St. Verena and how she told people about the Lord Jesus Christ, he was not happy. He ordered that she be put in prison.

She was not afraid or sad in prison, but was always joyful in the Lord. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the source of our joy.

Later, when the governor became sick, St. Verena prayed for him, and he was healed. After he became well, he released her from prison and she continued to help people.



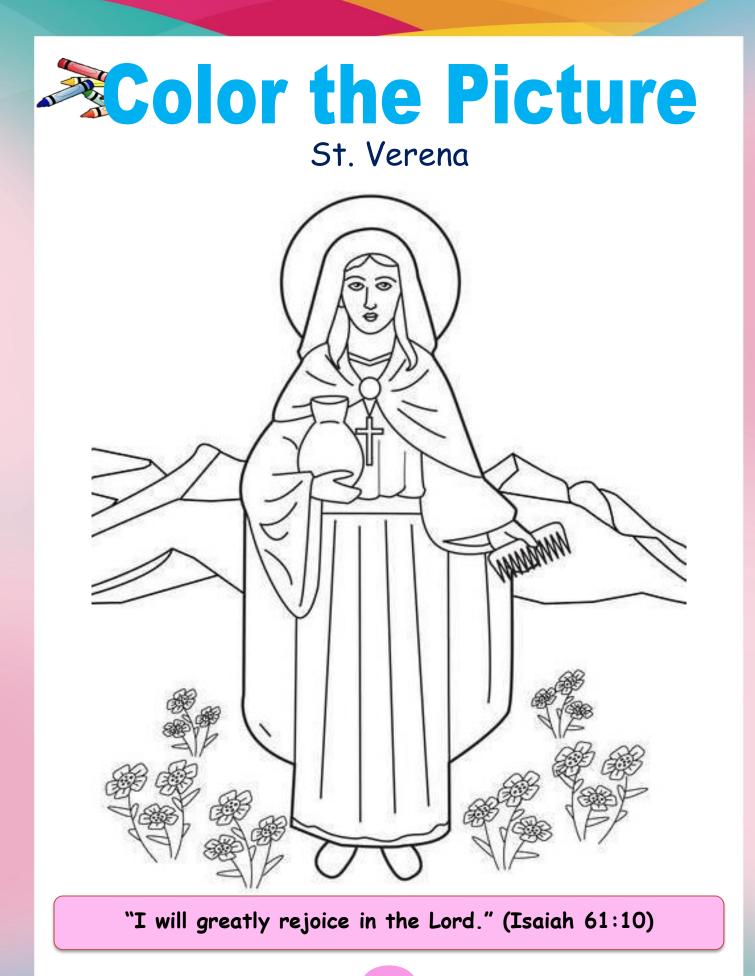


The Coptic Church celebrates her departure to heaven on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the Coptic month of Thoout (September 14).

#### We have joy when we care for others.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord." (Isaiah 61:10)





# Memorization

### 1. "so that you surely rejoice" (Deuteronomy 16:15)

### 2. Psalm 99 of Ninth Hour of the Agpeya

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with exultation. Know that the Lord Himself is our God; He made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him, praise His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is forever, and His truth is from generation to generation. ALLELUIA.

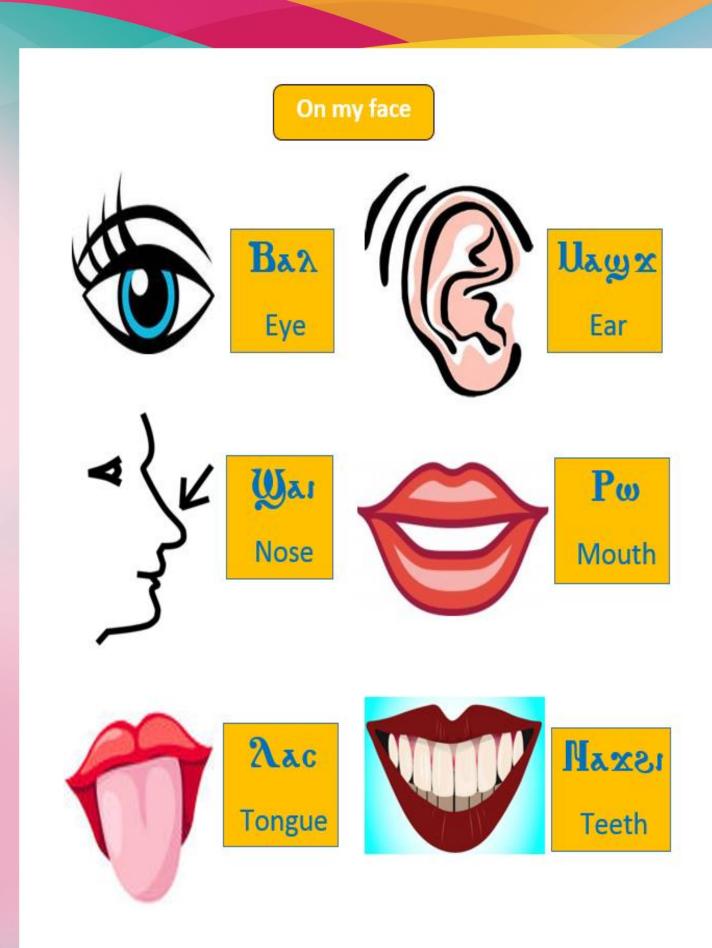


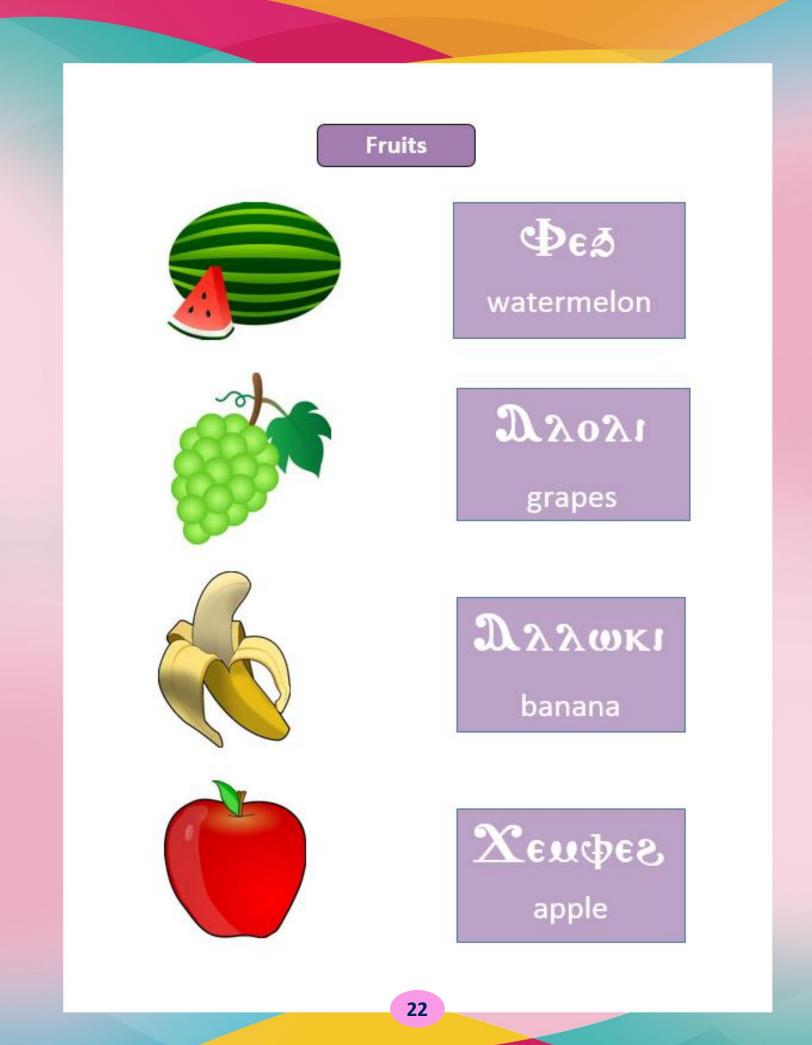


### **Coptic Alphabet**

	Kn	ow the shape an	d	name of	the letter	
Letter	Name of Letter	Pronunciation		Letter	Name of Letter	Pronunciation
Aa	Alpha	А		Ππ	Pee	Р
Вв	Veeta	В, <b>V</b>		Pp	Ro	R
22	Gamma	G, N, Gh		Cc	Seema	S, Z
Δλ	Delta	D, Th (the)		Τ	Tav	т
θe	Еуу	E		<b>Y</b> r	Epsilon	V, I, (oo)
~3'3	So-oo	number 6		₽ф	Fey	F
ζζ	Zeeta	Z		Xx	Кеу	K, Kh, Sh
Нн	Eeta	Ee		₿ψ	Epsee	Ps
θθ	Theeta	Th (think), T		Wω	O-Long	Оо
lı	Yota	I, Y		<b>ຟຼ</b> ຼ	Shai	Sh
Кк	Карра	к		વવ	Fai	F
<b>2</b> 2	Lavla	L		ந	Khai	Kh
Uu	Mey	м		<u>s</u> S	Hori	Н
нИ	Ney	N		Xx	Ganga	G, J
Zz,	Eksee	Ks		<b>6'</b> 6	Cheema	Ch
00	O-Short	0		<b>1</b> 4	Tee	Tee











### The Sign of the Cross

Бен `фран	In the name
тыфи	of the Father
NEM	and
ւման ան	the Son
Исм	and
Піпнетна Ефотав	the Holy Spirit
<u>tronrO</u>	one
<b>Norw</b> T	God
"Duen	Amen

### **Verses from the Holy Bible**

Ращи бен `Пбоис `нснот мивен Rejoice in the Lord all the time

Фиот† отазалн пе God is love

**Δ***nok* πε μπερέρεο† It is I, do not be afraid

		Let's Rev	iew		
Fru	uits	At Chu	ırch	On M	y Face
Ф¢\$	Watermelon	Отнв	Priest	Βαλ	Eye
${f y}^{ m yoy1}$	Grapes	$\Delta_{iakon}$	Deacon	Uzwz	Ear
<b>Δ</b> λλωκι	Banana	тоф <b>Ω</b> ́	Chalice	Wai	Nose
Xeudes	Apple	`Өрнр	Patten	Ρω	Mouth
		Vorde	Candle	Aac	Tongue
			Bell	18xxN	Teeth
<b>ி</b> ழ Who	) <b>πε πεκ</b> at is your name	•	П	аран пе	
Ag	υ πε πε	pan?		My name is	
Wh	at is your name	? (girl)			

### Match the picture to the correct word.



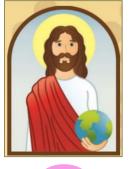
## **Hymns & Rituals**



### Потро

<u>Rites:</u> The hymn **IIovpo** is "O King of Peace" and we say it at the end of all the Venerations for the saints. It is a hymn for the Lord Jesus Christ because He is the King of peace who gives us His peace.

O King of peace,	Потро йте †гірнин:
grant us Your peace,	моі пап йтекгірнин:
establish for us Your peace,	семпі пап йтекгірнин:
and forgive us our sins.	ха пеппові пап ёвох.
Disperse the enemies,	Хшр ёвол йніхахі:
of the Church,	йте текклінсіа:
and fortify her,	арісовт ёрос:
that she may not be shaken forever.	йнескім ща ёнег.
Emmanuel our God,	Ешцапотн» Пеппот†:
is now in our midst,	беп тепцн† †пот:
with the glory of His Father,	беп йшот йте Печішт:
and the Holy Spirit.	пец Піппетца сфотав.
May He bless us all,	Итечсноч ёрон тнрен:
and purify our hearts,	йтечточво йненгнт:
and heal the sicknesses,	йтечталбо йнішшні:
of our souls and bodies.	йте ненфчхн нем ненсшиа.
We worship You, O Christ, with Your good Father, and the Holy Spirit, for You have come and saved us. Have mercy on us.	Тепочюют йнок й Піхрістос: пен Пекіют пазабос: пен Піппечна ебочав: хе акі аксю† йноп паі пап.





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