



I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I" CON

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

This icon depicts the birth of The Theotokos!

The woman reclining is not Mary herself (although her attire may seem similar) but Mary's mother, St. Anna. The birth of Theotokos was a miracle because of her parent's Sts. Anna and Joachim couldn't have children.

Note the red cloth hanging between buildings as we have learned this symbol indicates that the event depicted occurred indoors.

In this icon, we see the grand house that Mary was born into, unlike her Son, our Saviour, Jesus, who was born in a manger. Mary's father, St. Joachim, was a wealthy man, and he spared no expense in the care St. Anna and Theotokos received upon this day. Three attendants are depicted serving the new mother St. Anna with food, drink, and fan.

We see St. Joachim depicted away from the scene, looking on in joy with open arms.

He written this way to help the icon make a comparison to the Nativity of Christ. In the Nativity of Christ, we often see St. Joseph depicted away from Theotokos and Jesus, symbolizing his internal conflict.



NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BY FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK



Above the infant Mary's head, we see the acronym MP ΘΥ which stands for "Mother of God."

Notice in the corner the midwives bathing a tiny Theotokos.

It is incredible to think that this girl from a wealthy family humbled herself to give birth to Christ in a cave surrounded by animals. Let us remember her, "Yes!"