

# Theotokos Birth Story

*Let me tell you the birth story of the Theotokos.*

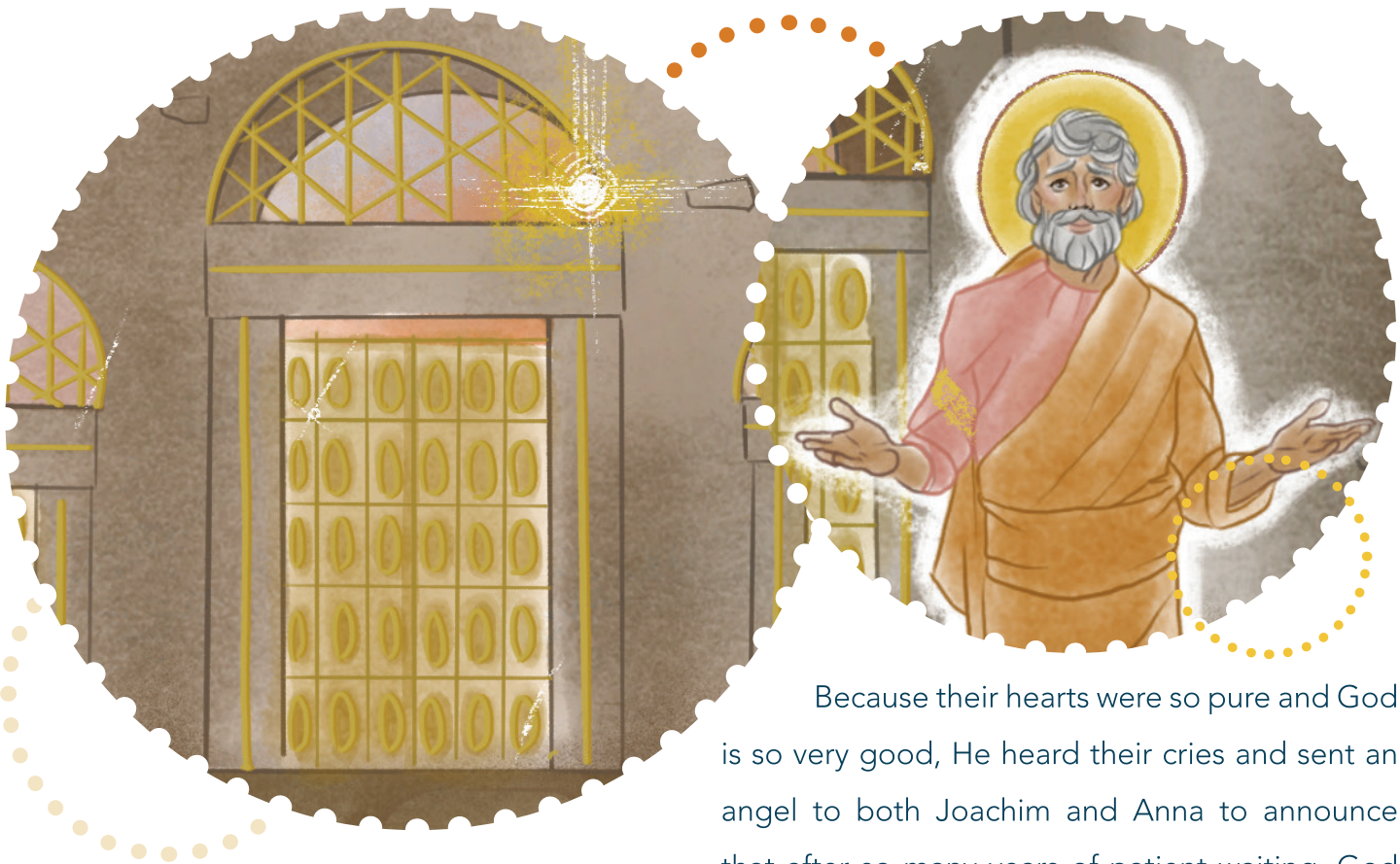
Have you ever asked your parents to tell you about the day you were born? Children love to know the details about that special day that they came into the world! Would you like to hear the story about how the mother of Jesus, the Theotokos, was born? You won't find the story in the Gospels, but we do know some of the details about this story, as well as other stories about the early life of Mary and Jesus, because the Apostle James, who was actually a member of the family of Jesus, wrote all about it and other events in the early life of Mary and Jesus in a separate book called the Protoevangelion of James.

The story of Mary's birth is a wonderful story about dealing with disappointment, about hope, and about trusting in God, but it starts out in a rather sad way. Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were married for a very long time but had no children.

They were very disappointed about it and prayed to God earnestly every day for a child. They never gave up hope, but it had been such a very long wait.



Joachim was one of the priests in the temple and when it came time for him to present the offering, the high-priest refused his gifts saying that he wasn't worthy of offering anything. Because he and his wife had no children and since children are a gift from God, he thought that they were obviously a wicked couple who had been cursed with barrenness. Joachim was heartsick to hear such a thing. He overheard the other priests, all of whom had many children, making fun of him. This made Joachim so sad and ashamed that he went out into the wilderness for a while to weep alone and think about what the high-priest had said. Was he really a wicked man? Was it his fault that Anna had never become a mother? Did he fail her? Did he somehow fail God?



This made him so upset and since he didn't want to appear this way in front of Anna and make her as sad as he was, he didn't return home. He stayed in the wilderness and prayed about it so earnestly that he didn't realize that night had fallen and so he remained there overnight. Naturally, Anna was very worried when her husband didn't return home so in the morning she went in search of him at the temple and was told about what had happened there and where he had gone. She returned home, not wanting to go after him and cause him embarrassment. She began to fast and pray like she never prayed before, begging God to help her and tell her what she should do. At the same time, her husband was in the wilderness, begging God for the very same grace.

Because their hearts were so pure and God is so very good, He heard their cries and sent an angel to both Joachim and Anna to announce that after so many years of patient waiting, God willed that they would soon become the parents of a beautiful baby girl who would be blessed more than any other woman who would ever live! The angel told them that they should meet each other at the Golden Gate of the Temple and rejoice together, and so they did. Soon afterward, Anna was found to be expecting a baby! A very special baby! The Theotokos! She would grow up to become the woman who would say YES and become the Mother of God, bringing Him into the world for our salvation! What a great reward for Joachim and Anna!

*-Written by Lynne Wardach*