



WHO IS THE THEOTOKOS?

ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΣ

Pronunciation: theo-TOH-kohs

Meaning: "God-bearer" or "Mother of God"

The Council of Ephesus (431) officially granted Mary this sacred title, establishing her unique role in salvation history. She became known as the woman chosen to bring the divine into human history.

THE MARIAN ACRONYM

M.H.T.H.P. Θ.E.O.Υ.

(MĒTĒR THEOU - Mother of God)

MP = abbreviation for **MHTHP** (MĒTĒR) = "Mother"

ΘΥ = abbreviation for **ΘΕΟΥ** (THEOU) = "of God"

This icon of the Theotokos portrays Mary in her traditional garment colored according to the Byzantine tradition. She wears the three stars on her forehead and shoulders to denote her perpetual virginity before, during and after the birth of Christ.

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