

10 Maidens' Paper Lanterns

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) is the focus of **Holy Tuesday**. Ten maidens waited for their bridegroom. (In the custom of that time and place, the bridegroom would fetch the bride from her parents' home to bring her to his own.) Five of the women foolishly took their lamps with no extra oil and when the bridegroom was delayed, could not go out and meet him. The wise maidens went prepared and joined him in the marriage feast. The parable's message exhorts us to be vigilant and prepared for the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. On Holy Tuesday, during the Evening Service, ten young women approach the Holy Altar of the Church. Five of the girls have burning candles or oil lamps in their hands, symbolizing the wise maidens, and the other five have extinguished candles or unlit lamps in their hands, symbolizing the foolish maidens.

Supplies

- Colored Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Stapler

Instructions

1. On one side of construction paper, have students write:

“Matthew 15: 1-13” and “Parable of the 10 Maidens”

Then, continue to decorate the same side of the construction paper with pictures that represent the story of the Wise and Foolish Maidens.

2. Fold construction paper in half lengthwise. Make sure the decorated side is facing out.

3. Draw lines about an inch apart all the way down paper.

4. You'll start cutting on the folded side, then stop about an inch away from the outer edge. Do not cut all the way through!

5. After the lines are cut, unfold the paper. Roll paper into a circle from short end to short end.

6. Staple at the top and bottom where both sides meet. Use a strip of construction paper for the handle. Just staple each end to the side of the lantern.

