Pre-School: God Loves Us

In Pre-School, the emphasis is on the God’s love for the children, their families and the world. The Pre-School student begins to realize that God is all around and that all things are gifts from God. The student begins to realize that he/she experiences God’s love in playing with others, in family relationships and participating in Church worship and life. (This definition is taken from the Scope and Sequence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

During the Pre-School Grade Catechetical School year, students should learn:

I. God the Father
   God loves the child and all others. God’s love is seen in all things and people. The students learn that they should show their love for God and thank Him for all His gifts and that they should show God’s love by how they care for and protect one another.

II. God the Son-Jesus Christ
   Students learn that God gave us Jesus and Jesus was given to Mary & Joseph to love and protect Him. The emphasis is on Jesus’ love for children and how Jesus taught us to love each other as He loves us.

III. God the Holy Spirit
   Students learn of how the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism and how we receive the Holy Spirit at our own baptism. The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and helps us feel God’s love.

IV. Church
   Students learn to love the church as God’s house and that in Church we should love one another. The Church is the family of God and Jesus is the leader. The Church includes our priests, grandparents, parents, children, Godparents and all the people.

V. Worship and Prayer
   Praying together, to thank God and ask Him to help us, shows love for God. Students learn to make the Cross, light a candle, pray the “Agios O Theos/Holy God, venerate the Icons and show correct manners in Church.

VI. Liturgy
   Students learn the reason for coming to the Liturgy. They include the God shows us His love by giving us Holy Communion. When we receive Holy
Communion, we feel God’s love in our hearts and to love one another. In the Liturgy we pray, sing, and thank God for all He has given us.

VII. Sacraments and Other Services
Students learn about prayers at their birth and that through baptism we become Christians and followers of Christ.

VIII. Prayers and Hymns
Students learn important prayers and hymns of the Church: Lord’s Prayer, Holy God/Agios O Theos/By the Intercessions of the Theotokos/Tes Presvies. Students also learn when and how to pray at home.

IX. Saints, Feasts, Cycles
Students learn about important feasts of the Church such as Christmas, Theophany, and the Annunciation, Easter and other feast and saints’ days.

X. Scripture
Students learn that the Bible is God’s Book given to us to teaches us the parables of God’s love and stories related to the Feasts of the Lord.

XI. Tradition
Students learn about the sign of the Cross, candles, incense, icons, which show Church feasts and Biblical stories that go with their lessons.

XII. Christian Family
Students learn that God gives us our family and that we should love each other, as well as thanking God for our families.

XIII. Ethics and Spirituality
Students learn that they are important to God and that because He loves us and we love Him, we should thank God for His love. Students learn that they should obey, and trust God.

XIV. Service and Mission
Students learn about taking turns during play, not to be hurtful to one another and help our parents and teachers.

XV. Other Faiths, Society and World
Students learn about helping each other and others in our community and world.