

## **Second Grade: Loving God**

In Second Grade, the emphasis is on loving God. Students learn of the people of the Old and New Testaments and Orthodox saints who were obedient to God. The students learn about sin and forgiveness in the light of God's love. The child learns that with examples and through acts of worship and life, he will be able to respond to God with love and obedience—the foundation of morality. (This definition is taken from the Scope and Sequence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

*During the Second Grade Catechetical School year, students should learn:*

### **I. God the Father**

Students learn that even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He still loved them. They learn of Biblical examples of God's love, mankind's failures and repentance

### **II. God the Son-Jesus Christ**

We learn of God's greatest gift to the world, His only-begotten Son, Jesus and His complete obedience to His Heavenly Father. We also learn about loving our neighbor as God loves mankind.

### **III. God the Holy Spirit**

Students learn that the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love. And that the Holy Spirit fills our hearts with love.

### **IV. Church**

Students learn about the Church and the parts of the Church, as well as the tools used during Liturgy and Holy Communion. All of the people of the Church are loved by God and should be loved by us all.

### **V. Worship and Prayer**

Prayer is emphasized and we learn about events in the Church.

### **VI. Liturgy**

During the Liturgy, the theme throughout is love.

### **VII. Sacraments and Other Services**

Marriage as a sacrament and love of family is emphasized.

### **VIII. Prayers and Hymns**

Students continue to learn the importance of prayer in their lives. Students learn to use prayer books and hymns to the Patron Saint of their parish.

## **IX. Saints, Feasts, Cycles**

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is covered, as well as some aspects of Holy Week, St. John the Evangelist and St. Basil.

## **X. Scripture**

Students learn of stories/parables from the Old and New Testaments. Jesus' ministry is taught.

## **XI. Tradition**

Students continue study of icons of various events of our faith.

## **XII. Christian Family**

Students study the Orthodox home and the importance of the Church in our homes. Students learn of saints in the Church and icons in our homes.

## **XIII. Ethics and Spirituality**

Students learn that they must love God with 'all our heart, strength, and soul. Students learn to 'love our neighbor. Even though it is not easy to always love our neighbor, students learn that if they love Jesus with all their heart, strength and soul, then we are more easily able to forgive one another.

## **XIV. Service and Mission**

Examples of God's love for mankind are emphasized and ways to have students to show their love are taught.

## **XV. Other Faiths, Society and World**

Our love for God leads us to love, respect and to treat each other fairly. We are taught respect others differences and to share with one another.