Fourth Grade: Growing with God

In Fourth Grade, the theme stresses a deeper moral and spiritual growth of the child. The theme deals with prayer and sacramental acts related to human growth such as pre-baptismal service, baptism, Chrismation, Liturgy, and Confession. The student will now begin to understand sacramental vision of life. They come to understand the world, and their own growth in the light of their faith, prayer, and sacramental life. (This definition is taken from the Scope and Sequence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

During the Fourth Grade Catechetical School year, students should learn:

I. God the Father
   In this section, the Old Testament gives examples of individuals being tested and who grow from the experience. We learn that God loves us and has given us free will and when we make mistakes, He allows for repentance and forgiveness.

II. God the Son - Jesus Christ
    Jesus is the model of all children growing with God.

III. God the Holy Spirit
    The Holy Spirit works in us and helps us to grow.

IV. Church
    The Church continues to grow, as well.

V. Worship and Prayer
    The way we pray helps us to grow spiritually, also.

VI. Liturgy
    The Liturgy acts as spiritual ‘food’ for growth as people of God.

VII. Sacraments and Other Services
    The Sacraments allow us to grow in God beginning with prayers at birth, naming of a child, forty day blessing and Baptism.
VIII. Prayers and Hymns
Students continue to learn and review prayers taught previously.

IX. Saints, Feasts, Cycles
Students learn about children Saints and learn of the importance of preparing for Great Lent and Confession.

X. Scripture
Students are given their own Bibles to be able to recognize information in the Old and New Testament and to attest to their growth and the importance of the Bible.

XI. Tradition
Students learn of the pre-Baptismal services, the symbols and elements related to Baptism and the Liturgy. Icons are also connected to lessons.

XII. Christian Family
Examples of give and take in the family is focused on forgiveness, reconciliation and preparing for Liturgy.

XIII. Ethics and Spirituality
Students learn that repentance, confession and forgiveness are important for spiritual growth.

XIV. Service and Mission
Students may serve the Church as acolytes, children’s choir, giving to others and visiting other children in the hospitals.

XV. Other Faiths, Society and World
Students learn that there are other faiths in the world and that many people need justice, peace, and cooperation in order to grow as individual and strong Orthodox Christians.