Fifth Grade: Responding to God

In Fifth Grade, lessons of heroes of the faith in Scripture and Tradition who gave examples of faith, loyalty, self-sacrifice, obedience, love, justice and social responsibility are studied. Through this study, students learn to respond to God in terms of personal faith and the basics of Christian morality, the Ten Commandments and the teaching of Christ. (This definition is taken from the Scope and Sequence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

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

I. God the Father
   Stories of Cain and Abel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Joshua and the Promised Land are used to show how these individual responded to the will of God.

II. God the Son-Jesus Christ
   This section covers the events which occur during the Passion of Christ.

III. God the Holy Spirit
   This section discusses how the Holy Spirit worked through the Prophets.

IV. Church
   Examples from the seven Churches in Rev. 3-4 and the many leaders of our faith from different parts of the world are given.

V. Worship and Prayer
   Worship is shown as the response of the people to God.

VI. Liturgy
   Elaborations of the specific parts of the Liturgy are discussed.

VII. Sacraments and Other Services
   The Sacrament of Ordination as a response to God’s calling is given as an example of other ways to serve God.

VIII. Prayers and Hymns
Students continue to learn of the many prayers used in our Faith and Liturgy.

IX. Saints, Feasts, Cycles
   Emphasis on the lives of Athanasius, Basil and John Chrysostom are studied.

X. Scripture
   Children learn to read the Bible including the Proverbs, Book of Acts and Book of Psalms.

XI. Tradition
   The meaning and importance of wearing our Cross is discussed, as well as relating icons to lessons.

XII. Christian Family
   The lessons emphasized discuss the Biblical Families and Saints and how they responded to God’s will.

XIII. Ethics and Spirituality
   Students learn the Ten Commandments and explanation of them. They are taught of Christ’s calling for the spiritual response of the faithful.

XIV. Service and Mission
   Class Service projects are emphasized and family involvement in giving is discussed.

XV. Other Faiths, Society and World
   Students are given examples of how to give of themselves is discussed.