



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

PreK-K

- I. GOD- Letter**
- II. Jesus -** Write on His teaching the children-nativity- (Miracles-Parables)
- III. Holy Spirit -** Baptism/Theophany
- IV. God's House –** Godparents, Christ Coming
- V. Prayers –** Cross, Candles, Icons
- VI. Liturgy -** manners for communion
- VII. Sacraments -** prayers at their birth and baptism
- VIII. Prayers and hymns -** how to pray at home
- IX. Saints -** major holidays
- X. Scripture -** Bible-parables
- XI. Traditions -**sign of the cross, venerating icons, lighting candles
- XII. Christian Families –** God gives us our families – understanding role of family.
- XIII. Ethics and Spirituality -**learn to love and obey God
- XIV. Service -** take turns-not hurt others-giving sharing-helping others-
- XV. Other faiths -** kind to pets and others

First Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter
- II. **Jesus** - As Lord and Savior, As child, Temple
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Gives life and energy (light)
- IV. **God's House** – Orthodox Christians, priests, Metropolitan, parents, Siblings, grandparents, (Craft-brochure with pictures they can Paste)
- V. **Prayers** - hymns in church, pray regularly.
- VI. **Liturgy** – Angels, Lessons from Jesus, Death and Resurrection
- VII. **Sacraments** - baptism-Lord-Holy Spirit-
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** –Lord's Prayer, morning, evening, before Meals, what is a hymn?
- IX. **Saints** – Important Holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Theophany, Annunciation, Palm Sunday, Easter
- X. **Scripture** - Stories of Creation, Noah, Annunciation, Christ's birth, Temple, Baptism-Christ, Jesus heals, ministry, miracles, Risen Jesus Reveals to Mary Magdalene
- XI. **Traditions** – Sign of the cross, Venerating Icons, Lighting Candles, Offering Stewardship, events in the live of Christ.
- XII. **Christian Families** - Emphasis of family in Orthodox Church
- XIII. **Ethics and Spirituality** – Learn humans born to be good but tempted to do wrong things-learn to ask forgiveness (Craft- write sins to as forgiveness for –send to God in balloons.)
- XIV. **Service: to serve Christ** – tell others about Jesus and our Church
- XV. **Other Faiths** – All things God created love and respect those creations.

Second Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter – biblical stories of God’s goodness to man and His forgiveness them.
- II. **Jesus** - Jesus’ complete obedience to God-love neighbor as God loves mankind.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Greatest gift of Holy Spirit is love.
- IV. **God’s House** -Parts of Church – Proskomidis (tools) – (Craft- small pics of parts of church for spiral and 1 big poster for class - on poster make parts of tools for Proskomidis)
- V. **Prayers** - Learn about events in church.
- VI. **Liturgy** - During Liturgy theme love
- VII. **Sacraments** -Marriage and love
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** - Continue to learn prayers importance in their lives and the patron saint of the Church-learn hymn.
- IX. **Saints** - Exaltation of Holy Cross, Holy Week- (Holy Monday - Tuesday) St. John Evangelist-St. Basil
- X. **Scripture** - Learn stories, Parables -Old and New Testament- Jesus Ministry
- XI. **Traditions** - Study icons of various events in the Faith
- XII. **Christian Families** - Orthodoxy in our homes, importance of Church in our homes- (Craft-Name this Saint -posters)
- XIII. **Ethics and Spirituality** - We must love God and neighbor with all our hearts-strength and soul and be able to forgive one another.
- XIV. **Service** - Example of God’s love to mankind-how do students show their love for others.

XV. Other faiths - love for God-we learn to respect differences and love one another.

Third Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter – Students will learn of God’s love for Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac and His promise to His people.
- II. **Jesus** - Students will learn about how Jesus selected His disciples and share His love. Students learn about Jesus missions, and teachings.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Students learn of the birth of the Church (Pentecost) when the Holy Spirit is given to those who followed Jesus.
- IV. **Church** - God’s House: Third grade will learn about the early days of the Church-St. Stephen and the history of the Church. Lesson: Students can create a timeline of the history of the Church and place the timeline around the classroom.
- V. **Prayers** - prayers to be studied will come from the Old Testament and worship of God in the Church.
- VI. **Liturgy** - Student lessons will involve places in the Liturgy that emphasizes how Christ showed His love for His people. Students will also learn of the important aspects of the Liturgy, which involve Holy Communion-Antidoron
- VII. and other important events of the Liturgy.
- VIII. **Sacraments**- Vasilopita, Holy Oil, blessing of loaves, blessing of water (Craft-have kids bring in Vasilopita recipes and Kolivo-recipes and prosforo recipe to help create a recipe book.)
- IX. **Prayers and hymns** - Students will learn the hymn of Pentecost, prayers before Communion and thanksgiving after Communion. Students will learn about the stanzas of The Creed. Lesson: Students can take one stanza and individually or with a partner, read and then explain

what the stanza means. They can also draw a 'visual representation' of the stanza.

- X. Saints** - students will create a mosaic icon of their Patron saint.
- XI. Scripture** - Icons related to biblical events, persons. Students will study the stories of the bible through icons.
- XII. Traditions** - Students will work with icons to learn of Biblical events. Students will learn what Koliva, Holy Water and blessing of the loaves are in the Church.
- XIII. Christian Families** - In the Third Grade, students learn more about the important of the family to be connected to the Liturgy and the Church-to become a Christian family.
- XIV. Ethics and Spirituality** - Orthodox missionaries to Africa, Seminary, Seminarians, invite others visit our church (Craft/Activity-make a brochure of a land we want to go to as a mission-where-how the people live and what we would do to welcome them into Orthodoxy - Why is Orthodoxy Important?)
- XV. Service** - Orthodox missionaries to Africa, Seminary, Seminarians, invite others visit our church (Craft/Activity- make a brochure of a land we want to go to as a mission- where-how the people live and what we would do to welcome them into Orthodoxy - Why is Orthodoxy Important?)
- XVI. Other faiths** - Students will learn that our Church does not accept prejudice, basis of race, color, gender and wealth.

Fourth Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter – God Loves Us Lesson supplied.
- II. **Jesus**- Jesus as a boy- (Craft-Write and draw pictures in 'blank book'-to explain what they think Jesus was like as a boy their age) –Jesus in the Temple at 12 yr old – Students will recreate the Temple (tch. will show pics) –Students can make individual figures depicting Jesus- the High Priests Scholars-and Mary and Joseph.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Students learn that the Holy Spirit is within us
- IV. **God's House** - The Church continues to grow, as well.
- V. **Prayers**: Often, students may have difficulties in their lives-they need to know how to pray to help them through their difficult time. Prayer helps us grow spiritually. ****Students compose personal prayer*****
- VI. **Liturgy** -
- VII. **Sacraments** - Our growth in the Church includes the prayers and blessings at our birth-at our naming-at our forty days and our Baptism. (Craft: Students will create a passport showing each of their own blessing at their birth- naming-forty days and Baptism-they will place their own picture in their passport-describing each.)
 - a. **Confession** - Students will create their own "Confession Cards" to help them keep track of what they should discuss during Confession' Fasting: Students will learn about why we fast for the 4 fast periods including Great Lent and learn to ask for forgiveness.
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** -

- IX. Saints** - Children saints: daughters of Sophia, youth neo-martyr, (Craft: students will create a book of Children Saints.)
- X. Scripture** - In this grade, students learn how to recognize and find passages in the Old and New Testament. Students will be able to help find creative ways to search for events and information to help each other learn and remember the scripture.
- XI. Traditions** - Students will learn about the Pre-baptismal services, symbols to baptism. (Craft: Students will make brochure on parts of Baptism.)
- XII. Christian Families** - Students will discuss ways to give and receive forgiveness and learn the importance of being able to ask and give forgiveness from each other and family members.
- XIII. Ethics and Spirituality** - Students will help create a 'Confession Card' to prepare for going to confession.
- XIV. Service** - Lesson on service will involve having students participate in the life of the Church by participating in parish council meetings, helping pass the tray in church, act as an acolyte and visiting children in hospitals and the elderly in nursing homes.
- XV. Other faiths** - Students will work on a lesson to compare other faiths with our own St. Nicholas to learn the richness of our Orthodox faith.

Fifth Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter – Stories of Cain and Able, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Joshua and the Promised Land and how these individuals responded to the Will of God.
- II. **Jesus** - This revolves the Passion Week of Christ leading to His Crucifixion and Resurrection.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Students will learn about the Holy Spirit through the stories of the Prophets.
- IV. **God's House** - The seven Churches found in the Revelations, and they will learn of the many leaders of our faith from different parts of the world. (Craft: Students will create a map to show where the 7 Churches were, regarding each other. On their map, they will attach an index card explaining information on the church's position, according to St. John's interpretation.)
- V. **Prayers** - Prayers we learn in Church as responses in the Liturgy will be learned and explained.
- VI. **Liturgy** - Students will learn about selected parts of the Liturgy.
- VII. **Sacraments** - Ordination and God's calling as an example of ways to serve God. (Craft: Students will create a Career Day Pamphlet of different ways people serve God – ex.: altar boys-helpers in Philoptochos - choir –priests – chanters – catechism teachers – parish council – etc. Students will take pictures of these 'jobs' –then place pictures on the pages of their pamphlet and describe the 'job' and students can write a letter to the people doing the 'jobs and ask them to come speak to their class.)

- VIII. Prayers and hymns** - Students will continue to learn about the various prayers in our faith-from our different Vespers- Salutations and other events of the Church and the Liturgy.
- IX. Saints** - Some of the saints to study will include St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil and St. Athanasius.
- X. Scripture** - Students will learn 10 Commandments and explain them with pictures and explain how they work on keeping the commandments.
- XI. Traditions** - Students will learn the importance of wearing their Cross and several icons will be studied and defined.
- XII. Christian Families** - Students will learn of Biblical families and Saints and their obedience to God.
- XIII. Ethics and Spirituality** - Students will complete a presentation of each Commandment and the meaning of each, also including a visual representation of the Commandment.
- XIV. Service** - Service will include family involvement in giving and responsibility to our Church.
- XV. Other faiths**- Students will learn how to give of themselves.

Sixth Grade

- I. **God - Fetter** –Students will learn about Cain and Abel, Judges Gideon, Deborah, Sampson, Samuel, Elijah. Students will select one of the people of the Old Testament and create a report of them, using pictures and icons.
- II. **Jesus** - Students will learn of the Passion Week of Christ and learn of what happened each day. Students will discuss having a personal connection with God how we do this.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Students will learn of the prophets and apostles and how they committed to the belief in Christ. Discuss the difficulty of this in the time of Jesus.
- IV. **Church** - God's House- Students will learn of the Leaders of our faith from difference lands. (Craft: Students can create world maps and show which area of the world these leaders were from.)
- V. **Prayers** - Students will discuss what they pray for and why.
- VI. **Liturgy** - Students will learn more of the parts of the Liturgy including the 3 services of the Liturgy.
- VII. **Sacraments**- Monasticism – After learning about monasticism, students will help plan a trip to a monastery and write questions they would like to ask at the monastery.
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** - Students learn Creed-They learn dismissal hymn of Great Feasts- they learn the prayer to Holy Spirit - they learn discipline of prayer. Lesson: Students will devise a way to teach The Creed and be able to create a power point of the meaning of each stanza.

- IX. Saints** - Learning lives of St. Athanasius, St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, 3 youths in fire, Lenten Triodion, Maccabean Martyrs, St. Polycarp-cycles of Fast.
- X. Scripture** - Understanding of proverbs, Book of Acts, Psalms, Book of John, Book of Wisdom of Solomon
- XI. Traditions** - Wearing a cross-symbolism-carrying the Holy Light home to bless house-helping to prepare the Epitaphion- cleaning icons-taking icons to be blessed-the meaning of fasting. Students can create a 'book' including all the Traditions of the Church that they have learned.
- XII. Christian Families** - The Orthodox family's responsibility to choosing to follow God philanthropic works. Students will help create a list of Philanthropic works the class can work on. Class will try to complete Philanthropic works through the Catechetical year.
- XIII. Ethics and Spirituality** - Learning 10 Commandments, discover what student believes and is committed to concerning faith, learning about decision making, Human Weakness, Temptations, Choices.
- XIV. Service** - The lesson here is that students learn that God gave us our talents and that we must use them to glorify God. This can be accomplished through participating in helping to serve the Church on Sundays and throughout the week projects to clean Church inside and out-visiting monasteries-nursing homes-hospitals and welcoming people to our church and faith.
- XV. Other faiths** - The importance of this lesson is based on decisions we make when picking friends and how we treat others. Students will also learn the benefits and/or consequences for our decisions.

Seventh Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter –In this year, the students will learn of the supreme mystery of the Holy Trinity, as well as the work of the Prophets to teach about God.
- II. **Jesus** - Students will learn of Christ-as divine and as human. Students will learn that God came to the Earth as human to bring us our salvation. Lessons will include information on Jesus' Baptism-the role of St. John the Baptist in the revealing of the Holy Trinity and that the Kingdom of God is a possibility for man. Students will learn of Holy Eucharist and that it is truly the Body and Blood of Christ.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Students will learn of the Holy Spirit-the Sacrament of Chrismation and the Holy Spirit in the Liturgy and Sacraments.
- IV. **God's House** - lessons about the Church will involve Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist.
- V. **Prayers** - Worship and Prayer involves the revelation of God's Kingdom.
- VI. **Liturgy** - Parts of the Liturgy and meaning of each will be emphasized as the Holy Eucharist is prepared.
- VII. **Sacraments** - Sacraments will be studied and explained.
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** - Prayers found in the Sacraments will be learned.
Student Lesson: students will create prayer lists and who they can remember to pray for.
- IX. **Saints** - Saints of Scripture will be studied.
- X. **Scripture** - Explanation of the covenant with God will be studied, starting with the Old Testament, early baptism and the individuals involved that showed obedience and in communion with God.

- XI. Traditions** - Traditions that are found in the sacraments will be studied.
- XII. Christian Families** - students will discuss the Church in our homes- praying as a family and family in the Christian marriage. Student lesson: create things that students can set up in their homes to make their own place where they pray as a family. (fellowship)
- XIII. Ethics and Spirituality:** students will understand the importance of their personal relationship with God-Theosis and the responsibility of loving God.
- XIII. Service** - Students continue to learn of their responsibility to serve their Church.
- XIV. Other faiths** - Personal relationship with God and an understanding of guarding against peer pressure and substance abuse.

Eighth Grade

- I. **GOD** - Letter - God is recognized as our Creator and the days of Creation will be studied. Students will better understand God's love of the world and man.
- II. **Jesus** - Students will study Christ as fully man and fully God.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - In the eighth grade, students will learn about the judgment and healing power of the Holy Spirit. God's House- In eighth grade, students learn about the key issues of understanding and finding God are studies.
- IV. **Prayers** - The Jesus prayer is an important lesson, as well as worship in the Old Testament.
- V. **Liturgy** - Our spiritual journey in seeking God is the major theme of eighth grade and the need for full participation with our faith and Theosis with God.
- VI. **Sacraments** - Holy Confession-Holy Communion and Paraklesis are the lessons in eighth grade. Prayers and hymns- Hymns from the liturgy will be included in lessons.
- VII. **Saints** - The four periods of Lent in our Ecclesiastical year are studied.
- VIII. **Scripture** - Study of the important events of those who knew God in the Old Testament are studied.
- IX. **Traditions** - Lessons will focus on the lives and martyrdom of Orthodox Saints.
- X. **Christian Families** - Students will understand that we are God's children and part of the family of Christ.

- XI. Ethics and Spirituality** - the Ethics aspect in eighth grade deals with the struggle between good and evil and the role of conscience. We are on a pilgrimage in our lives and walk toward an understanding of love of God.
- XII. Service** - study of Russian Orthodox missionaries in Alaska.
- XIII. Other faiths** - The lessons will emphasize peace, and mutual respect amongst mankind and that religion is very important to help find peace in our world.

Ninth Grade – Twelfth Grade

- I. **GOD**- Letter – the lessons revolve around complete loyalty and obedience to God. Examples involve many of the servants of God in the Old Testament.
- II. **Jesus** - Students will study the complete commitment of Christ to the Will of God.
- III. **Holy Spirit** - Lessons include how the Holy Spirit worked through the disciples to teach Christ's message even though they were persecuted.
- IV. **God's House** - Much of the history of persecution and martyrdom and the Council of Nicea. Student Lesson: Students will create a time-line of the history of our faith.
- V. **Prayers** - lessons on prayers of loving of God and worship and prayers uniting God in our heart and minds.
- VI. **Liturgy** - based on commitment to God and learning more about the Liturgy in respect to the Kingdom of God.
- VII. **Sacraments** - Lessons on Sacraments and how our Sacramental life is important in our faith.
- VIII. **Prayers and hymns** - Hymns deal with sacraments –Holy Week-Pascha-Pentecost-funeral services and Students need to know the Nicene Creed-Jesus Prayer and the Psalms.
- IX. **Saints** - Feast Days of our Saints and our Theotokos, the Archangels, Relics and miracles even after the death of martyrs and Saints.
- X. **Scripture** - Much of the New Testament is the emphasis, as well as the Kingdom of God in the Second Coming.

- XI. **Traditions** - Lessons will be on persecution of Christians. Traditions will also involve understanding of the after-life in the Orthodox perspective and how to prepare memorial wheat/Koliva will be parts of the lessons.
- XII. **Christian Families** - Commitment to our family and our elder family members- censing of the home and bringing offerings to the Church that are tools used during the Liturgy-asking forgiveness of one another as a family before receiving Holy Communion-observing named days and important aspects of becoming a Godparent.
- XIII. **Ethics and Spirituality** - Learning and following the examples of saints and martyrs of our faith-Student lessons will involve studying the lives of martyred saints.
- XIV. **Service** - Lessons deal with using the talents that God has given us to help others less fortunate.
- XV. **Other faiths** - Student lessons will be based on our commitment to caring for our Earth-the gift that God gave us to care for.