

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

MISSION

Minister to and inspire our youth to assimilate Orthodox thought and theology and participate in the liturgical, sacramental, and communal life of the Orthodox Church.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Sunday school are derived from the objectives of the church. Thus, the Sunday school is responsible to the Church to help accomplish the goals of spiritual growth, outreach, education, application, and fellowship. The primary goal of the Sunday school program is to guide our youth towards the Orthodox vision of a relationship with God and the Church.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum consists of a graded textbook series supplemented by selected teaching aides and other sources purchased through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (Department of Religious Education) and the Orthodox Christian Education Commission. Each level of curriculum integrates prayer, scripture, theology, iconography, hymnology, feast days, and worship. Primary Grade instruction is devoted to discovering God, Orthodox Christian values, and an introduction to Orthodox prayer, worship, and understanding of scripture. Middle School instruction focuses on the Orthodox faith and worship. High School instruction focuses on how to live our lives as Orthodox Christians, apologetics, contemporary issues, and more in depth study of Orthodox doctrines and canons.

FUNDING AND STAFFING

The Sunday school ministry is funded by the pledging members of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Funds are allocated by the Church to equip the Sunday school with curriculum materials, school supplies, and adequate space, furnishings, and learning environments for each class. The clergy appoints a Sunday School Director who is responsible for ensuring there are adequate resources for effective ministry; also for enlisting, training/mentoring, and encouraging faculty. Teachers are recruited from inside the parish.

ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Students must be registered annually to participate in the Sunday School Program. Children are eligible to enroll in Sunday school beginning at age 3* through age 18. Eligible students attend tuition-free provided.

*Must turn 3 by March 31 of the prior school year and be potty trained at the time of registration.

SESSIONS AND HOURS

Sunday school is in session in early September (week varies based on dates of Parish Greek Festival) through the Sunday prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Bearing in mind that the clergy wishes to build and minister to the "whole body" of the church, sessions and hours are designed to allow teachers and students to attend services prior to class. Students should arrive for services each Sunday at 9:45am. Students serving in the altar (grades 3 through 12) should arrive at 9:30am. Students will report to class immediately following Holy Communion. Class is in session from - 11:00am to 12:00 pm.; Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be dismissed to their parents; all other grades will be dismissed at noon so parents are asked to *refrain from entering the Education Wing* to pick them up.

SESSIONS AND HOURS CONT'

YOUTH SERVICE SUNDAY IS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 THROUGH 12 MAY BE CANCELED AND STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO SERVE THE PARISH AS FOLLOWS: SING IN THE CHOIR; ASSIST WITH PARISH COUNCIL DUTIES; ASSIST IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL; READ THE EPISTLE; SERVE IN THE ALTAR. ALSO, FATHER PAUL WILL DELIVER A SPECIAL SERMON TO STUDENTS FOLLOWING THE GOSPEL READING. ELEMENTARY AGED CHILDREN WILL BE CALLED TO SIT ON THE SOLSEA DURING THE SERMON. OCCASIONALLY THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL WORSHIP SUNDAY FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 5TH ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. AT TIMES, SUNDAY SCHOOL MAY BE DISMISSED AT 11:45 FOR SPECIAL PARISH EVENTS OR WORSHIP SERVICES.

WEEKLY DONATIONS

A collection tray for the benefit of the ministrics of the Church and mission boxes will be passed weekly in each classroom. This is to help promote awareness among students of their role as stewards of the Church. Student should come prepared to make a donation.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students are to report directly to their classrooms following Holy Communion. Attendance will be taken. Parents of Pre-K through First Grade may accompany their children to their classroom. The Educational wing will be monitored and secured once classes are in session. If a student needs to be dismissed early from class, the parent must provide a note to the teacher stating the required time for dismissal and the student will be escorted by a staff member to the Narthex to meet with the parent at that time.

DRESS CODE

Please dress your child in clothing that is appropriate for Sunday worship. In general, provocative, scant, or torn clothing is considered inappropriate.

VISITATION

Visiting students are permitted provided that the parent or other adult sponsor of the visiting student completes a visitation form. Visiting students are subject to the same guidelines as registered students.

ILLNESS

You will be summoned to come and pick up your child if your child shows or develops signs of illness while at Sunday school.

DISCIPLINE

Our goal is to create an environment that is safe, orderly, and conducive to learning. We believe that a consistent, calm, and non-punitive approach to enforcing discipline in the classroom is the best approach. Extreme or repetitive negative behaviors will be discussed with the parent. Also, students are to respect the Church facilities and property at all times. Running or horseplay in the Education wing will not be tolerated. Also NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES are allowed.