

Sunday school Attendance

It will be 'Perfect' if my child is always in the classroom. Right?

When does Sunday school start?

Sunday school starts at 10 am in Church, at the same time as the Divine Liturgy starts. This scheduling is not coincidental! The Divine Liturgy is an integral part of Catechetical school program. We plan our curriculum so that our students participate and experience the Divine Liturgy as a meaningful pre-requisite of their classroom instruction. So, Sunday school attendance will not be perfect unless the children come to Church early enough to participate in the Divine Liturgy.

Will my child get bored if we come to Church early?

Sunday school ministers to children from pre-school age to teenagers. We realize that not all children have the same attention span and ability to focus and participate in the Divine Liturgy in its fullness. As a result, we have tailored the Catechetical school program, so that younger children (Pre-K to second grade) attend Church for a shorter period of time, just until after Fr. Nicks' children's sermon. Older children participate until Holy Communion time. In either case, children take a communal, active, and participatory role in the Divine Liturgy, as it was intended, which keeps interest high and 'boredom' to a minimum. See the question below!

How will my child participate and learn about the Divine Liturgy?

The children sit with their peers and teachers in the front pews where they can observe and be in the center of all Divine Liturgy related activities. The Divine Liturgy is a fully sensory activity where we see, hear, speak (erh... I meant sing ...), smell, taste, move and think. The children are in the right time and place to partake of this all. They are encouraged to ask questions, sing hymns, recite prayers and follow the Liturgy in their bilingual, illustrated Divine Liturgy books. Students in the 4th and 5th grades form the core of the Youth Choir and all other students are welcomed to participate in this activity as well. These students, together with the altar boys serve our Church each and every Sunday in a very important and meaningful way. Fr. Nick addresses the children in a special sermon with themes and discussion geared specifically to them. They learn about events in the Liturgical cycle of our Church, the lives of Orthodox Saints, and get a chance to discuss (in a sometimes humorous way) some serious issues such as relationships with their parents and peers, drinking, smoking etc. These discussion 'seeds' are many times 'fully grown' in follow up classroom discussions of the children with their teachers. Finally, all children have the blessed opportunity to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Divine Liturgy attendance is important!

The Sunday school ministry prays for a blessed year to you all and for a Church full of children. We will also support, encourage, participate, and track and reward exemplary attendance to the Divine Liturgy!