

St. Dimitrie General Assembly Meeting
February 11, 2024
Sunday School Report

On behalf of the Sunday School teachers, we give thanks to Father George and Ps. Marian, Father Spyridon, Parish Council president Pete Fatsy and the parish council members, Diana Nicola and the Ladies Auxiliary, Daniella and the choir, parents, relatives, and the entire St. Dimitrie community for all the love and support we receive. Our classrooms, which were so beautifully redecorated last August, are full and bustling with activity. We have 35 children on our roster and always make room for friends and visitors. As a reminder, we have three classes that cover grades pre-k through 8th.

Our goal in Sunday School is not only to teach about the many wonderful aspects of our faith and its traditions, but to help children develop their own relationship with God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In classrooms surrounded by their peers, children can explore and delight together in the profound and life-changing experience of being an Orthodox Christian.

The following is a recap of what we've been covering since classes began in October:

Preschool - 2nd Grade

The Sunday School year has been very busy for the preschool through second grade class. We've welcomed many new faces and we are enjoying getting to know one another. At the beginning of the year, we discussed how our family is made up of our immediate family members and God. We are all children of God, he loves us and wants us to be close to Him. During the holiday season, we discussed our many blessings from God, and of course the birth of our Lord. The Nativity play was a culmination of what our class learned about Jesus' birth and all of the classes enjoyed the collaborative effort with the choir. Aside from this, the children practice making the sign of the cross every week and are learning the Lord's Prayer. We are looking forward to learning about how saints and icons help us pray and learning about Jesus' road leading up to Pascha.

Grades 3 - 4

In the first half of the year we explored the church, including; who God's helpers are and what they wear; what icons are and how they help us; and the important reasons we should attend. We were fortunate to have a special class with Father Spyridon up in church learning about the design and symbolism of the Orthodox church which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In the second half of the year, the youngest and middle children turned their attention to serving others by making bookmarks and writing Valentine's Day cards for members of our community who are homebound or sick. Our time now will be largely devoted to the Lenten season and Pascha. The season is rich with lessons, prayers, and preparations. Each year during this season, we take children on the journey to Pascha—sharing parables, learning about sacrifice and repentance, and digging deeper into our faith to get a little bit closer each year to the miracle of this sacrifice.

Grades 5 - 8

The theme in the Sunday School senior class this fall/winter session was understanding “Why are we here?” At an age where studying, sports, and other activities can easily take all of our kids’ time, it is essential that as they step into becoming teenagers, they remain grounded in why keeping Sundays for God is important for them personally, not just their parents. We dedicated lessons in October to knowing our church and history, and understanding how our own presence in church will ensure our church's next 100 years of existence. We continued with an emphasis on building a personal relationship with God through daily prayer and truly living with the faith that “with men some things are impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). We covered the importance of the Theotokos as an intercessor for us, the miracles and healings of Jesus, including the story of the paralytic which prepared us for the mystery of confession and the Nativity season.

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus says, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” We ascribe to children traits like humility, enthusiasm, curiosity, dependence, obedience, and devotion. All of these and more are what we see in the children here at St. Dimitrie and they remind us to pray that these attributes be evident in our own walk of faith.

We thank you for the opportunity to share what we’re doing in Sunday School and for the privilege of sharing the Orthodox faith with the children of St. Dimitrie. And finally, we give thanks and all the glory to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Olteanu, Pre-K - 2nd

Linda Kolton, 3rd - 4th

Claudia Epure, 5th - 8th

Sunday School Roster 2023-2024 School Year

Grades Pre-K - 2

Andrei Breaz
Grace Kokenos
Alex Kokenos
William Modafferri
Christian Olteanu
Scarlet Pirhala
Caroline Pirhala
Hazel Scinto
Cole Zuniga

Grades 3 - 4

Calvin Cody
Ana Cornell
Irina Cucu
Alex Cucu
Andrei Epure
Georgiana Foran
Jeremy Kokenos
James Kokenos
Ana Modafferri
Eleanora Olteanu
Griffin Pirhala
Ariana Tudor
Parker Zuniga

Grades 5 - 8

Christian Coca
Corinne Cody
Marcus Dancho
Victor Epure
Jake Foley
Gia Foley
Sofia Geer
David Geer
Riley Knapp
Andrew Kokenos
Asamina Kokenos
Matthew Modafferri
Nicholas Modafferri