

**St. Dimitrie General Assembly Meeting**  
**Sunday School Report**  
**February 5, 2023**

Father George and Psa. Marian, President Pete Fatsy, Members of the Parish Council, and members of the St. Dimitrie community,

With 29 children registered this year, Sunday School is definitely the place to be! The halls of St. Dimitrie are overflowing with kids, activities, and fellowship and we teachers are feeling very blessed!

This year, with a full roster and wide age range of children, we welcomed Claudia Epure to join Mary Olteanu and myself as the third teacher. Mary teaches pre-K - 2nd. I teach 3rd - 5th, and Claudia has taken on 6th - 8th graders. Overall, attendance is strong and consistent. We see more absences in the older grades as we compete with busy social and sports calendars.

Some highlights from our year to date:

**Pre-K - 2nd:** This year, in addition to learning about how to keep Jesus close to our hearts, we are reading from the Kids Bible given to them by Father George and Psa. Marian. The children are fascinated by the New Testament. We try to think of ways we could apply Jesus' teachings in our day-to-day lives with family and friends. We continue to focus on basics such as making the sign of the cross and learning the Lord's prayer.

**3rd - 5th:** This class is tackling some challenging concepts like the Holy Trinity, learning important vocabulary words like "repentance", and exploring the Bible by understanding the difference between the Old and New Testament and how to locate scripture passages. We're also working on understanding that God is alive and active in our lives.

**6th - 8th:** At this age, students are being challenged to apply thinking to concepts they've been taught over the years in Sunday School. For example, by using the 2011 Consecration book, the kids learned about the history of our church and were fascinated to see pictures of their maias and papus and to learn about how their families helped to build this church over many generations. This led to a discussion about how coming to church every Sunday helps to continue the work of previous generations, is vital to our community's future, and it plants the seeds about what kind of legacy they want to leave as Christians.

In December, all children were able to participate in the sacrament of confession and for many, it was their first experience. The very young ones participated as a group and the older ones did confessions individually. The following week, they were invited to carry candles and receive

communion as a group. Thanks to Father and Psa. Marian for organizing a community-wide celebration afterward, for providing Bibles for every child, and for helping us focus on this important milestone.

Also in December, all classes prepared for the first nativity play that our Sunday School has put on in many years. From angels to animals, shepherds to narrators, the children did their very best to re-enact the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to unite the community in songs and smiles. We'd like to offer a very special thank you to the choir, led by Daniella Geer. When asked to help us fill out the performance with Christmas carols, she quickly organized the choir to support the children with the beautiful voices that make our services so special each week.

Our classes are separated by age but we do provide projects and opportunities to work and play together which strengthens our sense of community and bonds as Orthodox Christians. In the fall, families gathered for s'mores around the bonfire. Last month, we opened up the hall on a chilly Saturday night for pizza, pjs, and a movie. Later this month, families will be joining other Orthodox families for a bowling and ice cream social sponsored by FORCC. And throughout the year, we look for opportunities to continue outreach to our homebound community. The kids made and sent Christmas cards and are currently working on a Valentine's mailing, reminding others how God works through us to spread His love in the world.

Leading up to Pascha, we'll all be learning about Lent, our Orthodox traditions, the parables of Jesus, and about His resurrection.

We teachers feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve the families of St. Dimitrie and God through the ministry of Sunday School and it would not be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of our teachers, the loving leadership of Father George and Psa. Marian, the support from the Parish Council, Ladies Auxiliary, our entire community, and especially the parents and families. And finally, we give thanks and all the glory to God.

Respectfully,

Linda Kolton, Sunday School Director and Teacher (3rd - 5th)

Mary Olteanu, Teacher (Pre-K - 2nd)

Claudia Epure, Teacher (6th - 8th)

2022 - 2023

**Children Registered for St. Dimitrie Sunday School**

Andrei Breaz	Victor Epure	James Kokenos
Christian Coca	Andrei Epure	Ana Modafferi
Calvin Cody	Jake Foley	Nicholas Modafferi
Corinne Cody	Gia Foley	Matthew Modafferi
Ana Cornell	Georgiana Foran	Eleonora Olteanu
Irina Cucu	Jeremy Kokenos	Christian Olteanu
Alex Cucu	Andrew Kokenos	Ariana Tudor
Marcus Dancho	Grace Kokenos	Cole Zuniga
Sophia Geer	Alex Kokenos	Parker Zuniga
David Geer	Asamina Kokenos	