

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
600 EAST BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28203**

PARENT INFORMATION

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

The mission of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Sunday School is to mold the lives of our students in the Orthodox Christian ethos by proclaiming the teachings of Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition and to develop each student spiritually to live a Christ-centered life and to worship and serve the Lord and His Holy Orthodox Church.

PRIESTS

Rev. Father Michael Varvarelis, Dean
Rev. Father Efstathios Varvarelis
Rev. Father Tommy Vlahos, Emeritus Clergy

DIRECTORS

George Politis
Loula Kontoulas
Elise McGinnis

Dear Sunday School Parents and Friends,

Religious education is both a privilege and a necessity within the life of our Holy Orthodox Church. It is a privilege in that it involves instruction in the doctrines of our saving Orthodox Christian faith. It is a necessity because it helps develop a strong foundation so that our children are able to make the right choices in today's highly complex world.

As a church family, we realize that the gift of Orthodoxy is a way of life that we must preserve and impart to the young people of our parish. We are called to express our identity as Orthodox Christians by practicing a God-fearing and pious life. We must maintain our faith that offers 2000 years of worship, wisdom, experience and witness. This is the faith given to us by Christ our Savior, not one devised by man.

Our Sunday School program at Holy Trinity strives to keep this faith alive for our children. Our directors, George Politis, Loula Kontoulas and Elise McGinnis, have developed and organized a comprehensive program so that our children are educated in *all* aspects of our faith, from the time they enter Sunday School as three-year-olds until the time they graduate. The curriculum is multifaceted and encompasses *Scripture, Holy Tradition, Worship, Iconography, Hymnology and Discipleship* to help students more fully participate in the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, and the life of the Church. To enhance the weekly lessons, we have many exciting *Curriculum Enrichment Activities* that will deepen the students' knowledge and will teach them to become active participants in our Holy Orthodox Church. Two examples include the Children's Liturgy and the Children's Choir/Music Program. These programs add depth and breadth to the curriculum and are explained in this handbook.

I am truly excited about the new Sunday School year, and I would personally like to thank our wonderful and dedicated teachers for their commitment and hard work in preparing meaningful lessons each week. Most of all, I would like to thank you for entrusting us with your precious children. The Sunday School staff is always open to your thoughts and ideas, and we welcome your involvement in the Sunday School Department. Together we must provide our children the opportunity for spiritual growth and development, which will help guide them throughout their lives.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Father Michael Varvarelis
Dean

As this new Sunday School year begins...

We present this booklet for your information and understanding of our Sunday School program.

Teaching is a very challenging task. It entails careful study of our faith so that this knowledge can be imparted to our students. It involves planning lessons that will be relevant and interesting. It also requires dedication and commitment to ensure our children are properly educated and prepared for whatever life brings them. Those who volunteer to undertake such a difficult, time-consuming task are to be commended for their stewardship.

At Holy Trinity, we have been blessed with dedicated teachers. However, our program can only be successful if the home and school work together. Our goal is the same: *to provide the best for each student because we care for them as children of God and because today's children are tomorrow's church leaders.* You, as parents, can help with your support and encouragement. You are vital to our success!

We ask for your support in the following important matters:

REGULAR ATTENDANCE

Have your child attend Sunday School regularly. Sporadic attendance brings limited understanding, often lack of understanding, and develops weaker bonds with classmates. Consider religious education as important as secular education.

BRINGING NEEDED MATERIALS

Be sure your child brings his or her bible and stewardship offering to class every Sunday. Some teachers send textbooks home, and we ask that the student bring these each Sunday.

VALUING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each Sunday ask your child what he or she is learning in Sunday School. Oftentimes the student will have little to say about the lesson. However, as you continue to keep an ongoing interest, you may begin to get more dialogue. Much is accomplished in each classroom each and every Sunday. Show your child by your interest and attitude how much you value religious education. Your enthusiasm or your indifference can be catching!!!

PARTICIPATING IN CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Participating in the Curriculum Enrichment Activities of the Sunday School helps enhance the learning experience for students and brings a sense of belonging and interaction with classmates. These activities are highlighted in this handbook.

KNOWING THE TEACHER

Meet your child's teacher. All teachers are very accessible and truly want to know the parents of their students. It is important that you and the teacher have a rapport so that you can work together in the best interest of the student.

BEING AWARE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL POLICIES

Become familiar with the policies of the Sunday School, which are outlined in this handbook. Realize that these policies are there for a reason and that they are based upon past experiences and upon what is best for all students.

BEING ON TIME FOR CLASS

Coming to class on time is extremely important. Please realize that it is disruptive to the teacher and students if classmates continue to come in after the lesson has begun. Please consider the short time we have with your children as a sacred time and space in their lives. Please allow us the full time that we need.

COMMUNICATING PROBLEMS

We encourage you to first communicate any problems to the teacher. After this, specific concerns should be addressed with any of the directors. Following this procedure will create a more successful learning experience.

DISCIPLINE

As a church school, we are committed to uphold the principles of a Christian, Orthodox way of life. It is expected that students follow the rules of courtesy and respect for the rights of others in the classroom. Misbehavior will not be tolerated, for misbehavior is not only disrespectful but also denies others in the classroom the right to learn.

CHANGING ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL

Please notify us if your address, phone number or email address changes during the year. It is important that we be able to contact you if necessary.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Our Curriculum Enrichment Activities are designed to enhance and enrich the weekly lessons. Please refer to the Sunday School calendar for dates and times.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

A Children's Liturgy has been incorporated into the Sunday School curriculum. On these days, teachers and students will meet in the Social Room or Father "C" Hall and will sit with their class in the designated rows. After communion, teachers and students will return to their classrooms for a lesson.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR/MUSIC PROGRAM

To give students a stronger appreciation for the Divine Liturgy, the hymns of the Church will be taught to students at all grade levels. Students who have an interest will also have an opportunity to participate in the Children's Choir.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS

This is the time when students can first begin to read and study the Bible. Each student is presented with a lifetime Bible during the Divine Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER COMMUNION BREAKFAST

This is an opportunity for all students to partake of Holy Communion with the fellowship of their classmates. A breakfast for the students is held following the Divine Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/CHOIR PROGRAM

The annual Christmas Pageant and Choir Program is another time for students to share in the fellowship of the Christmas season and to enjoy presenting a program for the entire community. These are memories students carry with them into adulthood.

THE THREE HIERARCHS CELEBRATION

In conjunction with the Greek School's celebration of the Three Hierarchs, we will take time to learn about the Three Hierarchs in class and the students, whether or not they are in Greek School, are encouraged to attend the Three Hierarchs Luncheon.

GODPARENTS SUNDAY

Students are encouraged to attend the Liturgy with their Godparents, thus reaffirming the special bond that comes from the Sacrament of Baptism. Realizing that many Godparents live in other communities, we encourage students to come with a member of the Godparents' family or simply to come and give special prayers for their Godparents. Special lessons are planned about the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and Communion, as well as the responsibilities incumbent upon the Godparent-Godchild relationship.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Throughout the archdiocese, Orthodox students in Grades 7-12 participate in this annual event where they have the opportunity to write and make presentations on various religious topics. Winners of the local contest compete at the district level. The winners from the district level then continue the competition at the Metropolis level. The festival is an exceptional opportunity for youth to witness their faith.

THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY ICONOGRAPHY SEMINAR

In honor of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, students have the opportunity to learn the meaning of icons and their role in the Church from a Master Iconographer at a seminar that takes place during Sunday School.

SENIOR CLASS PILGRIMAGE TO ST. PHOTIOS SHRINE

St. Augustine, Florida is the site where the first Greek Orthodox came and worshipped in America. The St. Photios Shrine is dedicated to these early immigrants. It is truly an exceptional and unforgettable experience for the seniors.

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The graduating class is given a special dinner just before commencement. During this time, they hear from our priests and other adult leaders who tell them how the Church stands ready to help them as they make the transition into the complexities of young adulthood. On commencement day, a special program is held in the Church during the Liturgy. The graduates are asked to commune together, and they receive a gift from the Sunday school at this time. Following the Liturgy, a reception is held in the Father "C" Hall to honor the graduates.

LENTEN OFFERINGS FOR ORTHODOX MISSION PROGRAMS

During Lent each year, our students are asked to contribute to help Orthodox missions throughout the world. Students are encouraged to earn and contribute their own money for this project.

STEWARDSHIP

Students are encouraged to bring an offering each Sunday. Again, it is good when students earn and contribute their own money. In this way, we encourage them that stewardship to the Church is ongoing, even into adulthood.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Each class is encouraged to select a service project, which could include visiting a nursing home, sending cards to senior citizens, collecting for the homeless shelter, shipping packages to our servicemen and women, sponsoring the coffee after Liturgy, etc. We ask students to put their faith into action.

SUNDAY SCHOOL POLICIES

1. Sunday School begins *promptly at 10:00 a.m.* and ends at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We ask that parents of the younger students be considerate of the teachers' time and pick up their children promptly after Liturgy.
2. Any student who will be three years of age *on or before October 15* of the current year will be admitted to the Three-Year-Old class. Those enrolling in the Four-Year-Old class must be four years of age on or before the same date, and those entering the Five-Year-Old Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before the same date. Other students should enroll in grades analogous to their public or private school grades. *It is important to note that with the rise in popularity of the "TK" class in the secular classroom, there are most likely children who are a year ahead in the Sunday school class. We strongly recommend that a child be in the same grade in both Sunday School and their secular school so that they can graduate from both schools concurrently.*
3. As part of the *GOYA Youth Stewardship Program*, students in grades 6-12 must attend at least *50 percent of Sunday School* to participate in GOYA activities.
4. The monthly Children's Liturgy counts as a Sunday School class. Students *arriving to class or to the Liturgy after 10:15* will be marked *late* and *three late marks equal one absence*.
5. Students who have *two absences or less* throughout the Sunday School year will be awarded *perfect attendance* and will be acknowledged during the commencement program at the end of the year. If your child attends Sunday School at another parish on a particular Sunday, please let your child's teacher know so that your child will be counted present.
6. To ensure a rich Sunday School experience, it is just as important to *participate in the Curriculum Enrichment Activities*, such as the Oratorical Festival, the Iconography Seminar, Communion Breakfast, etc., as Sunday School itself. Participation in these activities is strongly encouraged!
7. *Misbehavior will not be tolerated.* Sunday school is a sacred time and space in a child's life and should be respected as such. The first offense will be handled by the teacher. Upon the second offense, the child will be referred to the directors. For any offenses after that, the child will be referred to the priest and parents.

8. Starting with the *third grade*, boys are encouraged to serve as *altar boys* according to the bulletin schedule.
9. Students of *Grades 3-12 should bring Bibles*, as well as any required texts each Sunday.
10. While *parents are encouraged to volunteer* and to be involved in Sunday School activities, we request that parents *do not remain in the classrooms* when they drop off their children.
11. No one is permitted to interrupt classes or pass out flyers or information without the permission of the directors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Preschool-3 year olds:

1. **God loves us.** Love, which children so freely give and so naturally expect, is the basis for this program. Text: God Loves Us. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **The wonder of it all.** A preschooler's twenty-four sessions of carefully planned activities on everyday life themes - growth, food, playing, plants. The program aims to build an awareness of the wonders of the natural world as a basis for a liturgical sense of wonder and awe and a foundation for prayer. Includes songs, dances, and hand activities. Text: The Wonder of it all. (Orthodox Christian Education Commission).
3. **Icon Coloring Book: The Old Testament.** The icons included are Jacob's ladder, Abraham and Isaac, Moses and the Ten Commandments and other scriptural events. Text: Icon Coloring Book: The Old Testament. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

Preschool-4 year olds:

1. **Reaching for Jesus.** A pictorial introduction to Christ, with large drawings for coloring and easy text that reinforces prayer, the observance of the feast days and the love of Jesus. Text: Reaching for Jesus. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **God, My Friends and Me.** Consisting of thirty lessons which focus on everyday life themes. The program emphasizes the importance of the relationship among friends, family and God in the home and the Church. It attempts to use these everyday situations as the basis for encouraging Christian awareness of loving fellowship. It includes Bible stories, songs, dances, and finger plays for the four year old. Text: God, My Friends and Me. (Orthodox Christian Education Commission).
3. **Bible studies coloring book.** Forty-six Bible stories selected from the Old Testament. The story that goes with each picture is included. Text: Bible Stories Coloring Book (Light and Life Publishing).

Kindergarten:

1. **Happy With God.** God's love is the source of joy, the main theme of this program designed for Kindergarten age children. Aspects of worship and stories from scripture highlight specific examples of and reason for joy centered on Christ. Text: Happy With God. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **What We See and Do In Church.** An introduction to basic Church teachings, events in the liturgical calendar, Bible stories and hymns. Each lesson has a brief text and an illustration for coloring. Text: What We See and Do In Church. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
3. **Stories From the Old Testament.** Powerful scenes from the Old Testament dramatically come to life in this coloring book. Artists of all ages can apply their coloring skills to 30 boldly rendered biblical scenes. Thirty ready-to-color illustrations. Brief re-telling of the stories appear on the facing pages. Text: Stories From the Old Testament (Coloring Book). Light and Life Publishing.

1st Grade:

1. **Me and My World.** The focus of this program is on Creation as God's gift. In discovering the world, the child understands that the family, friends, church school—all come from God. Through depictions of the daily experiences of God's world, the child comes to realize that God is real, loving, and caring.

Text: Me and My World. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

2. **God Loves Us.** These lessons lead the children to experience God as our loving, caring, and forgiving Father, Who is ever-present, and Whose love is life-giving. Developmentally appropriate for children of this age/grade level, *God Loves Us* builds on the child's own experiences and leads him/her to an increased awareness of his/her relationships with God and with others. Text: God Loves Us. (Orthodox Christian Education Commission).

3. **The Bible for Young People.** This beautifully illustrated volume contains 162 pages of stories for young readers from both the Old and the New Testaments. The stories, theologically Orthodox, are written in a fascinating style that will keep the interest of the children. Text: The Bible for Young People. (Light and Life Publishing).

2nd Grade:

1. **Loving God.** This program concentrates on the theme of "Loving God."

Through the example of men and women of the Bible, and of our Saints, children begin to understand right, wrong and forgiveness in the light of God's love. They also learn the importance not only of loving God unconditionally, but also of respecting other people, of taking care of the environment, of doing good in His Name. Text: Loving God. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

2. **The Children's Bible Reader.** This is the most complete Orthodox Children's Bible story book ever written. Through over 200 excellent iconographic illustrations it brings to life 74 central stories of the Old Testament and 89 of the New Testament. Recently translated from the Greek Bible society's acclaimed work, the text is attractively written and easy to understand. Archbishop Demetrios considers it "a very valuable resource for families, parents, children and schools." Text: The Children's Bible Reader. (Light and Life Publishing).

3. **Introduction to prayer.** Curious children ask lots of questions, especially about things they can't see or understand. The little girl in this story has a lot of questions about prayer and her grandmother helps her with the answers. Written in easy-to-read verse and richly illustrated, this Scripture-based book helps answer children's questions about how to pray, where to pray, and the purpose of prayer. Texts: Grandma, What is Prayer? (Light and Life Publishing). An Introduction to Prayer (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

3rd Grade:

1. **Sharing God's World.** Children learn about sharing through the examples of Jesus, and are inspired to observe these same examples in the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, and other Services of the Church. From there they become caring, sharing individuals. Contains words to hymns and songs. Text: Sharing God's World. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **Finding Your Way Through the Bible.** A book that will help the student become familiar with the Bible, how it is divided and how to look up passages. Students can work in class or at home, at their own rate. Since the 3rd graders are getting their bible this year, it is a great addition to the program. Text: Finding your way through the bible. (Orthodox Christian Education Commission).
3. **One Hundred Bible Stories.** Contains more than 200 pages of Bible stories, each illustrated with a beautiful full-color picture, designed to catch the attention of young readers and impress upon them the excitement of learning biblical history. An excellent tool for imparting the Gospel story to children. Each story is told in the language of the Bible, has explanatory notes, and suggests a memory text and prayer or hymn stanza. Text: One Hundred Bible Stories. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
4. **Come Bless the Lord: Icon Packet.** Contains 40 beautiful color icons (8 ½ "x11") of major Orthodox feast days and popular saints. Each includes a description on the back that teaches the children the meaning of each icon. A companion booklet explains iconography. Text: Come Bless the Lord: Icon Packet. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

4th Grade:

1. **Growing With God.** A program devoted to helping children learn how to use and appreciate the Bible. Also introduces examples of living the sacramental life—attending services, fasting, praying, observing feast days, helping others, learning about the Saints and the Church of Christ. After this program, children love the Bible, and know how to refer to it in times of doubt and fear. Contains words to hymns and songs. Text: Growing With God. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **Our Father Who Art in Heaven.** Iconographically illustrated in color by a renowned Byzantine iconographer. Tells the story of the Lord's Prayer to elementary age children from an Orthodox point of view. Text: Our Father Who Art In Heaven. (Light and Life Publishing).
3. **God is With Us: Bible Stories for Children.** This Orthodox book of Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments is illustrated in iconographic style. Bible Stories include Creation, Noah, Moses, and the Life and Ministry of Jesus. Text: God is With Us: Bible Stories for Children. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

5th Grade:

1. **God Calls Us.** Concentrates on the stories of those heroes of the Faith who have responded to God's call. Through these examples of faith, loyalty, self-sacrifice, obedience, love, justice and social responsibility, students of this age learn to respond to God in terms of personal faith and the basics of Christian morality. It includes an attractive, simplified 4,000-year timeline of our Church and Bible History. Contains words to hymns and songs. Text: God Calls Us. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

2. **Parables of Our Lord.** Stories of our Lord are told with contemporary writing and Biblical illustrations. The Parables of Jesus offer basic truths for application to daily living. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and vocabulary. Text: Parables of Our Lord. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

3. **Lives of the Saints and Major Feast Days.** These brief biographies of over 100 Orthodox Saints and stories of major feast days point toward the source of faith, Jesus Christ. Text: Lives of Saints and Major Feast Days. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

6th Grade:

1. **Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home.** Here is a book filled with ideas to help Orthodox Christian religious educators. Some of those ideas are: How to celebrate your name day, why we have memorial services, using incense etc. Text: Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

2. **Let's Take a Walk Through Our Orthodox Church.** When we come to worship in the Orthodox Church, we are surrounded by a variety of objects that conspire to keep our attention focused on the worship of God. Icons, architecture, candles, incense, votive lights, chandeliers, vestments-all speak to us in their own way to tell us something about our faith. This book takes a child on a tour through an Orthodox Church, clearly and simply explaining in forty-five brief chapters the meaning of the many objects seen in most Orthodox Churches. Each explanation is enhanced with an original four-color painting. Text: Let's Take a Walk through Our Orthodox Church. (Light and Life Publishing).

3. **Those Whom God Calls Blessed: The Beatitudes for Everyday Living.** Through the Beatitudes Jesus paints an icon describing the life of the new person, the "new creation" that the Triune God produces for the Kingdom of God. Jesus came not just to reveal God's truth but to save us and conform us to the beautiful icon he paints of us in the Beatitudes. Through the use of the Church Fathers and the lives of the saints as well as countless contemporary stories, anecdotes and illustrations, this book makes the Beatitudes come alive and relevant for the twenty-first century. Text: Those Whom God Calls Blessed: The Beatitudes for Everyday Living. (Light and Life Publishing).

4. **Icons-The Story of Icons.** An excellent introduction to the meaning of icons in the Church and the part they play in worship. Explains the origins of icons, from the catacombs to the iconoclastic conflict, and the triumph of the icons that ended in the Sunday of Orthodoxy and why icons are painted as they are. The second half of the book is devoted to the icons for the feast days of Christ and the Virgin Mary, teaching how to “read” the icons for the story that each tells. Contains a glossary of terms in the back especially helpful for younger readers. **Text:** Icons-The Story of Icons. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). **Video:** Icons. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). **DVD:** Icons. (Light and Life Publishing).

7th Grade:

1. **Introduction to the Divine Liturgy.** One of the most thorough and concise commentaries on the liturgy. A complete explanation of the liturgy. **Texts:** Divine Liturgy - Analysis, Exegesis and Commentary (Light and Life Publishing). Divine Liturgy According to St. John Chrysostom (Light and Life Publishing). The Divine Liturgy for Children. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). **DVD-**Understanding the Divine Liturgy. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).
2. **The Miracles of Christ.** An introductory commentary on Christ's miracles written from an Orthodox Christian point of view. **Text:** The Miracles of Christ. (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press).
3. **The Church Liturgical Year.** An excellent manual for Sunday School teachers on the meanings of the various feasts and cycles of the Orthodox liturgical year. Contains full-color icons of the feast days, with descriptions, and a wealth of other information. **Text:** The Church Liturgical Year. (Saint Nectarios Press).
4. **Sacred Tradition in the Orthodox Church.** One of the finest definitions of Sacred Tradition ever written. The author was a well-known Orthodox monastic who combined spirituality with intellectual acumen and a deep knowledge of the Scriptures. Helps us appreciate Sacred Tradition as the life of the Holy Spirit constantly abiding in the Church. **Text:** Sacred Tradition in the Orthodox Church. (Light and Life Publishing).

8th Grade:

1. **The Sacraments of The Orthodox Church.** Baptism, Chrismation, Communion, Confession, Unction, Marriage, Ordination—here, the seven Sacraments of our Church are described and explained, bringing into focus their importance and impact on our lives. Students learn that the Sacraments are not simply ceremonies, but truly holy experiences which transform our being and lead us to a spiritual and fulfilling daily life. Study guide and activities are included with each chapter. **Text:** The Sacraments of the Orthodox Church. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). **DVD:** Baptism and Chrismation, Unction. (Light and Life Publishing). Marriage. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

2. **Teenage Ten Commandments.** This is an overview of the Ten Commandments and their relevance for our times. After a review of the Old

Testament, a chapter with study guide and activities is devoted to each Commandment. Text: Teenage Ten Commandments. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

3. **A Child's Paradise of Saints.** The stories of fifteen beloved saints presented in a warm, informal style, suitable for reading aloud. Here are stories of the struggles and triumphs of holy Fathers and Mothers from throughout the world. The saints included are: Constantine and Helen, Cyprian and Justina, Demetrius, Guardian Angel, Herman of Alaska, John the Russian, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Egypt, Moses, Nicholas, Nina, Panteleimon, Philothei, Seraphim, and Xenia. Text: A Child's Paradise of Saints. (Light and Life Publishing).

4. **A Dictionary of Orthodox Terminology.** A "dictionary" listing with a brief definition of many terms one may come across in reading about Orthodoxy. Text: Handouts. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese).

9th Grade:

1. **The Creed.** This discussion of the Nicene Creed—the foundation of our Faith—begins with a review of Christianity, the Church and Tradition. It offers a definition and an explanation of the Creed. Texts: The Creed. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). The Nicene Creed for Young People. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). DVD: The Creed. (Light and Life Publishing).

2. **The Gospel of Mark.** The Gospel of Mark records Christ's public ministry as a journey to the Cross, yet as a time of vigorous action when His miracles astounded the multitudes, and His boldness infuriated His foes. Written from an Orthodox and patristic perspective. Text: The Gospel of Mark. (Light and Life Publishing).

3. **Twelve Great Feast Days.** Written for young readers and arranged so that it can be used as a church school text on the life of Christ. Text: Twelve Great Feast Days. (Light and Life Publishing).

4. **Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children.** The authors, two veteran Orthodox religious educators, have told the beautiful story of the Theotokos in a fascinating way that will attract and hold the attention of children of all ages. Magnificently illustrated. Text: Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children. (Light and Life Publishing).

10th Grade:

1. **Contemporary Moral Issues.** Contemporary topics examined from an Orthodox Christian perspective. Topics such as cults, abortion, euthanasia, mixed marriages, etc. Texts: Contemporary Moral Issues. (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers. (Light and Life Publishing). God With Us: Critical Issues in Christian Life and Faith. (Light and Life Publishing).

2. **Teenage Issues.** To help teenagers deal with issues such as peer pressure, temptations, drugs, drinking, sex, jealousy, parents, etc. From the Fathers of the Church and Scripture. **Texts:** What the Church Fathers Say About. (Light and Life Publishing). Raising Teenagers Right. (Light and Life Publishing).
3. **The Gospel of John.** The Apostle John - one of the Twelve - sets his Gospel in a cosmic context, revealing Jesus as the Eternal Light of God, the Way, the Truth and the Life. **Texts:** The Gospel of John. (Light and Life Publishing). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. (Light and Life Publishing).
4. **Symbols of our Faith.** In Church and in our homes we see and do certain things, such as, Incense, Candles, Flowering of the Cross; Ladder to Heaven; Hesychasm: the Practice of Silence; Palms; the Epitaphion and the Tomb of Jesus, the Theotokos with Child in the Apse; Christ Pantocrator; Epiphany and the Blessing of Water, Blessing of Bread, etc. What do all these things symbolize? **Text:** Sacred Symbols that Speak. (Light and Life Publishing).
5. **Eastern Orthodoxy Compared.** An introduction to the main teachings of the Orthodox Church, which contrasts them with the teachings of Roman Catholicism and the major Protestant denominations. The differences covered include Dogma, Liturgy, Sacraments, Death and the Afterlife, the Theotokos, Sacred Tradition, Memorial Prayers, the Holy Trinity, etc. **Text:** Eastern Orthodoxy Compared. (Light and Life Publishing).

11th Grade:

1. **Introduction to the Orthodox Church.** Introducing our Orthodox Faith: What We Believe About the One Apostolic Church, the Nicene Creed, Jesus, the Holy Trinity, the Divine Liturgy, Salvation, the Church Fathers, the Church Year, the Sacraments, the Saints and the Theotokos, Life After Death, the Bible, Icons, Prayers for the Dead, and Prayer. **Text:** Introducing The Orthodox Church: Its Faith And Life (Revised & Expanded) along with a study guide. (Light and Life Publishing).
2. **The Book of Acts.** The birth and growth of the Christian Church. **Texts:** The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture-Acts of the Apostles. (Light and Life Publishing). Life Application Commentary. The Young Church. (Orthodox Christian Education Commission). Handouts. (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese).
3. **Challenge Questions on Orthodoxy for Students-Volume 2.** Questions and answers on subjects that include the New and Old Testaments, Church Traditions and Teachings, Liturgy, Sacraments, Vestments, Words and Symbols, Orthodoxy and Other Religions in America. Designed to challenge young people of ages 12 to 18. A fun way to learn. **Text:** Challenge Questions on Orthodoxy for Students-Volume 2. (Light and Life Publishing).

12th Grade:

1. The History of the Orthodox Church. A historical jet trip through the two thousand year history of the Orthodox Church. Unveils the essence of Orthodox Christianity, outlining basic similarities and differences between the Orthodox and other Christian Churches. Thirty-one fast moving chapters. Texts: Orthodox Church: A Well-Kept Secret. A time line of church history. (Light and Life Publishing). DVD: (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese). Orthodoxy 101-A Bird's eye view. (Light and Life Publishing).

2. The Epistle to the Romans. How to behave, what to believe, salvation is a righteous act of God. A relationship with God transforms the Christian, empowering him or her to become the person intended by God. Texts: The Epistle to the Romans-Handouts. (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese). The Epistle to the Romans. (Light and Life Publishing).

3. Challenge Questions on Orthodoxy for Students-Volume 1. Designed as a challenge for teens, ages 12 to 18. Subjects included are the Old and New Testaments, Church History, Church Year, Feasts and Fasts, Church Tradition and Teachings, Liturgics: Liturgy, Sacraments, Vestments, Words and Symbols. Answers are included in the last part of the book. Text: Challenge Questions on Orthodoxy for Students-Volume 1. (Light and Life Publishing).