

Church school report 2019

Church School goal: Provide the knowledge and foundation of the Christian life and teach children Orthodox life skills to prepare children to serve God in their future parishes.

Objectives:

1. **Instructing** children in the foundation of Orthodox faith at church school classes every Saturday for children 4-17 years old.
2. **Teaching** children Orthodox life skills to prepare them for their life in future parishes:
 - Help children to serve God according to their abilities and find their **ministry** the in church:
 - participating in Children's Liturgy, singing in the choir, serving in the altar, reading in the church, rining the bells, helping in the kiosk, teaching younger children, etc.
 - Through spiritual activities at Church School (see below) and serving the Lord children **experience their life in the church** and may use their skills and experence to serve God in our or other Orthodox parish community in the future.
3. **Establishing** friendship among Orthodox peers.

Our **Church School Team** consists of teachers and parents, works in synergy on many projects and activities to raise our children in the Orthodox faith.

5 Church school groups and teachers:

1. 4-6 old - Katie Bower and Maria Joyce (Svetlana Mitchell subs)
Our young children enjoy this group's lesson format: Bible story, coloring page and themed crafts.
2. 7-9 old - Russian group – Elena Mullin.
This group studies the Law of God (Old and New Testament), Храмоведенье, and mastering in Church Slavonic reading and writing.
3. 10-12 old - Colin Bower (Bogdan Manga - sub). Study the Law of God, memorize Bible verses and play games related to the lesson. Students enjoy special treats they receive for their good work.
4. 13-15 old Fr. Gregory (Ken and Kyle subs)
Students have spiritual readings as a homework and class discussion.

We are very blessed to have Father Gregory as a part of our team providing a spiritual guidance for teachers and students.

5. 15+ old group - Deacon Dmitriy.

It's a new group this year which is held in a format of a spiritual discussion. Young people think, analyze, discuss different Orthodox topics corresponding to this age level.

We are very grateful for our hard-working and dedicated teachers and subs who are working in God's glory to reach children's hearts with the Word of the Lord.

From my observation most of the children are very motivated and excited about each church school class. After class kids often comment that they learned something special they have never known before. Students always feel accepted and valued in the environment of their loving teachers and church friends.

Church school projects and activities (other than classes):

I semester September-December 2018:

1. Group discussion: My positive experience at St. Vladimir's that helped me grow spiritually. October 6
2. Youth choir, led by Anna Golitzin, October- December.
3. Halloween Alternative, October 31
- 4.. Pilgrimage to the Dormition monastery, November 10-11
5. Gospel discussion in Collegia, December 12
6. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, December 19
7. Jeopardy game about the Life of St. Nicholas: parents vs. kids, December 22.
8. Visiting elderly parishioners with Carols and Youth Orchestra, January 3, 6, 18.
9. Celebrating St. Herman of Alaska Day in St. Herman church, Lake Odessa, December, 25.
10. Project and on-line conference with children from Sviblovo school in Moscow, November 2018- January 2019.

Plans for II semester January- June 2019:

1. 13+ and 15+ group teach younger students, March-April.
2. "Passport to Pascha Lenten Journey", March-April.
3. Project with church school from St. Vladimir's parish in Dnipro, Ukraine, March-April.
4. On-line conference with St. John Orthodox school from Moscow, March- April.
5. Visiting elderly parishioners, April.
6. Children's Liturgy on Bright Saturday, May4.

7. Dormition monastery pilgrimage, May.
8. Children's Liturgy on Memorial Saturday, June 15.

Challenges:

1. Church school has many projects and activities for children and needs more coordinators and helpers to support them.
2. We are looking for a youth choir teacher for the next year.
3. Church school always welcomes new teachers and helpers to instruct our students.

Thank you teachers, parents and parish family for supporting St. Vladimir's Church School!