

## Church school report 2020

**Church School goal: Provide the knowledge and foundation of the Christian life and teach children Orthodox life skills to prepare them to serve God in Orthodox parish communities in the future.**

### Objectives:

1. **Instructing** children in the foundation of Orthodox faith at church school classes every Saturday.
2. **Teaching** children Orthodox life skills to prepare them to serve God in Orthodox parish communities in the future.
3. **Establishing** friendship among Orthodox peers.

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

### Church school groups and teachers:

1. 6-9 years old group – Elena Mullin.
2. 10-12 olds- Deacon Colin Bower
3. 13-15 years old – Fr. Gregory
4. 15+ olds group - Deacon Dmitriy Kashchenko

### Church school focus theme this year.

This church school year was focused on studying and understanding on a deeper level the Divine Liturgy so that children know what happens, when and why, all symbols and attributes of the Liturgy.

All learning groups studied the Divine Liturgy on the level of their age and cognitive abilities. Every month all the groups gathered together for the Review sessions, questions and Liturgy discussion with Father Gregory.

**Youth Choir** led by our Church School Graduates - Daria and Dorothea Skalitzky – on Saturdays at 4:30 pm.

This year younger children learned the most important Liturgy pieces and sang at the Youth Choir during the Children's Liturgies on December 19, Bright Saturday and the Memorial Saturday (coming on June 19).

**Our goal** is to help children become active participants of the Divine Liturgy and prepare them for singing and reading at the Liturgy in the future.

#### **Church school projects and activities (other than classes):**

##### **I semester** September-December 2019:

1. Celebrating Birthday of the Mother of God and the beginning of the New Church School year, September 21 and reading the Akathist to the Theotokos by children.
2. Halloween Alternative, October, 31
3. Liturgy Review and discussion, November.
4. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, December 19
5. St. Nicholas Day Children's performance and a Jeopardy game: parents vs. kids, December 23.
6. Jeopardy Review Game – Liturgy of the Catechumens

##### **II semester** January- June 2020:

1. Visiting elderly parishioner (Olga Fedorovna) with Nativity greetings, Carols and music, January 9.
2. All Church School discussion – The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, March 27.
3. Participation in the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during spring break., March 31 and April 2.

4. Bingo Review Game – Liturgy of the Faithful, April 10.
5. A trip to St. Seraphim of Sarov Missionary church in Lansing for the Divine Liturgy and spiritual discussion, April 17 (postponed due to the covid)
6. Lazarus Saturday – participating in the Divine Liturgy and church decoration for Palm Sunday, April 24.
7. Children’s Liturgy on Bright Saturday, May 8.
8. Visiting elderly parishioner (Olga Fedorovna) with Paschal greetings, May 8th.
9. Jeopardy Review Game – The Divine Liturgy, May 15.
10. Children’s Paschal celebration, performance and Egg hunt, May 16.
11. St. Nicholas Day, May 22 – Last day of church school: participating in the Divine Liturgy and greeting our Church School Graduates.
12. Children’s Liturgy on the Memorial Saturday, (coming on June 19).

We are grateful to our wonderful teachers and parents for continued support and dedication to St. Vladimir’s Church School.