

Church School report 2022

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 the Orthodox Faith at Church School classes every Saturday.
2. Teaching children Orthodox life skills (singing, reading, serving, parish volunteering) to prepare them for their ministry at the church in the future.
3. Establishing friendship among Orthodox peers.

Specific goals for 2021-22 academic year:

1. Studying and understanding the All-Night Vigil at Church School classes.
2. Learning All-Night Vigil music at Youth Choir.
3. Participating in the All-Night Vigil.
4. Developing students' church reading skills in English and Slavonic.

Church School activities every Saturday:

- 4:30 pm** – Youth Choir (learn All-Night Vigil music)
5:00 pm – Church School class (studying All-Night Vigil)
6:00 pm – All-Night Vigil (children participate, sing and serve)

Church School focus theme this academic year.

This Church School year is focused on studying and understanding on a deeper level the All-Night Vigil, so that children know what happens and why during the evening service.

All learning groups study the All-Night Vigil on the level of their age and cognitive abilities. Once a month all the groups gather for the review sessions, questions and discussion with Father Gregory.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir - led by our older children, Anna Mullin and Dorothea Skalitzky, concentrates on learning Vigil music pieces. The Vigil hymns children are learning at the youth choir are connected to the material learned at church school class. (E.g.: if students are learning about Polyeleos at church school class, they also sing Polyeleos hymns at youth choir, for better understanding the texts and the meaning of the particular parts of the Vigil).

Developing church reading skills in English and Church Slavonic.

This year is also aimed at the developing students' church reading skills in English and Slavonic.

Teachers help children work on reading the Six Psalms (Vigil) and support students when preparing for reading at the Children's Liturgy.

With Father Gregory's blessing, children will be reading the Six Psalms at the Vigil.

Our teacher Elena Mullin works on developing children's Church Slavonic reading skills.

6-9 years old children work on writing Church Slavonic letters and the beginning of Slavonic reading.

11 years and older, who have previous experience in Slavonic, are working on mastering the Six Psalms reading.

Our goal is to help children become active participants of the Divine services and prepare them for singing, reading and serving at the church.

Church school groups and teachers:

1. 6-9 years old group – Elena Mullin.
2. 10-12 years old - Father Colin
3. 13+ - Father Gregory

Other Church School activities 2021-22.

I semester: September-December 2021:

1. Celebrating the beginning of the Church School year, reading the Akathist to St. Alexander Nevsky by children. October, 2.

2. Pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery (participation in the Divine services, work and spiritual discussion), October 30.
3. Halloween Alternative, October 31.
4. Visiting elderly parishioners, September - December.
5. Collecting warm clothes for homeless in Detroit, December.
6. Helping with the Annual Christmas Baskets Distribution for low income people in Detroit, December 18.
7. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, December 19

II semester: January- May 2022:

1. Packing lunches for homeless in Detroit, January 22.
2. Visiting elderly parishioners, January - May.
3. Decoration the church for Palm Sunday, April 16.
4. Children's Liturgy on Bright Saturday, April 30.
5. Children's Paschal celebration and Egg hunt, May 8.
6. Pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery (participation in the Divine services, work and spiritual discussion), May.
7. St. Nicholas Day – Last day of church school: participating in the Divine Liturgy and greeting our Church School Graduates, May 22.
8. Children's Liturgy on the Memorial Saturday, June 11.

Our Church School Team (teachers and parents) works together on many projects and activities to raise the children in the Orthodox faith.