

## **Church School report 2024**

**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 Christian 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 (singing, reading, bell ringing, serving, parish volunteering) to prepare them for their future ministry at the Church.
3. Establishing friendship among Orthodox peers.

### **Church School activities every Saturday:**

**4:15 pm** – Youth Choir/Church Slavonic

**5:00 pm** – Church School class

**6:00 pm** – All-Night Vigil (children participate, sing and serve)

### **Specific goals for 2023-24 academic year:**

1. Studying the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Studying the "Finding Joy "program - through the stories from Scriptures it teaches children to connect themselves to Christ in the situations of stress and uncertainty, to look at the situation in a different perspective, to move from anxiety and fear to peace and joy, feeling God's presence in their lives.
3. Participating in the All-Night Vigil.
4. Developing students' church reading skills in English and Slavonic.

5. “Write A Verse A Day”- developing students’ habits of reading and studying Holy Scriptures by writing down a verse each day to draw near to God by knowing His word.

Textbooks we use:

1. **“Together with God”** (for 4-7 years old students)
2. **“The Story of the Young Church”** - colorful and visual, interactive and connected to students’ life (for 9-12 and 13+)
3. **“Finding Joy”** (9-12 and 13+)
4. **“Write A Verse A Day”** (9-12 and 13+)

**Developing church reading skills in English and Church Slavonic.**

This year we continue to work on the developing students’ church reading skills in English and Slavonic.

Teachers help children with church reading skills and support students when preparing for the reading at the Children’s Liturgy.

Our teacher Elena Mullin works on developing children’s Church Slavonic reading and writing skills. Students are learning to read prayers and Psalter in Church Slavonic and participate in Six Psalms reading during Vigil.

**Church school groups and teachers:**

1. 4-7 years old - Alexandra Pyrozhenko
2. 9-12 - Father Colin
2. 13+ years old - Father Gregory
3. Church Slavonic - Elena Mullin
4. Bell ringing - John Hill
5. Youth Choir - Anastasia Mitchell and Anna Pyrozhenko

## **Other Church School activities 2023-24.**

### **I semester: September-December 2023:**

1. Celebrating the beginning of the new Church School year, reading the Akathist to the Mother of God by children. October, 2.
2. Halloween Alternative, October 31.
3. Pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery (participation in the Divine services, work and spiritual discussion), November 17-19.
5. Participating at St. Vladimir's bake sale, December 15
4. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, December 19 (since 2015)

### **II semester: January- May 2024:**

1. Helping with Yolka preparation and celebration - January 28
2. Making larks together to celebrate the feast of 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, March 16.
3. Participating in Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, preparing for Palm Sunday, decorating the church for the Feast, April 27.
4. Children's Liturgy on Bright Saturday, May 11.
5. Children's Paschal celebration and Egg hunt, May 19.
6. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, May 22.
6. Pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery (participation in the Divine services, work and spiritual discussion), May 31- June 2.