

## **Church School report 2025**

**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 classes every Saturday:**

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

**5:00 pm** – Church School class

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

### **Church school groups and teachers:**

4-7 years old - Teacher: Alexandra Pyrozhenko

8-11 - Teacher: Elene Mullin

12-14 - Teacher: Father Colin

15+ years old - Teacher- Father Gregory

Youth Choir - Teacher: Ken Doll (10-15+ olds), Alexandra Pyrozhenko (4-9)

Church Slavonic (12-15+ years old) - Teacher: Elena Mullin

Foundation of Liturgics (15+ age group) - Teacher: Father Gregory

History of the Church (15+ age group) - Teacher: Father Dmitry

Bell ringing (4-7)- Teacher: John Hill

## **Goals for 2024-25 academic year:**

### **1. Studying the Foundation of Liturgics (Teacher: Father Gregory)**

Students of the 15+ age group who sing in the choir and read at church expressed interest and motivation to study Liturgics to be able to help at the Liturgy and Vigil, and know how to find the correct rubrics and readings.

### **2. Studying the History of Church (Teacher: Father Dmitry)**

After finishing the Acts of the Apostles, students are studying the formation of the five ancient Churches.

### **3. "Overcoming Anxiety "program (Teachers: Father Gregory and Father Colin)**

Through the stories from the Scriptures, it teaches children to connect themselves to Christ in the situations of stress and uncertainty. It teaches to pray when begin to worry. The program instructs to replace worry by focusing on the needs of others and asking God's help to rely on Him more than themselves.

### **4. Participating in the All-Night Vigil.**

Children are always encouraged to stay for the Vigil to sing in the choir, read the Six Psalms and serve in the altar

### **5. Developing students' church reading skills in Slavonic and English. (Teachers: Elena Mullin and Ken Doll)**

Teachers help children develop church reading skills and support students when preparing for the reading at the Children's Liturgy and Vigil.

**6. "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.

### **Other Church School activities 2024-25.**

### **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 15-17.

5. Participating at St. Vladimir's bake sale, December 14

6. Children's Liturgy on St. Nicholas Day, December 19 (since 2015)

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

1. Helping with Yolka preparation and celebration - January 13

2. Making larks together to celebrate the feast of 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, March 22.

3. Participating in Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, preparing for Palm Sunday, decorating the church for the Feast, April 12.

4. Reading the Acts of the Apostles before Pascha Liturgy, April 19.

5. Children's Liturgy on Bright Saturday, April 26.

6. Children's Paschal celebration and Egg hunt, May 4.

7. Children's Liturgy for St. Methodius and Cyril, May 24 - celebrating the last day of Church School.

8. Pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery (participation in the Divine services, work and spiritual discussion), May 30- June 1