

**ST. DEMETRIOS AND
ST CATHERINE AND GEORGE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCHES**

**30-11 30TH DRIVE
ASTORIA, NY 11102
(718) 728-1718**

**22-30 33RD STREET
ASTORIA, NY 11105
(718)728-1100**

SUNDAY SCHOOL HANDBOOK



CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM +DIVINE LITURGY+

ST DEMETRIOS
1st Divine Liturgy 8:45 a.m.
2nd Divine Liturgy 10:45 a.m.

ST CATH AND GEOGE
Service 8:45 a.m.

***Sunday school 9:30-12:00 in both churches

OUR CLERGY:

Fr. Nektarios PapazafiropoulosArchimandrite
Fr. Anastasios Pourakis.....Presbyter
Fr. Vasilios Louros.....Presbyter

SUPERVISORS

Dr Maria AsprogerakasSaint Demetrios
Thalia ChristoforouSaint Catherine and Saint George

Updates posted on Facebook :
St Demetrios Sunday School

2017-2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Saturday Registration at Youth BBQ (*St. Catherine's*) – Grades 1-9
9 & 16 Sunday Registration for PRE-K through 9th Grade after Divine Liturgy (*St. Demetrios and St. Catherine's*)
23 Sunday 1st DAY OF CLASSES : week review of elevation of holy cross, week of translation of John the Theologian
30 Sunday Classes: week of Holy Protection of the Theotokos

OCTOBER

- 7 Sunday *No Classes* (Columbus Day weekend)
14 Sunday week of St Gerassimos of Cephalonia
21 Sunday week of St Demetrios Day
28 Sunday review of Paul the confessor and need of confession

NOVEMBER

- 4 Sunday COMMUNITY LUNCHEON... *tentative date*
11 Sunday week of start of lent review meaning
18 Sunday Apostle Andrew and review apostleship
25 Sunday *No Classes* (Thanksgiving building closed)

DECEMBER

- 2 Sunday Classes: St Anna, St Savva, St Spyridon / Christmas Tree lighting
St Catherine 6pm
9 Sunday Classes: meaning of Christmas
16 Sunday Christmas Celebration for Sunday school
23 Sunday Christmas ...*No Classes* (building closed)
30 Sunday Christmas break...*No Classes* (building closed)

JANUARY

- 6 Sunday Vasilopita and review Epiphany
13 Sunday Review St Gregory (Jan 10) St Anthony (Jan 17)
20 Sunday *No Classes* (MLK weekend/ building closed)
27 Sunday review Three Hierarchs

FEBRUARY

- 3 Sunday Synaxis of Theotokos
10 Sunday Sunday of Canaanite
17 Sunday review Sunday of Publican and Pharisee
24 Sunday presidents week: building closed/*no classes*
Godparents Sunday: *tentative day*

MARCH

3 Sunday
10 Sunday
17 Sunday
24 Sunday
31 Sunday

Meat Fare Sunday / review preparation for lent
Cheese Fare Sunday / Forgiveness Sunday
Sunday of Orthodoxy: bring in icon
Classes: Evangelismo tis Theotokou
Greek Parade tentative day...*No classes*

APRIL

7 Sunday
14 Sunday
20 Saturday
21 Sunday
28 Sunday

Classes: Review meaning Pascha
Review of holy week
Lazarus/ palm making
Palm Sunday...*No classes*
Easter / Pascha *No classes*

MAY

5 Sunday
12 Sunday
19 Sunday
26 Sunday

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Mother's Day / *tentative graduation ceremony*
Community Festival/ *No classes (building closed)*
Memorial Day weekend: *No classes (Sports Olympics)*

JUNE

16 Sunday

Sunday School End of the year trip



What Sunday school is about:

Sunday School is a way to educate our children in all religious matters of our Orthodox faith. Education is done with the use of enrichment games, arts and crafts, and projects as a fun way to reach the child and enrich them of our religious traditions. Books are used to further enhance and enrich the program and to offer education in the parables, sacraments and mysteries of our church. The children participate in Holy Communion weekly and the daily gospel is reviewed. The children also participate in Christmas carols and Easter blessing ceremonies as well as their graduation.

BEFORE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please ensure that your child has not eaten before coming to Sunday school so that they may receive the sacrament of communion. All children will have a snack after they receive.

Please advise any instructor or assistant if you or your child suffers from any food allergies.

READING BEFORE STUDY

Most blessed Lord: Send down upon us the gift of your Holy Spirit, to endow and confirm our spiritual insight that giving heed to the instruction imparted to us, we may increase therein to Thy Glory, O our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERING

A minimal fee of \$10 will be charged at registration for each student. This fee is to defray the cost of books, teachers' guides, awards and other educational items.

An adult class is offered at St Demetrios only, it is after liturgy until the end of Sunday school. It is taught by a Theologian for the past 16 years and covers areas of concern as well as an enrichment of our Orthodox Faith.

Orthodox Chanting is also offered at St Demetrios after Sunday school classes are completed, please inquire if interested.

FASTING

Fasting in order to receive Holy Communion in the Church is not a requirement but it is better for our body to prepare to receive such a precious gift as Holy Communion. The fasting days are outlined in our Orthodox Calendar on www.goarch.org for the entire year, an app is also available to check on dates of the calendar year as needed. Please speak to your Spiritual Father as to how you ought to fast to help you grow closer to Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION

Children should participate in the Sacrament of Confession. The Church never condemns the person, but since sin takes away from the presence of God, it is sin that has to be expelled. You should therefore have a spiritual cleansing of your soul, again each person is an individual and should consult their spiritual father and confessor for guidance in this matter. If you do not have a spiritual father, please contact the church office for assistance.

GODPARENT SUNDAY

This special day has been set aside as Godparent Sunday in an effort to renew the spiritual relationship between your family and the student's Godparents. We ask that you and your children invite their Godparents and ask that they attend Church with you together as a family on that day. Following the liturgy, we will have a breakfast in their honor.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

All the children grades 4-8 are invited to write an essay about their spirituality to be sent to the Archdiocese. Please refer to the www.goarch.org website for all the standards and additional information.

BIBLE STUDY

Additional services, like bible study is also offered through our church office, depending on age and Prebyter requested. Please contact the church office for guidance.