

Welcome to Sunday School!

This packet contains our yearly Welcome Letter and our School Calendar. Please feel free to make copies and distribute to parents who may be interested in our programs.

This year's theme is *The Holy Trinity*. Our curriculum will be built with this as a focus. We will study each 'part' of God as a triune being starting with God the Father- with an emphasis on Old Testament 'appearances' of God, continuing with God's Son- focusing on the life of Jesus, and wrapping up with God as Spirit- relating to our biblical knowledge of the Holy Spirit. We will as always take time to pick up on particular interests of the children and to follow special days of the Church Calendar to build on previous years studies. Our basic goal will remain to help the children grow spiritually through a deeper understanding of their faith, and to nurture this understanding

Our main 'textbook' will be both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Dependent on the separation of the classes, we may also use a textbook from the archdiocese for the younger children and two books on the Creed for the older children. With the school year continuing through the Pentecostarian we will use the books that we made last year for its' cycle of epistles. We will also supplement with visuals- icons, photographs and Church objects. We will spend a great deal of time on the practice of prayer. As we learned last year- it is what the Divine Liturgy and the work of the people is all about.

We are excited to be continuing with our Special Saturdays again this year. Our first will be our annual Field Trip on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be traveling to St. Vladimir's Seminary for Orthodox Education Day/Holy Icons and Sacred Arts. ([http://www.svots.edu/files/oed\\_flyer\\_vrtcl\\_pf6.pdf](http://www.svots.edu/files/oed_flyer_vrtcl_pf6.pdf)) We will coordinate times/transportation in a few weeks. There will be another Special Saturday in late winter (date/theme TBD) and the Saturday of Lazarus retreat.

We will also participate in the Christmas Pageant, the March 25<sup>th</sup> Program, and the Closing Ceremonies Program. All dates and rehearsals are on the attached calendar.

As I rarely have the opportunity to keep you updated on our progress throughout the year, feel free to contact me to talk about your child and their Sunday School experience. I can be reached by phone at 212.866.7381 and by email at [stasiados@hotmail.com](mailto:stasiados@hotmail.com). I would also like to arrange a day that we can all get together formally to discuss how we can specifically enrich our Sunday School Program and our Catechesis experiences in general.

Thank you and I look forward to another wonderful year with the children.

Anastasia Mastrogiorgis

# ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

## 2008-2009

(Divine Liturgy begins at 10:30 a.m. - class begins after the reading of the Gospel, approx. 11:00 a.m.)

### September 2008

21 Sunday School: **Aghasmos Blessing**  
Welcome Back Sunday  
28 Sunday School

### October 2008

04 Field Trip: Holy Icons and Sacred Arts  
05 Sunday School  
12 No Class: Columbus Day Wkend  
19 Sunday School  
26 Sunday School

### November 2008

02 Sunday School: Communion Breakfast  
09 Sunday School  
15 **Advent begins**  
16 Sunday School  
21 **Entry of the Theotokos**  
23 Sunday School  
30 No Class: Thanksgiving Wkend

### December 2008

06 Rehearsal: Christmas Pageant  
07 Sunday School: Communion Breakfast  
13 Rehearsal: Christmas Pageant  
14 Sunday School: Abbreviated class  
Christmas Pageant  
21 No Class: Winter Break  
25 **Nativity of the Lord**  
28 No Class: Winter Break

### January 2009

04 Sunday School  
06 **Theophany**  
11 Sunday School  
18 Sunday School  
25 Sunday School

### February 2009

01 Sunday School: Communion Breakfast  
02 **Presentation of the Lord**  
08 **Triodion begins:** Sunday School  
15 No Class: Presidents Day Wkend  
22 No Class: Godparents Sunday  
Apokreatiko Glendi  
28 Rehearsal: March 25<sup>th</sup> Program

### March 2009

01 Sunday School  
02 **Great Lent begins**  
07 Rehearsal: March 25<sup>th</sup> Program  
08 Sunday School: Abbreviated Class  
Procession of Icons  
March 25<sup>th</sup> Program  
15 No Sunday School: School Vacation  
22 Sunday School  
25 **Annunciation of the Theotokos**  
29 Sunday School

### April 2009

05 Sunday School  
11 Saturday of Lazarus Retreat  
12 **Palm Sunday:** No class  
19 **Easter Sunday:** No class  
26 Sunday School: Communion Breakfast

### May 2009

03 Sunday School  
10 Sunday School  
17 Sunday School  
24 No class: Memorial Day Wkend  
28 **Ascension**  
30 Rehearsal: Closing Ceremony  
31 Sunday School: Communion Breakfast

### June 2009

06 Rehearsal: Closing Ceremony  
07 **Pentecost**  
Sunday School: Abbreviated Class  
Closing Ceremony

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all school age children to attend Sunday School classes for the 2008-2009 school year. Our first class and traditional Agiasmos blessing is Sunday September 21st -Annunciations' 'Welcome Back Sunday'. The Divine Liturgy begins at 10:30, and class will commence after the reading of the Gospel.

We have another exciting year planned with a curriculum built on *The Holy Trinity*. As our themes continue to capture the hearts and imaginations of the children we will weave previous years' themes - *The Divine Liturgy, Feasts and Saints* and *Prayers and Hymns*- into the curriculum as well. We will emphasize the ecclesiastical arts by using art based projects to reinforce traditional learning methods. We will also continue to incorporate the cultural traditions of the Church and to use our bi-lingual format.

As the age range of our students widens each year, this year we are planning a separation of our one room schoolhouse into 2-3 classes -dependent on student registration. This format will afford a chance for the older boys serving in the altar to continue to participate in Sunday School. It will also create a more challenging atmosphere for our teenagers as well as a nurturing one for our youngest.

Join us Sunday September 21st-  
we can not wait to share the year we have planned for the children!

Anastasia Mastrogiorgis

**ANNUNCIATION  
SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION  
2008-2009**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mails: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Name Day/Baptismal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Did your child attend Sunday School last year? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, in what Church and with what textbook/curriculum?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any medical condition your child has we should know about?

\_\_\_\_\_