

# Assumption Church, Scottsdale

## Sunday School Reference Guide



2010-2011 School Year

### Introduction

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*We are pleased to present you with this, our first Sunday School Reference Guide. Its purpose is to provide the Teacher, Parent & Student with the kind of information that will make this the most exemplary Sunday School experience for everyone involved. In addition to our Sunday School we encourage you to explore the myriad of other groups, like JOY, Junior GOYA, Senior GOYA, Greek Folk Dance, and some of the other parish-wide events, which provide an opportunity for parishioners of all ages to further develop a relationship with God while enjoying the fellowship of Christian friends. It is our hope that you will take the time to look through this Guide and participate to the greatest extent in this vital spiritual community. I pray that our Lord continues to grant each of you the strength and courage to live your life in the fullness of His peace, joy and unfathomable love.*

*Asking for your prayers,*

*Allan Boyd - Pastoral Assistant*



### Philosophy of Our Sunday School Program

The basic philosophy of Assumption Church's Sunday

School Program is to build a solid foundation of the Orthodox Christian Faith by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and Holy Tradition, so that each student may mature ever more into a whole person through a Christ centered life in worship and service of the Holy Trinity.

### Inside This Guide

Goals of our Sunday School	Page 2
Teacher's Covenant	Page 2
Classroom Covenant Agreement	Page 3
Adult Education Opportunities	Page 4
Guidelines For Parents	Page 5
Sunday School Teaching Staff	Page 6
Orthodox Web Sites to Help Parents	Page 7
Assumption's 2010-2011 Calendar of Youth Events	Pages 8-10

# CROSS TRAINING



## Goals of our Sunday School



1. To encourage all students from nursery age to seniors in high school to participate in our Sunday School Program.
2. To make our Sunday School spiritually enriching for our children, teens and adult leaders.
3. To establish a stable, non-threatening educational environment.
4. To provide well rounded and theologically based lessons on the Bible, Liturgical Worship, Prayer Life, Sacramental Life, and Mission Awareness.
5. To have a dependable volunteer staff, who because of their personal commitment to Christ, serve His Church as teachers.
6. To provide the staff and students with text books and other resources (i.e. craft supplies, videos...) which inspire learning.
7. To provide Sunday School students the opportunity to learn about Stewardship and caring for our Church grounds.
8. To learn how to work together with one another in the House of God.

## Teacher's Covenant



Each Sunday School Teacher has committed themselves to respectfully love their students by presenting to them a personal, Christ-centered life, as follows:

1. Being a personal example of continued, adult religious education in order to grow in the Faith.
2. Being a personal example of the Faith through regular participation in the Sacramental Life and services of this parish.
3. Arriving at each class having already faithfully prepared the day's material.
4. Leading the class in organizing effective outreach ministry.
5. Praying for class members and guests weekly.
6. Realizing that there is a place for everything, Sunday School class time must be kept fully free of personal, partisan politics.
7. Making sure that each Sunday School lesson incorporates the Program Philosophy described on page 1 of this Guide.

# Classroom Covenant Agreement

The best learning takes place when students show a proper Christian respect and loving concern for their teachers and for one-another. In an attempt to provide the best learning environment possible for all students in the Sunday School, a covenant agreement regarding class conduct and discipline policy have been implemented.

## Class Code



1. I will help create an environment of respect by showing honor when speaking to fellow students and to teachers.
2. When a teacher or another person is speaking, I understand the importance of raising my hand to speak in turn, and will honor the other person with quiet respect even when I disagree.
3. I will be respectful of the teacher's, the parish's and other persons' property and personal space.
4. I commit to full participation in class by turning off my cell phone, or other electronic devices, and refraining from the use of distracting toys, or any other distraction during class time.

## Class Discipline/Consequences



**Three-count** - I realize that the success of the class is a joint responsibility, dependent upon all of us, including me. If I choose to disrupt the classroom experience by being disrespectful, or keeping the teacher from doing his/her job, I realize that the teacher will warn me to stop whatever I am doing. If I continue disrupting the class, the teacher will give a "1 count." The teacher will discuss the problem with me to ensure that I understand why the behavior is inappropriate. If, however, I still continue to be disruptive to the class, the teacher will give me a "2 count" and take me to the Sunday School director to discuss the situation. If I still continue to misbehave a "3 count" will be given, and I will be taken to my parent/guardian. A continued pattern of such behavior may result my not being permitted to return to Sunday School.

## Agreement



I have read and understood the above Class Code of respect and the Consequences for disrespect. I wish to participate in Sunday School, and my parents and I agree together that the Code of Respect is a reasonable expectation and that the Consequences for disrespect are appropriate.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Adult Religious Education Opportunities

## **Retreat at Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**

On Saturday, September 18, Archimandrite Meletios Webber – monk, priest, psychologist and author of two books: *Steps of Transformation* and *Bread & Water, Wine & Oil* – presents a one day spiritual retreat in three sessions on: “*Being Present in the Presence.*” The retreat will begin at 10 AM and will end with Great Vespers at 6 PM. For more specific info on the retreat sessions, please see the flier in the Community Center.

## **Orthodoxy 101 at Assumption Orthodox Church**

On Tuesday evenings, at 7 PM, from Sept. 14 - Oct 26, Assumption will be hosting a series of classes for both parishioners and inquirers who are interested in learning about the Faith and teachings of the Orthodox Church. The class will be held in the classroom building directly behind the Community Center. Each class will conclude with a time for questions and answers. For more specific info about each class, see the flier in the Community Center, or go to: [assumptionaz.org](http://assumptionaz.org).

## **1. The Feast Days of the Church; and 2. Prayer, Fasting & Communion at Saint Ignatius Orthodox Mission**

On Wednesdays, following 6:30 PM Vespers, beginning September 1, at 7 PM Doctor David Jasmer will teach a series on the Feast Days of the Orthodox Church.

On Wednesdays, December 1, 8, & 15, Father James Coles will be teaching a class on “Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving.” For more info go to: [saintig.org/](http://saintig.org/)

## **Intro to Orthodoxy at Saint Haralambos Orthodox Church**

Every Wednesday, beginning September 29th, at 7 PM, Saint Haralambos will be hosting a class “*Introducing the Orthodox Faith,*” taught by Fr Michael Pallad. For more info, call 623-486-8665.

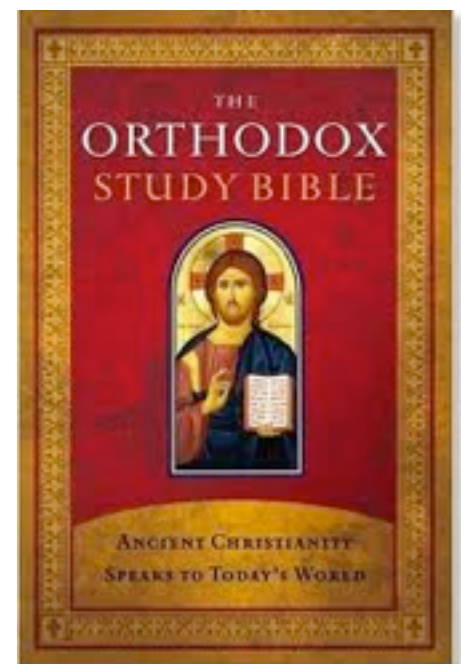
## **History of the Liturgy at Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**

Back by popular demand, this Fall Series of adult education will focus on the Divine Liturgy, the history of its development into its present form, and the ways in which we can better benefit through

active participation in all the Divine Service of the Orthodox Church. It begins Wednesday, September 22, at 7 PM and concludes on December December 15. For more info go to: [speterpaulaz.org](http://speterpaulaz.org)

## **Vespers & Bible Study Every Friday at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Mission**

Every Friday evening, Fr Alin Munteanu holds a Vespers Prayer Service at 6:30 PM, followed by an adult Bible Study. They are located at 20830 N. 25th Place, Suite 106 Phoenix AZ 85050



# Guidelines For Parents

## Parents Can Strengthen Their Kids Lives Through The Following:



1. We encourage you to allow your son/daughter to experience the fullness of the Faith by having them there at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy - 9:20 AM.
2. Our children see what we put our faith into by what we consistently put our time into. Attend Church regularly.
3. Visit your son's/ daughter's classroom and meet with the teacher to see what lessons they are learning so they can be re-enforced at home; ask your son/ daughter if they have any special handouts from the teacher.
4. Make sure that your son/ daughter comes to class prepared with books, homework assignments, memory verses memorized, etc.

5. Practice the Faith at home, observe fasting days and schedule family prayer time. Children are great imitators - what they see you do, you will see them do.
6. Be realistic in setting your goals as you grow in the Faith. God will always provide more than you will ever need, but you need to be willing and ready to be called and to follow Him in every aspect of your life. Do not feel alone, or overwhelmed, but turn to Him in prayer at all times. Stand Firm in Holy Tradition and Be Well In Faith.
7. It is up to you, the parent, to guide, to encourage and to direct your growing child into the arms of the Church. Of utmost importance, is the understanding that parents are the first and predominant **ROLE MODEL**. If your child sees you enthusiastically coming to Church, then he/she will understand that praying and going to Church are things that you do together as a family. If you fast properly, then so will your child. If you make prayer a part of your regular life, then so will your child. If you bring God into your home, then He will be more readily known to your family. Our Metropolitan Gerasimos has declared this year as The Year of the Family. We encourage you together to begin using the Metropolis Family Prayers as part of your personal family disciplines.

## Guidelines For Parents of Toddlers



There is no doubt that it is a difficult task to arrive on time and attend Church regularly with an infant or toddler, amidst diaper changes and juggling all of the things that will help fill his or her needs during that time. It almost takes the skills of a circus performer. But even if you have to arrive after the start of the service, it's worth the effort and we're glad that you were able to make it. It is **VERY** important for parents to attend Church services often with their infant or toddler before they become of Sunday School age. This helps the child become more comfortable being in Church and in their participation in the worship service. It is also fair to say that, as a parent, you may be distracted during the worship service because of your personal attention to your child's needs. Nevertheless, it is very important to have these youngsters attend church services on a regular basis, because attending the Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion is a vital part of strengthening their young spiritual lives and equipping them for the challenges of the world around them. If your child does become a distraction during worship, please feel encouraged to utilize our cry room.

# Our Sunday School Staff Members

## Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Andrew Barakos  
[frandrew@cox.net](mailto:frandrew@cox.net)

---

## Sunday School Director

Allan Boyd  
[UrbanXian@gmail.com](mailto:UrbanXian@gmail.com)

---

## High School Teachers

Jim & Laurie Stamas  
[lastamas@qwest.net](mailto:lastamas@qwest.net)

Takis & Vanessa Makridis  
[vanessa.makridis@gmail.com](mailto:vanessa.makridis@gmail.com)

John Nixon  
[nixatron@fastmail.fm](mailto:nixatron@fastmail.fm)

---

## Middle School Teachers

Tammy Belt  
[Tsadina@aol.com](mailto:Tsadina@aol.com)

Helen Tangalos  
[htangalos@cox.net](mailto:htangalos@cox.net)

---

## 4th & 5th Grade Teachers

Shannon David  
[sdavidrn@hotmail.com](mailto:sdavidrn@hotmail.com)

Craig Lewandowski  
[craig.lewandowski@equitymethods.com](mailto:craig.lewandowski@equitymethods.com)

## 2nd & 3rd Grade Teachers

Danita Boyd  
[DanitaLydia@gmail.com](mailto:DanitaLydia@gmail.com)

McKenzie Robinson

Deborah Wallerich

---

## K-1st Grade Teachers

Pres. Andrea Barakos  
[presandrea@yahoo.com](mailto:presandrea@yahoo.com)

Joanne Lewandowski  
[mmtlew@cox.net](mailto:mmtlew@cox.net)

---

## Preschool Teachers

Fran Gallo  
[FGallo@childhelp.org](mailto:FGallo@childhelp.org)

---

## Snack Administrator

Eleni Tucker  
[emtucker@qwest.net](mailto:emtucker@qwest.net)



## *Orthodox Websites To Help Parents Color Their Faith At Home*



### **FaceBook: Orthodox Christian Parenting**

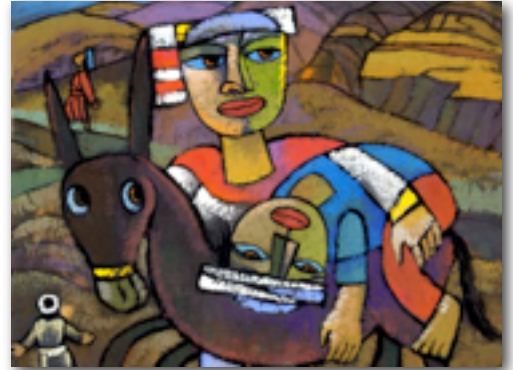
<http://www.facebook.com/orthodoxchristianparenting>

A support group for those members of FaceBook who would benefit from an online community of like-minded Orthodox Christian parents, who trade questions and keep each other informed about helpful resources as they are being made available.

### **Mission Possible (Podcasts on Orthodox Parenting Today)**

<http://www.myocn.net/index.php/Mission-Possible-Orthodox-Parenting-Today/>

Ginny Nieuwsma knows that more than ever, parenting is both a high calling and a tremendous challenge. Her prayer is that this podcast will bring hope, spiritual wisdom, and practical hope to moms and dads dealing with the same pressures she too faces every day. Some very cool ideas here!



### **Greek Archdiocese Center For Family Care Resources**

<http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/family/resources>

Here, you'll find links to a Tabletop Prayer Guide, Creating and Using A Place in Your Home For Family Worship, and Guides for You to Review the Sunday Gospel With Your Children.



### **Free Downloadable Activity Books From the OCA**

<http://dce.oca.org/page/activity-books/>

Here you'll find two Activity Books for Orthodox children and parents, "Saints In Times of Trouble" and "Saints of North America" from the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education. There are striking black and white drawings of each saint, based on their icons, and an array of puzzle activities which will give students a challenging and enjoyable way to learn more about each one. A special feature is a map for each saint, tracing the path of his travels and witness.



### **Weekly Take-Home Lessons From S.F. Metropolis**

<http://religioused.sanfran.goarch.org/lessons.htm>

Printable Weekly Lessons (PDF format) on Orthodox topics for children, teens and adults based on the Sunday Gospels and Major Feastdays. A lesson for every Sunday of the school year! - And then some!

## Assumption Youth Calendar 2010-11

---



•September 6, Labor Day Monday - **Junior GOYA Kickoff & Swim Party @ Barakos Home: 12- 3 PM.**

•September 9, Thursday - **Senior GOYA, Get A Clue Mystery Night, 7 PM @ the Barakos home.**

•September 12, Sunday - First day of Sunday School (**Parent/Teacher meeting directly after class.**)

•September 17, Friday - Parish Wide (**JOY, Junior GOYA and Senior GOYA**) Family

Game Night - 7:00 PM

- September 19, Sunday - “Super Sunday” Focus on Ministries of Assumption
- September 23, Thursday - **Altar Boy** Orientation at 6:30 PM.
- October 1, Friday - **Junior GOYA** Blue-Ribbon Brownie Bake-Off at Assumption at 6:00 PM.
- October 7, Thursday - **Senior GOYA** Officer Elections & Fun Night 6:30 PM.
- October 29, Friday - **JOY & Jr. GOYA** Fall Carnival - 6:00 PM
- November 11, Thursday - **Senior GOYA** Festival Service Event at 6:30 PM, at downtown Scottsdale, with Ice Cream to follow at Sugar Bowl.
- November 14, Sunday - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Greek Festival)
- November 19, Friday - **Junior GOYA** Ornament Making - 6:00 PM, Nicolopoulos home
- November 20, Saturday - Pan-Orthodox **Religious Educator’s & Youth Worker’s** Workshop, at Assumption 9:30 AM till 4PM.
- November 21, Sunday - **JOY & Junior GOYA** - Serving Food at Shelter
- December 10, Friday - **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA**, Christmas Caroling. Followed by **JOY & Junior GOYA** Tree Decorating and **Senior GOYA** Ice Skating.
- December 12, Sunday - Sunday School Christmas Pageant



•December 19, Sunday - **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** Angel Tree, Guadalupe Service Project.

•December 26, Sunday - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Christmas Break)

•January 2, Sunday - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Christmas Break)  
**[CHILDRENS SERMON ON VASILOPITA (Saint Basil's Bread)]**

•January 7, Friday - **Junior GOYA** event - 6:00 PM, Lewandowski home

- January 14, 15 & 16, Friday, Saturday & Sunday (Martin Luther King Jr weekend) **Senior GOYA** Winter Retreat.
- January 17, Monday - **JOY** Ice Skating
- January 22-23 : **Jr. GOYA** Retreat in the Pines
- January 29, Saturday - **Junior GOYA** and **Senior GOYA** Service Project - Camp Agape Kids-n-Cancer Ball.
- February 10, Thursday - **Senior GOYA** Valentines Movie Night at 6:30 PM
- February 12, Saturday - **JOY & Junior GOYA** outreach event.
- February 20, Sunday - **Sunday School**, Festival of Faith
- March 10, Thursday - **Senior GOYA**, Lenten Service Project
- March 13, Sunday - Sunday of Orthodoxy, **All Youth** Procession With Icons & Godparent Sunday
- March 20, Sunday - Community Hike: **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** hike up Camelback Mountain.
- March 25, Friday - **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** community wide Greek Independence Day event.
- April 3, Sunday - Parish Oratorical Festival at 3PM



- April 7, Thursday - **Senior GOYA** Consecration Preparation Service Project - Preparing the Church for Pascha.
- April 10, Sunday - District Oratorical Festival at 3PM
- April 16, Saturday - **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** community wide Lazarus Saturday Pancake Breakfast.
- April 22, Friday - **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** Holy Friday Retreat.
- May 5, Thursday - **Senior GOYA**, Sleuths' Mystery Dinner Playhouse at 6:30 PM.
- May 15, Sunday - **Junior GOYA** Olympics location TBD.
- May 22, Sunday - **Sunday School** Graduation
- May 28, Saturday - Church Barbecue: **JOY, Junior GOYA & Senior GOYA** Service Project, Backpack Stuffing for Camp Agape Kids-n-Cancer.
- June 2-5 - Camp Agape Kids-n-Cancer
- June 5-10 - All Saints Camp - New Location [www.pinesummitcamp.com](http://www.pinesummitcamp.com)
- July 30, Saturday - **Senior GOYA** hike up in Northern Arizona.