



SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

THE REVEREND STEVEN P. ZORZOS, D.MIN., PROTOPRESBYTER & PRESIDING PRIEST
THE REVEREND PANAYIOTIS V. STEELE, M.DIV., PRESBYTER & ASSISTANT PRIEST



CHRIST, THE HOLY
WISDOM OF GOD

August 2023

Dear Parents:

The threefold mission of our Sunday School program is as follows:

- To educate our children spiritually and morally, in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Faith Tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church.
- To develop in our children the habit of regular church attendance, Scriptural study, and conscientious participation in the worship and sacramental life of our Church.
- To cultivate in our children a Greek Orthodox conscience and devotion to our Orthodox Christian ideals and to prepare them to become faithful, devoted, and dynamic members of our Church, our community, and our country.

On **September 17, 2023**, teachers will lovingly return to the classroom and once again fulfill our mission. We look forward to welcoming your children and pray that they will attend regularly throughout the year.

You may recall a survey that we sent out earlier this year in which we sought feedback about our program. The results are as follows:

- 75% of respondents replied that they attend Sunday School on a regular basis (3-4 times per month).
- Those respondents who replied that they do not attend regularly listed “other commitments” as the main reason.
- 91% listed “to learn about their faith” as the primary reason for sending their children to Sunday School. Other reasons included “interacting with other children of the Greek Orthodox faith.”
- 77% of respondents expressed a desire to reinstate the children’s sermon; 63% were in favor of reserving the front rows of the Nave for students.

We carefully considered these responses and comments from you and from the students. As a result, we will implement the following changes beginning with the first day of Sunday School on **September 17th**:



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- The center front pews will be reserved for Sunday School students.
- Every Sunday, directly after the priests receive Holy Communion and before the Congregation receives, one of the priests will deliver a brief 3–5-minute children’s sermon. The timing of this sermon ensures that no additional time will be taken from the classroom.

The importance of the parent-teacher partnership in ensuring that your children attend Liturgy and Sunday School, and of regularly asking your children about the lesson of the day, cannot be overstated. **As a reminder, Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 AM with all Sunday School students in attendance.** After Holy Communion, all will proceed to their classrooms for catechetical instruction.

Our annual “Welcome Back Lunch” will follow the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on **September 17**. We look forward to this new Sunday School year and ask God’s guidance as you and we together embark on the great task of the spiritual formation of our children. If you have not yet registered, please do so now via the website: www.saintsophiadc.org (Ministries-Education-Sunday School)

Yours in Christ,

Diane Cerniglia
Academic Dean, Upper School (Grades 6-12)

Stracie Maniatis
Academic Dean, Lower School (Grades Pre-K-5)

Vivian Kambanis
Sunday School Administrator