



St. Demetrios Religious Education



SPRING - SUMMER 2026

Head: Fr. Evgenios Tsaramanidis

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

Thank you so much for attending our end-of-year celebration! We are truly grateful for your presence and very happy to share some of our latest news and memories.

Our **Godparents Sunday celebration** was a wonderful success. Many of our students had the opportunity to honor their godparents by treating them to a lovely breakfast and presenting them with a small gift as a token of love and appreciation. Together, we also enjoyed a meaningful presentation about Baptism and the sacred bond between godparent and godchild. The warmth, joy, and fellowship shared made the day especially memorable, and we are very thankful to everyone who helped make it possible.

Throughout Lent, all our classes worked on a variety of meaningful activities to help the children better understand this sacred and important season of the Church year. We faithfully participated in the icon procession on the **Sunday of Orthodoxy** and venerated the Holy Cross on the **Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross**, helping the children experience these beautiful traditions in a memorable way.

We also dedicated time to **service projects and acts of love for others**. Following our Lord's teaching in Matthew 25:31-46, our students prepared and sent **Pascha greeting cards to Christian prisoners** through the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. It was a meaningful opportunity for the children to practice compassion and remember those who may feel forgotten.

Our directors, catechists, and students were also proud to participate in the **Greek**

Independence Day parade alongside the other ministries of our community. It was a joyful day of fellowship and celebration.

On **Lazarus Saturday**, the children helped prepare palm crosses for Palm Sunday, and many of our families were prayerfully present throughout **Holy Week services**. On Holy Friday, our **Myrofores** and a large group of **Altar Servers** did a beautiful job honoring the Epitaphios with reverence and dedication. We are truly proud of them and thankful for their willingness to serve.

To celebrate **Mother's Day**, the children also prepared special gifts to express their love and gratitude to their mothers, and it was wonderful to see the care and joy they put into them.

We are especially thankful for our older male students who have been diligently serving as **Altar Servers and readers** throughout the year. Their reverence, consistency, and dedication are a blessing to our parish community. Congratulations on a job very well done!

Finally, we would like to extend our **heartfelt thanks to all the parents and grandparents** who faithfully made the effort to bring the children to class each Sunday. Your support, encouragement, and commitment truly make a tremendous difference in the children's spiritual growth and connection to the life of the Church.

May our Lord continue to bless and guide all of us during the summer months, and may He bring us together again in joy and good health in the fall!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CATECHISTS

PREK-GRADE 1

This year in Sunday School, our Pre-K through 1st grade class had a wonderful time learning about God's love through Bible stories and crafts. We learned about prayer, saints, feast days and about being kind. It has been such a joy to watch the children grow throughout the year. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for your continued support and encouragement at home. We hope you all have a safe, happy, and blessed summer!

Sophia Orphanidou-Koukoutsis & Popi Zavola

GRADES 2-3

Our class had a wonderful and productive year learning about our Orthodox Faith, its theology, and traditions. It was a joy to grow together and deepen our understanding of the life of the Church. The themes we have been exploring in the second half include: The Three Hierarchs. The Meeting of our Lord (Υπαπαντή). Great Lent, its meaning, duration, practices, and traditions. Lenten themes: holy icons, the Holy Cross, Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and Burial. The Resurrection, Ascension, and Holy Pentecost. Hymnography and Saint Romanos the Melodist. We are very proud of our students who did a fantastic job, and we wish all our families a blessed and joyful summer!

Natalia Tzobanakis-Theocharopoulou & Irene Vlahos

GRADES 4-6

We can't believe that another Sunday School year is coming to an end! Our lessons continued to focus on the Sunday Gospel readings. Alongside learning about the Great Feasts and the Saints, our students also learned to chant several troparia in Greek. "Christos Anesti" quickly became a class favorite and was always chanted with great enthusiasm and volume! Our final lessons centered on the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven and the promise that He will "come again with glory," as well as the Great Feast of Pentecost and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. The students reflected on how, even today, we continue to pray to the Holy Spirit "to cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls."

Thank you for your support this year! Have a blessed and joyful summer!

Despina Lachanaris & Lisa Bukuvalas

GRADES 7-8

It has been a true pleasure to spend this year discussing with the middle school students of Saint Demetrios the many aspects of Orthodox life both inside and outside the church. Together, we explored topics such as how, when, and why we fast throughout the year, while we also shared lessons from the lives of many major saints. We are grateful for the students' participation and thoughtful discussions, and we warmly encourage all parents to continue making Sunday School a priority in family life.

Bill Nicholas & Nikos Papadopoulos

HIGH SCHOOL

Our class is always filled with lively discussions, thoughtful questions, and meaningful exchanges of ideas. We are proud to see our students actively express their interest, share their perspectives, and engage sincerely with the topics we explore together. The themes we discussed during the second half of the year included the life of Saint Basil and the tradition of the Vasilopita; the role of women in Orthodoxy; the Triodion and the first three Sundays of Lent; love, friendship, honesty, and the importance of not speaking behind others' backs; the events leading up to our Lord's Resurrection; and the meaning and joy of Pascha. We extend our warmest summer wishes to all our families.

Stephanos Kotsakis & George Theocharopoulos

We are always thankful for the help and support of Mrs. Irene Melachrinou, who despite stepping down from the position of Sunday School director two years ago, has been continuously contributing to various projects.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Stephanos Kotsakis