

The Sunday School Scroll

Volume I, Issue I
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St. George Sunday School Newsletter
Carmen Kostik, Principal
Anna-Sarah Farha, Editor

*“To teach is
to love, and
to love is to
teach.”*

--Fr. Saba

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Oct 4 - Annual Cathedral Picnic
- ◆ Oct 26 - Visit of Metropolitan JOSEPH (no classes)
- ◆ Nov 9 - Field Trip

Principal's News

Dear St. George Parents and Students, It is a great pleasure to welcome all of our new and returning students to the 2014-2015 Sunday School year! I hope that the summer months have provided you with rest and an opportunity to recharge.

We've had a busy Summer, and as we enter the new school year I feel we are well prepared for the challenge ahead, with a staff and a curriculum that will help prepare the leaders of tomorrow's Orthodox Church. And, fortunately, on any given Sunday at our Cathedral you will find the students getting a head start on that leadership as they serve the community, the Cathedral Council, sing in the Youth Choir, serve as altar servers, or participate in many "behind the scene" activities to help the Church. The main component of our program is the reading of the Bible – the corresponding Gospel of that day. In addition, starting this year, with the Book of Mark, it is our plan to cover one book of the New Testament every year. We hope that whenever possible, you will join your children at home with the assigned readings. As we evolve as a learning community, we embrace our responsibility to meet the spiritual needs of the students; working together as a team our students will be inspired to realize their God-given potential. The summer season included changes to our staff. Please join me in welcoming our past and new staff members! I wish to thank each one of them for their time and genuine effort. Although you know

most of them, a short introduction for each one will be featured over the course of the next few issues so you can get to know them even better. I am grateful for the honor of again serving the parents and students of St. George Cathedral's Sunday School. I wish to thank Father Saba for his guidance as well as our Cathedral Council for their constant support. I also wish to thank our new P.R. Coordinator, Mrs. Anna-Sarah Farha, for designing and making this long awaited Newsletter a reality; we hope you'll enjoy it. In closing, I invite you to visit our Open House on Sunday, Sept 21st and see our Sunday School in action. Please make sure to review the Family Guidelines section of the newsletter. I look forward to an outstanding school year filled with many blessings.

In Christ,
Carmen Kostik
Principal

Book of Mark Schedule of Readings

9/21 Chapter 1:29-45
9/28 Chapter 2:1-12
10/5 Chapter 2:13-28
10/12 Chapter 3:1-19
10/19 Chapter 3:20-35

Family & Student Guidelines

“Educating your children means that you must be educated in the Faith *yourself*. This is the parents’ responsibility. Immerse yourself in the life of the Church. Worship and pray in as many of the Divine Services as possible, attend adult education classes, read the Holy Scripture.”

From a presentation by His Grace Bishop THOMAS at Orthodox Institute 2009, Antiochian Village

Have a question or comment?

Want to submit an idea to the newsletter?

Email us at:
SundaySchool@
StGMiami.org

As we begin a new school year, we would like to maintain the cooperative environment which we have always enjoyed with the teachers, staff members, parents, and students. The St. George Sunday School Ministry is committed to furthering our students’ education in the Orthodox faith, and aims to create an environment where **Students:**

- Feel safe and secure.
- Respect and show consideration for each other, their teachers, staff, school property and their environment.
- Develop a sense of self discipline and responsibility.

Teachers, assistants, and staff in general provide positive role models by:

- Welcoming all students and valuing them as individuals.
- Listening and responding with sensitivity.
- Communicating our Orthodox values and beliefs to each other, children, parents and the wider community.
- Being fair in reprimanding poor conduct and praising good behavior and effort.

Attendance:

- We believe that religious education and attendance of Sunday Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation should be every Orthodox Christian family's priority - the 'lifestyle' of the family. Learning in class can be truly effective only when one meets our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacraments at the altar.
- Students are expected to attend Sunday School classes as scheduled and to be punctual (starting immediately following Holy Communion and ending when the bell rings at 1:00 PM).

Dismissal Procedure

- All students must (enter and) exit the Sunday School wing through the marked door at the rear of the Cathedral Hall. For safety reasons, a Classroom/Hall Monitor is always situated in the central hallway of the Sunday School wing; **no one is to exit through the side door.**
- **Parents should be present in the Cathedral Hall at dismissal time (1:00 PM). Students are not permitted to leave the building unattended or with anyone other than a parent or assigned guardian.**
- In the event a student has to leave class early, the parent must enter the Sunday School wing, advise the principal, and pick up their child directly from the classroom.

Kindly read and review these guidelines with your child/ren. Students are expected to:

1. Attend class on time, with any materials and/or completed work as requested by the teacher.
2. Listen and cooperate with the teacher, assistant teacher, and staff members in general.
3. Leave all cell phones/electronic devices with their parents before class starts, or hand them to their teacher upon arrival.
4. To demonstrate respectful, appropriate behavior at all times.










We thank you for your usual kind cooperation. Looking forward to a fruitful and enlightening school year, I remain,

In Christ,
Carmen Kostik
Principal

Bible Trivia

Fishers of Men - Jesus Disciples

Draw a line from the disciple's name to the statement about him.

Peter		a tax collector
Andrew		son of Zebedee and brother of James
James		also called Didymus
John		brother of John
Philip		his name means "rock"
Matthew		betrayed Jesus
Thomas		son of Alphaeus (also called "the Less")
James		Peter's brother
Simon		he brought Nathanael to Jesus
Judas		a Canaanite, also called Zelotes

Here are some Bible passages to help you.
 Matthew 4:18-21; 10:2-4 (NIV); 16:17-18
 Mark 3:14-19
 John 1:43-51; 11:16
 Acts 1:13

Which two names are missing from the list? _____

When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving (all these are attributes of God), to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them. This, then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness."

St. John Chrysostom

SOYO BUZZ

Save the Date: Bible Bowl 2015

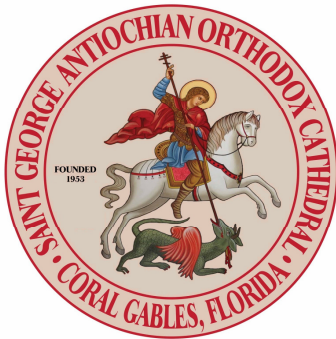


The 2015 Bible Bowl
 Saint Raphael
 Bishop of Brooklyn
 Celebrating the 100th
 anniversary of his
 falling asleep in the
 Lord

Participants will study
 the Life of Saint
 Raphael of Brooklyn
 from the book:

**Our Father Among the
 Saints Raphael Bishop
 of Brooklyn:**
**Good Shepherd of the
 Lost Sheep in America**

Parish Life Conference 2015
 Franklin, TN
 June 10-15



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Troparion

*Since you were righteous
under the law of grace, O
Joachim and Anna,*

*For our sake you gave birth
to the God-given Infant.*

*The divine Church today
therefore feasts radiantly,*

*Joyfully celebrating your
honorable memory and
giving glory to God Who*

*has raised up a horn of
salvation from the house of
David!*

Sunday School Staff

This month's newsletter will introduce three members of the St. George Sunday School Staff in their own words: Andrea Abu-Akel - teacher of the Pre-K & K class, Sawsun Khuri - teacher of the 4th, 5th, & 6th grade class, and Cecilia Alfonso - Coordinator of the Youth Choir. October's newsletter will feature additional staffers, so stay tuned as we meet the entire group over the next few months.

Andrea: This is my first year teaching Sunday School and I feel blessed to be able to help the Pre-K and Kindergarten children begin their Bible studies. I am married to a wonderful man - Atalla, but most of you may know me as Michael and Andrew's mom! I look forward to a really great learning experience with all of my students and I hope all my students will always be on their very best behavior **all the time** which will give us the opportunity to have some surprises along the way! See you every Sunday!

Sawsan: Sawsan has been a member of the St George community since 2002, and involved with the Sunday School since 2012. Her connections to the Antiochian Orthodox Church started with a few great grandparents ago, she hopes they are not horrified by her attempts to help uphold our old and glorious heritage. During the week, she is Director of Engagement for the Center for Computational Science, and a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Miami. She loves the peace that comes with prayer, is deeply grateful for God's blessings, and her favorite Psalm is #1.

Cecilia: My nickname is Ceci. I am in my second year at FIU where I am studying Human Resources Management. I have been singing pretty much all of my life! I attended New World School of the Arts for high school and was in the vocal program.

Saint of the Month Spotlight: St. Anna, Holy Righteous Ancestor of God

Commemorated on September 9

St. Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, who was of the tribe of Levi, whose family came from Bethlehem. St. Anna lived with her husband, Joachim, at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never complained, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him. During a great feast, the gifts that Joachim took to the Temple as an offering to God were not accepted by the priest, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained Joachim, and he decided to settle in solitude in a desolate place. When St. Anna learned what humiliation her husband had

endured, she sorrowfully entreated God with prayer and fasting to grant her a child. In his solitude, the righteous Joachim also asked God for a child. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born to them, Who would be blessed above all other women. The angel also told them that She would remain a virgin, would be dedicated to the Lord and live in the Temple, and would give birth to the Savior. Obeying the instructions of the heavenly messenger, Ss. Joachim and Anna met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. Then, as God promised, a daughter was born to them, and they named her Mary.

--cited from www.antiochian.org