



The Sunday School Scroll



John Chrysostom
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St. George Sunday School Newsletter
Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba, Cathedral Dean
Carmen Kostik, Principal
Anna-Sarah Farha, Editor

Patron Saint of Sunday School

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A Message from the Principal

Dear St. George family:

It seems such a short time ago we were welcoming the students back to Sunday School after Summer vacation, but here we are and Christmas is upon us!...the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ with its message of “peace and good will”, a message which is not just for Christmas, but an underlying principle of our faith and a way of life.

In the course of this semester our young people have been busy, not only studying the Word of God, but also carrying it out: donating food for the needy, sharing their talents by singing and welcoming Metropolitan Joseph during his visit in October, buying and wrapping gifts to be delivered to poor children at Christmas...in other words, demonstrating their awareness and thinking of others.

The term will end with the Christmas Pageant and General Assembly on Sunday, December 21st and we hope to see you all there. It speaks to us about the need to learn and understand the Word of God in spite of the many distractions offered by the material world...that we should do our best to quench our thirst for the Truth, and that there are always angels among us to teach and guide us along. As we stand on the threshold of 2015, I'd like us to reflect on words from an unknown Christian writer which sum up the message of Christmas:

*“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks ...
It is then that the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples, to make music in the heart.”*

On behalf of the Sunday School staff, I wish you a holy and blessed Christmas followed by a New Year of hope and peace.

Carmen Kostik

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Nov 15-Dec 25
Advent Humanitarian Drive
- ◆ Dec 21 - Christmas Pageant (no classes)
- ◆ Dec 21 - Honor Roll Student Recognition
- ◆ Dec 28 - Holiday Break (no classes)
- ◆ Dec 28 - Christmas Caroling - Youth Choir
- ◆ Jan 9 - Family Night
- ◆ Jan 11 - General Mtg (no classes)
Pizza Party PK-6



Family Night
Friday, January 9th, 2015
7:30pm-9:30pm



Ring in the new year - Sunday School style

Food, games, and activities!

Event is open to all families

Donations will be appreciated.

For more info, please contact the Sunday School Staff at SundaySchool@StGMiami.org.

A Message from Fr. Saba

Dear Sunday School Staff, Students, and Families,

Glory to Jesus Christ who was born in a manger for our salvation! Glory forever!

I greet you during this joyful season to assure you of my prayers. I greet you as we approach the manger in Bethlehem. I greet you as we prepare ourselves to greet a King, who turned out to be the King of all! This child born in Bethlehem would grow later to be a Teacher. He would later teach of peace, joy, longsuffering, patience, mercy, and wisdom. A Teacher and a King.

May you all be comforted by the warmth of the manger and the light of His star! Merry Christmas my dear loved ones!

Your Father in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba
Dean



SOYO BUZZ

Words from Metropolitan JOSEPH
for our youth

"A priority dear to my heart is our youth. I want to keep them in the faith and sustain their spiritual lives. They need out attention and prayers, as well as our sacrifices for this task. We need to improve our camps and further develop youth programs. I will need the help of our hierarchs, clergy and faithful to accomplish these goals.

In the future, our investment in our youth will bring forth spiritual leaders, good fathers and mothers, good citizens and Orthodox Christians able to share our faith with America and our children. I know that it is not easy and this looks crazy and impossible, but with God all things are possible. Remember that St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me" (4:13)."

Advent Humanitarian Drive

Continuing Through Christmas Eve

Each year, starting November 15th, the St. John the Divine Ministry sponsors the Advent Humanitarian Drive. This effort is directed to the neighbors who live around our Cathedral, specifically those who may not be able to afford a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. The annual outreach is made possible through the generosity of the St. George Cathedral families; last year we were able to provide assistance to our neighbors in need, with a significant contribution that



came from our Sunday School students from all grade levels. As we all reflect on our blessings, we ask for your usual generosity once again this year. Please bring your contributions in the form of non perishable food items that may be distributed among poor families. For details, please see the Sunday bulletin.

**Have a question
or comment?**

**Want to submit
an idea to
the newsletter?**

Email us at:
SundaySchool@
StGMiami.org

Book of Mark Schedule of Readings

1/4 Chapter 7:17-37
1/11 Chapter 8:1-21
1/18 Chapter 8:22-39

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 28th

This year the Sunday School Youth Choir is planning to reinstitute the beautiful tradition of Christmas Caroling!

In the spirit of Christmas and wanting to share the joy of the Season with others, the Youth Choir will be visiting some of the St. George Cathedral parishioners who are elderly or ill on the afternoon of Sunday, December 28th

All interested students, especially those who have already signed up for the Youth Choir, are invited to participate.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

We will travel as a group, leaving the Cathedral after Liturgy, returning around 3:30 pm.

Please complete a **Parental Authorization form**(see Cathedral bulletin) and return to Carmen Kostik by December 21st.

A few volunteer chaperones will be needed to accompany the students; if you would like to go along, please let us know.

Bible Activity Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Nativity Wordsearch



- | | | | |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| angel | donkey | Jesus | Joseph |
| kings | manger | Mary | |
| shepherd | stable | star | |



Attendance Tracker Holy Days & Special Services

Attention Parents,
An attendance binder has been created to record the names of the students attending special services held on major feasts and holy days at the Cathedral:

- Feast of the Nativity of the Lord
- Lent Services
- Palm Sunday
- Holy Week Services
- Paschal Liturgy
- Holy Pascha Agape Service

The binder is placed on a small table in the narthex and kept by the Ushers in charge; each student should enter his/her name on arrival. The purpose of this exercise is to maintain a record of the students' attendance during those special services in order to give them due credit towards their final grade in Sunday School. We thank you for your cooperation and for encouraging your child(ren) to attend regularly.

In Christ,
Carmen Kostik
Principal

Upcoming Sunday School Events Opportunities for Spiritual Growth & Fun

PIZZA PARTY

January 11th, 2015

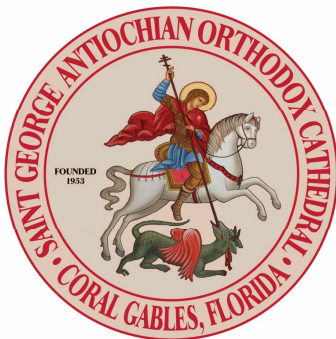
Following Liturgy

PreK-6th Grade

Enjoy pizza and watch a video of the 2014 Christmas Pageant while parents and teens attend the Annual General Assembly Meeting.

Coming soon.....
Creative Arts Festival 2015





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Sunday School Staff

December's newsletter continues the introductions of the St. George Sunday School Staff in their own words: Vladimir Kostik - Hall Monitor. January's newsletter will feature additional staffers, so stay tuned as we meet the entire group over the next few months.

Vladimir: As a monitor I assist the Sunday School Director, by ensuring the safety of students and teachers and keeping the hallway and classrooms free of disruptions to facilitate teaching and learning. I love to be around young people as you are always bound to learn something new from them. As a church Council member from 2010-2012 and currently a "Liturgical Usher" I welcome the opportunity to serve our community. My experience as a staff member at City Colleges of Chicago and Miami Dade Public Schools inform my interest in education and best practices to be applied in a learning environment. I look forward to a successful school year and the students to learn about the Biblical Gospels.

"Ask Abuna" Monthly Column

Use this form to submit your questions for Fr. Saba.
Cut out and give to your Sunday School teacher.

Name (optional):

Question:

Kontakion

The stirring celebration of your victorious fight is an announcement of the One who is to be born of the Virgin. In your eagerness to possess Him forever, you hastened to be devoured by the wild beasts. Therefore, O glorious Ignatius, you were called the bearer of God!

Tone 3

Saint of the Month Spotlight: Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer & Bishop of Antioch

Commemorated on December 20

Tradition suggests that when St Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God. St Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with St Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, St Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ. On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, the Romans led St Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts." After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, St Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, St Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ." After his execution St Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome.

<http://oca.org/saints/lives/2014/12/20/103594-hieromartyr-ignatius-the-god-bearer-the-bishop-of-antioch>