

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
440 Whitehall Road, Albany, NY 12208
Tel. (518) 489-4442 | Fax (518) 489-0374

† Rev. Father Patric Legato, Pastor

Welcome to the 2018/19 Church School year. It is a great honor for me to help in Service to the church. I would like to point out that Sunday School is an obligation to be provided for our children as directed by the Archdiocese. I shall endeavor to provide the best possible service to our next generation, but it will take work. Last year, we had a tremendous fall off in attendance. I realize there is so much going on for our children, but I ask that our parents take a special role in committing to the program. It is only as good as the participation we have. I also request that parents involve themselves in the teaching and volunteering aspect of the school. This is all about volunteers. Without your direct help, we cannot possibly fulfill all the needs of our children. There are programs in which we will need a great deal of help with; Christmas Pageant and Sunday of Orthodoxy are but two. These are traditions of the church and we want to make a grand showing to give the children a lifelong experience. I am asking for your commitment. Without it, I am afraid our program will continue to falter. This year, in conjunction with the Dance Group and their teachers and with the support of Fr. Pat, we shall also make it mandatory for our dancers to become a part of the Church School program. This is long overdue and I look forward to working with Diane Cohen and her staff.

Last year, we reinstated the **Worship Sunday** obligation for our students in grades 5-graduation with a twist. This year, grade 4 will also be included. It is our goal to allow these students a first-hand sense of the entire Divine Liturgy and operation of the church on specified Sunday's of the year. **This is not a day off**, and I look forward to everyone's full cooperation.

As a reminder, these specified Sunday's will allow our children to either serve in the altar, work with the parish council, become readers, participate in the choir, become attendants for the Liturgy, or simply sit in a designated area. The Church belongs to all of us and, as Fr. Pat has pointed out in the past, everyone needs to be involved in the operation of the Divine Liturgy. Hopefully, this will also prepare our children for their future involvement.

The first *Commitment Sunday* will be with Grades 7 & 8 on Sunday, September 16, 2018 and continue throughout the year. Please remember, this is **not** a day off, but an enhanced devotion and commitment to the Church.

I would also like to thank our former Director, Matthew Pappis for his service last year and look forward to working with everyone this year. Here's to a "New Beginning." Eis Anoterla!

Zoe Bousbouras

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018 - 2019

NOTE: Only through January 2019

September	02	Church School Registration
	09	Church school begins – Agiasmos Service after Holy Communion
	16	Grades 7 & 8 in Church Commitment Sunday1st two Pews behind the Choir
	23	
	30	
October	07	Columbus Day weekend.....No Church School
	14	
	21	Grades 5 & 6 Commitment Sunday
	28	
November	04	
	11	
	18	
	25	Thanksgiving Day weekend.....No Church School
December	02	St. Barbara's Day celebration after Services
	09	Grades 7 & 8 Commitment Sunday
	16	Christmas Pageant
	23	Christmas break.....No Church School
	30	New Year's break.....No Church School
January	06	2019 Church School worship in Church except for Pre-K and Kindergarten
	13	
	20	
	27	