

# St. Spyridon Sunday School

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Dear Parents:

Greetings to all of you in the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year, we are thrilled to invite the children in **grades 3-12** to participate in the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival**. This festival is a tradition in our parish, designed to enrich our children's faith and allow them to express their understanding and feelings about their Orthodox Christian heritage in creative and engaging ways.

The Oratorical Festival is not only an opportunity for spiritual growth, but also a chance for our children to develop their public speaking skills and confidence. Your child can choose from a variety of topics that explore the depths of our faith, the lives of the saints, and the teachings of the Church.

All **topics** can be found on the back side of this letter. **All projects are due by Sunday, March 1, 2026.** **All students** are strongly encouraged to participate in this year's Oratorical Festival. Projects should be rooted in Orthodox teachings.

***Examples of projects: Posters, dioramas, icons, drawings, prayer journal, storybook, shadow box.***

Participating in the Oratorical Festival will be a rewarding experience for your children, offering them a platform to share their voice, learn from their peers, and deepen their connection to our faith. We encourage you to support and guide your child through this journey, fostering a family environment of learning and spiritual growth.



**All participants will receive a certificate of participation and recognition at the end of the year.**

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, need further information, or would like assistance in selecting a topic or developing a project.

Thank you for considering this enriching opportunity for your children. May God bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Maria Baltsas, Oratorical Chairperson

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## ELEMENTARY DIVISION TOPICS

1. Tell us about your favorite story from the Bible. What happens in the story and why do you like it? What does it teach us about God or how we should live?
2. Describe something you love about your Orthodox church. It could be an icon, a special service, the way it looks, or how it makes you feel. Why is this special to you?
3. Choose a saint you've learned about and tell us why you think they were special. What did they do that showed their love for God? How can we be like them?
4. Share an Orthodox tradition that your family celebrates, such as a special holiday, blessing, or custom. How does your family celebrate it and why is it important to you?
5. Choose an icon from your church and describe what you see in it. Who is shown in the icon and what story does it tell? What do you learn from looking at this icon?