

St. Spyridon Sunday School



Dear Sunday School Parents:

Greetings to all of you in the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of our ongoing commitment to the spiritual growth and development of our youth, we are excited to announce the upcoming **Oratorical Festival** at our parish.

This year's theme is **SHARE YOUR FAITH!** The categories include: **Speech, Poetry, Iconography, Vocal Chant, and Vocal Solo.**

The Oratorical Festival is a tradition within our parish, designed to offer our young people a platform to express their faith and explore their creative talents in a supportive and nurturing environment.

This enriching event will take place after the **Salutations to our Theotokos on Friday, March 6, 2026. All speeches, essays, poems, icons, and entries are due by Sunday, March 1** to ensure that we have enough time to review and provide feedback.

Your child has already received the topics for their chosen category during Sunday school and we have been discussing each of the topics as part of our Sunday school lessons. All topics can also be found on the back side of this letter.

For more detailed information regarding the topics, guidelines, and submission requirements for each category, please visit <https://chicago.goarch.org/oratorical-festival/>. We encourage you to explore this resource together with your child and support them as they prepare for their participation in our festival. *You may also scan the QR Code below for Topics, Tips, and Resources*

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our parish activities. We pray that this event will be a source of blessing and inspiration for all involved.



Scan for Topics, Tips, and Resources

JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 7-9)

Select one of the five following topics:

TOPIC 1

Select a hymn that is chanted in the Divine Liturgy and explain its meaning and theological significance.

TOPIC 2

Choose a Saint who was a child or young person. How did their faith influence their life, and what can we learn from them?

TOPIC 3

Who is the Ecumenical Patriarch, and why is he significant in the Orthodox Church today?

TOPIC 4

Choose an Old Testament story (such as David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, or Joseph and his brothers) and explain how it teaches us important lessons that apply to young people today.

TOPIC 5

Select a major Orthodox feast day and explain why we celebrate it and how participating in this celebration deepens our understanding of Christ and our faith.

