



THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

500 Belmonte Park North, Dayton, OH, 45405-4797 • Tel.: (937) 224-0601 • Fax: (937) 224-0173
Web: www.daytonannunciation.org • E-mail: annunciation@donet.com

Dear Parents,

There are many changes coming to the Catechism School for the 2017/2018 school year. It is with sadness that we announce that after 55 years of service to the Lord Mrs. Connie Mellas has chosen to retire. We thank her for all she has done and wish her God's blessing.

Replacing Connie will be Dr. Christina Harsch and Mrs. Katina Tsatalis as co-directors. Both are teachers professionally and will no doubt bring a wealth of skills into this sacred ministry of Our Lady's church. Additionally, Mrs. Sue Bacas has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to help in this period of transition. We thank them all and wish God's blessing upon their service to His children!

Curriculum wise in grades preK through 5 we are offering a Bible based plan of studies. It is our hope that your children and our students will gain a better knowledge of God's word and plan for salvation by doing this, and that they will begin to see how the Old Testament prepares the way for the birth of the Messiah Jesus Christ.

In grades 6, 7, and 8 we have chosen the book The Law of God. This book is designed to teach children all the fundamental points of the Orthodox Christian faith and way of life. Because children are growing up quickly in a society that raises serious and agonizing questions the author does not teach in naive stories that remain stories only. He also offers an overview of the whole of the Old and New Testaments, as well as instruction on prayer, worship and what it means to live by the teaching of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.

For grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 we have chosen The Orthodox Faith. This four part series is intended to provide basic, comprehensive information on the faith and life of the Orthodox Church. It consists of four volumes in the areas of Doctrine and Scripture, Worship, Church History, and Spirituality. In addition to this our 11th and 12th graders are going to be doing moral theology coursework with Fr. Joseph in the form of seminars or weekly classes.

Another exciting change will be our Youth Sunday. On this day students will serve as greeters, readers of the Epistle, Creed, and Our Father, and they will take a monthly collection for the needs of the Catechism School.

Lastly, we will be planning events that will facilitate more engagement between parents, teachers, students, and Fr. Joseph throughout the school year. It is our hope to create more of an intentional community within the Catechism School.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Gingrich Dr. Christina Harsch Mrs. Katina Tsatalis