

Education Committee

As many of you know, we have launched our new church school programs this year, which include not only our traditional Youth Catechism, but also, a wonderful new program for our adults, taught by our Reverend Father Matthew. Both programs begin promptly at 9:45 am, and it is the first time in many years, that parishioners (adults & youth) can enjoy "Sunday School", and still attend the Divine Liturgy, which immediately follows our classes at 10:30 am.

In our adult Sunday School class, we are studying the book of Genesis, the first book of the Holy Bible. The class just keeps growing, and is a wonderful opportunity for all adults of our parish to enrich their knowledge and insight into the Orthodox Christian perspective of the Holy Bible.

If you have not been with us for Sunday School this season, please be reminded that your presence is encouraged and welcomed always. And by all means register your children if you have not already done so. It is up to us as parents to promote our own, as well as our children's, growth as Greek Orthodox Christians.

In addition to these opportunities on Sundays, we also have been holding Adult Education on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, led by parishioner, Rick Reynolds, who is one of our Book store organizers, and who is very well read in Greek Orthodox origins and theology. Please see his article for more detail about the Wednesday evening class in this newsletter.

Adult Education

Since September, several members of our congregation have been meeting on Wednesday nights and studying *The Orthodox Way* By Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. The theme of the book is that we are all on a spiritual journey which will lead us to our God and allow us to be in communion with the Persons of the Holy Trinity and with each other. As Orthodox believers we have many signposts to lead us on our journeys. The signposts are left by those who have gone before us in the form of Scripture, prayers, liturgical materials, hymns, Ecumenical Councils

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and their output, the lives of Saints, icons and many other gifts and means of grace. We learn to lead richer lives by studying these things, but more importantly by putting what we learn from them into practice. We are learning from the book and materials referenced by the book, but more importantly we are learning from one another. The current class will continue through the first half December.

In January, we will begin a new Wednesday Night study led by Dr. Michael Rallis. The study will use a wonderful book entitled *Entering the Orthodox Church* by Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos. The Metropolitan uses Our Lord's parable of the Prodigal Son to renew our understanding of the basics of our faith, which will help us to celebrate Great Lent and the Paschal season in a more rewarding way.

On family nights, the second Wednesday of every month, many parents come to church with their children. The Adult Study Class members want to extend a special invitation to those parents beginning in January. Recognizing the difficulty of attending an ongoing class once a month, we decided to prepare a class which would only meet on those Wednesdays which are also family nights. We chose a class on marriage based on six sermons by St. John Chrysostom. The class, which will be led by a different couple each session, is sure to produce some very lively discussion and increase our understanding about what Christian marriage is supposed to be. You will be astonished at how relevant St. John's message is for today's world. The sermons are contained in a book entitled, *On Marriage and Family Life*.

We will publish a class schedule in the Bulletin to help you keep all of this straight. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we are particularly hopeful that you will let us know how the classes might be made more attractive and helpful to you.

To summarize, the current class based on *The Orthodox Way* will end in December. Beginning in January, there will be two classes. On family nights we will study *On Marriage and Family Life*. On all other Wednesdays, we will study *Entering the Orthodox Church*.