

St. Mark's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral SUNDAY SCHOOL HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS 2024-2025



The Purpose of this handbook is to share information concerning the St. Mark's Sunday School with new members as well as longtime members. It is our hope that this handbook will answer many of the questions that often arise.

The Mission Statement:

“We are passionate about providing exceptional Christian education based on biblical foundation and the Syriac Orthodox traditions as we help our children follow Christ and carry the Syriac faith to the next generation.”

Vision:

Introduce children to the Bible & the Syriac Orthodox Faith

Minister to their needs – spiritual, emotional, & social (Ministry)

Pray for them and teach them to pray (Spiritual Support)

Accept Christ as their Savior (Worship)

Connect them with other Christians (Fellowship)

Train them for a life - long relationship with Jesus Christ and impact the world (Discipleship)

Our Pledge

We, the Sunday School teachers and administrators, pledge to:

- ❖ Teach the Bible & The Syriac Orthodox Faith
- ❖ Model faith and practice
- ❖ Prepare each lesson well
- ❖ Make lessons interesting
- ❖ Keep in touch with parents
- ❖ Protect and care for each child
- ❖ Be on time
- ❖ Better ourselves with continuous Christian Education

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Goals for the Sunday School:

The Children in the Sunday school of St. Mark's Cathedral shall:

- ❖ Learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Learn an appreciation of the Syriac Hymns of the church
- ❖ Learn the responsibilities of church membership
- ❖ Learn the beliefs and history of the Syriac Orthodox Church
- ❖ Learn to respect all people
- ❖ Learn the value of the Christian Way
- ❖ Develop an understanding of and reverence for the Bible
- ❖ Develop a personal faith and commitment to the Syriac orthodox church
- ❖ Develop a personal relationship with God



How You Can Help:

We are often asked the question, what can I do as a parent to help?

Here is a list of Parental Expectations:

- ❖ Be consistent and on time
- ❖ Check-in with your children to discover what they have learned each week
- ❖ Phone Conference with teachers once every three months during the Sunday School year
- ❖ Have a spirit of cooperation and willingness to help when needed
- ❖ Make Sunday School/Church a part of your life on a regular basis
 - Parents are the best role models for their children
- ❖ Volunteer to teach or to serve as a substitute teacher
- ❖ Read the Bible as a family regularly

Sunday School Program:

- ❖ Students in Grades 3 to 8 attend Holy Liturgy and all students partake in Holy Communion as well as weekly Lessons in their respective classrooms.
- ❖ Special activities will be scheduled as possible or needed for – fun, outreach, and volunteering.
- ❖ The teachers & staff meet monthly for mutual encouragement, review of works, planning, & enrichment.
- ❖ Parent/Teacher Conference Calls once every quarter for communication, feedback, and improvements.

Pre-K3 – 2nd Grade Sunday School Schedule Check-In & Check-Out Procedure:

- ❖ 11:00AM Students can begin being dropped off in the Sunday School Classrooms.
- ❖ 11:15AM - Students will begin their Lessons.
- ❖ 11:50AM - Students will be escorted to the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion every Sunday.
- ❖ After Holy Communion students will go directly to their classrooms for snacks and finish their lessons.
- ❖ DISMISSAL: Teachers walk students to the Social Hall where families can officially pick them up.
 - **Parents/Guardians are not allowed in the MAC building/Sunday school classrooms during lessons.**

3rd – 8th Grade Sunday School Schedule Check-In & Check-Out Procedure:

- ❖ 11:00AM - The students will start each Sunday attending Holy Liturgy
- ❖ After Holy Communion students will go directly to their classrooms for snacks and begin their lessons.

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Sunday School Discipline Policy:

We strive to create an environment where everyone can learn, share and grow. A discipline problem is an act(s) by a child that interferes with educational and/or spiritual activities of the class.

We respect God, our church and each other.

We treat others kindly:

1. No hitting, biting, scratching, pinching, kicking
2. No name calling, picking on, or laughing at others.
3. We treat others the way we would like to be treated.

We work and play safely:

1. No running in the classrooms or hallways
2. No climbing on the furniture
3. We hold the hand rails on the stairways.

In the administration of these rules our children will be treated with respect and patience.

They shall be accepted according to their ability and maturity.

If a child misbehaves in the classroom, he/she shall be treated firmly, fairly and with respect. If he/she is not adjusting to the classroom he/she shall be removed from the group for a time out period of not more than 1 minute for each year of age. (5 years old = 5 minutes)

If a child is hitting or hurting someone they shall be taken out of the classroom by the teacher, talked to, and then allowed to return to their classroom.

If the problem persists, the child shall be taken from the group and talked to by the Sunday school superintendent. Parents will be notified of misbehavior so that efforts can be made at both home and Sunday school to modify this behavior.

If a child will not take part in a game or group activity, they shall be encouraged by their teacher to participate. If the child still does not wish to participate, the child will be asked to sit on the side and watch.

Sunday school children 2nd grade and younger must remain with their classes and will be brought down to the social hall for dismissal.

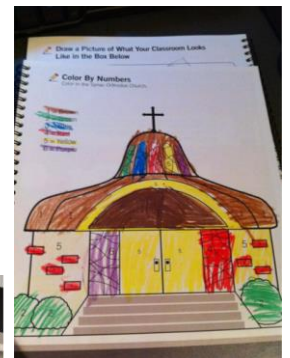
At all times our Sunday school children will be praised for good behavior and shown love and understanding by their Sunday school teachers.

Sunday School Classes & Room Assignments:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ● Prek 3 | Hala Shabo |
| ● Prek 4 | Arij Chamoun |
| ● Kindergarten | Christine Kiraz/Juliana Abdi/Ornina Denho |
| ● 1 st Grade | Nancy Saliba/Tabitha Kiraz |
| ● 2 nd Grade | Diala Yeshoua/Marina Mourad |
| ● 3 rd Grade | Rima Batraki |
| ● 4 th Grade | Claudia Fermano/Crystal Fermano |
| ● 5 th Grade | Sara Chamoun/Alexandra Aydin |
| ● 6 th Grade | Laura Ghazzawi/Kelly Yosif |
| ● 7 & 8 th Grades | Sarah Baho |
| ● Special Needs | Tiffany Hannawi/Louma Hannawi |

We are polite:

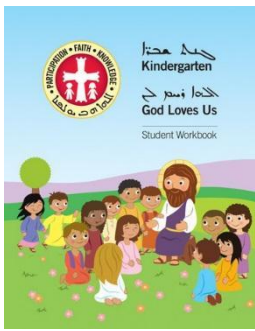
1. Only one person talks at a time.
2. We listen when others talk.
3. We don't talk with food in our mouth.
4. We remember to say please and thank you.
5. We sing during singing time



“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

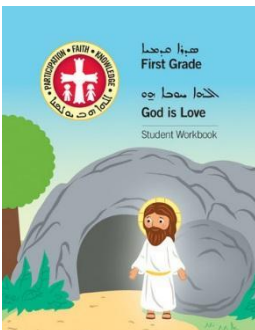
Proverbs 22:6

To accomplish our mission we will use the curriculum from Parables & Books Publishers:



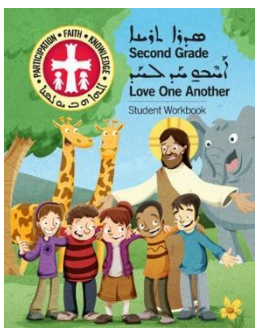
Kindergarten - God Loves Us
160 pages, color, double sided, spiral bound and forty lessons organized in eight units. Students will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture, various hymns and prayers of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the

traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.



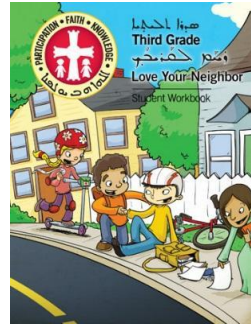
First Grade - God is Love 224 pages, color, double sided, spiral bound and forty lessons organized in eight units. Students will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture, various hymns and prayers of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the

traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.



Second Grade – Love One Another 224 colorful and writable pages jam packed with wonderful activities! This book contains forty lessons that are organized in eight units. Children and parents will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture, various hymns and prayers of the

Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.



Third Grade – Love Your Neighbor 224 colorful and writable pages jam packed with wonderful activities! This book contains forty lessons that are organized in eight units. Children and parents will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture, various

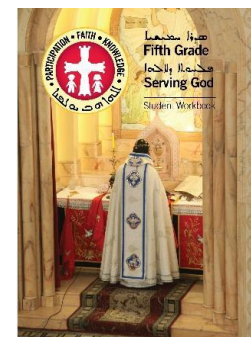
hymns and prayers of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.



Fourth Grade – Be Kind to One Another

224 colorful and writable pages jam packed with wonderful activities! This book contains forty lessons that are organized in eight units. Children and parents will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture,

various hymns and prayers of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.



Fifth Grade – Serving God

224 colorful and writable pages jam packed with wonderful activities! This book contains forty lessons that are organized in eight units. Children and parents will learn both Old Testament and New Testament scripture,

various hymns and prayers of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac words, saints, sacraments, and many of the traditions and history specific to the Syriac Orthodox faith.

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St. Mark's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral
55 W. Midland Ave
Paramus NJ 07446
Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Chamoun

2024- 2025 Sunday School Calendar:

September 8 th /15 th - REGISTRATION
September 22 nd – 1 st Day of Class
OCTOBER
October 6 th – Nov 16 th Samaritan Purse – Operation ShoeBox Collection
October 20 th – Sunday School OPEN HOUSE FOR ALL PARENTS 1:30PM
October 31 st – All Saints Day Eve Event 4-7pm
NOVEMBER
November 3 rd – Student of the Month
November 23 rd – Final Collection date for Operation ShoeBox
November 23 rd , 24 th Dec 1,8,14 th – Christmas song practice 1:30-2:30pm
November 23 rd – Operation ShoeBox - Box packing Event 2:30 – 4:30pm
DECEMBER
December 1 st – Student of the Month
December 14 th – Breakfast with Santa/Seyidna
December 15 th – Santa visits classrooms
December 22 nd – Christmas Carols/Hymns in church after Liturgy 1:30pm
December 29 th NO SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
JANUARY
January 5 th - Epiphany all classes start at 11:00AM - 12:00PM
January 12 th – Student of the Month
FEBRUARY
February 9 th – Student of the Month
MARCH
March 2 nd – Student of the Month
APRIL
April 6 th – Student of the month
April 6 th – Easter Celebration in Classroom
April 12 th – Easter Egg Hunt @ MAC 12-2pm
April 13 th – PALM SUNDAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 20 th – EASTER SUNDAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
MAY
May 4 th – STUDENT OF THE MONTH
May 18 th – Ceremonial Communion
May 25 th – Memorial Day weekend – NO CLASS
JUNE
June 1 st – STUDENT OF THE MONTH
June 8 th - LAST DAY OF CLASS - 8th grade graduates recognition/Pentecost

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*****As plans and activities are finalized we will update you via email *****

Position:	Contact:	Cellphone:	Email:
Pastor	Father Joseph Chamoun	(508) 335 - 7394	fjchamoun@gmail.com
Principal	Ramona Malki	(201) 803 - 5261	ramonamalki@gmail.com
Communications	Gretchen Hannoush	(201) 562 - 5641	gptor@aol.com
Admin	Christa Darakjy	(201) 790 - 0944	christad90@gmail.com
Admin	Gebraeila Swierski	(908) 764 - 9970	gebraeila.e@gmail.com
Activities Coordinator	Rima Kerio	(201) 757 - 7798	rkerio@yahoo.com
Activities Coordinator	Sarab Springer	(973) 652 -9692	sarab.shamoon@gmail.com
Pre-K3 Teacher	Hala Shabo	(551) 556 - 5060	halashabo@hotmail.com
Pre-K4 Teacher	Arij Shamoun	(508) 335 - 8642	arijchamoun@yahoo.com
Kindergarten Teacher	Christine Kiraz	(732) 699 - 0343	christine@gorgiaspress.com
Kindergarten Teacher	Juliana Abdi	(201) 485 - 9108	julianaabdi10@gmail.com
Kindergarten SubTeacher	Ornina Denho	(201) 981 - 0401	
1st Grade Teacher	Nancy Saliba	(201) 403 - 4256	nbahdi@hotmail.com
1st Grade Teacher	Tabitha Kiraz	(732) 725 - 8147	tabykiraz@gmail.com
2nd Grade Teacher	Diala Yeshoua	(973) 525 - 8075	diala980@hotmail.com
2nd Grade Teacher	Marina Mourad	(732) 318 - 5958	
3rd Grade Teacher	Rima Batraki	(201) 722 - 3673	rima0523@hotmail.com
4th Grade Teacher	Claudia Fermano	(201) 663 - 5924	
4th Grade Teacher	Crystal Fermano	(551) 795 - 1244	
5th Grade Teacher	Sara Chamoun	(508) 769 - 5071	
5th Grade Teacher	Alexandra Aydin	(201) 494 - 6753	alexandraaydin.12@gmail.com
6th Grade Teacher	Laura Ghazzawi	(551) 404 - 3148	lauraghazzawi@gmail.com
6th Grade Teacher	Kelly Yosif	(201) 663 - 3895	
7th & 8th Grade Teacher	Sarah Baho	(201) 925 - 7636	sarahbaho@hotmail.com
Special Needs Teacher	Claudia Allos	(201) 289 - 0640	claudiaallos11@gmail.com
Special Needs Teacher	Tiffany Henawi	(201) 421 - 0180	tiffany.henawi@gmail.com

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