

St. Paraskevi Sunday School Rules and Guidelines

School year 2020 - 2021

The St. Paraskevi Sunday School provides quality religious education to enable children to learn and grow in the Orthodox faith, while practicing the faith in a dynamic environment where the student's relationship with God can grow. Our program encourages life-long membership in the Church community, which is the body of Christ.

If your child is not registered for Sunday School, please go to the church website at <http://www.stparaskevi.org/> and click on the Ministry link/Education -Sunday School. You can also register and be directed to the Registration Form by clicking on this link: <http://www.stparaskevi.org/ministries/education/sunday-school>.

In an effort to make our St. Paraskevi Sunday School the best experience it can possibly be, we remind parents and students of the following guidelines:

ARRIVAL - During Pandemic Period: A parent/guardian bringing their child to Sunday School must sign up using a form online from the Saint Paraskevi website at <http://www.stparaskevi.org/>. The Divine Liturgy begins at 9:45 am, Sunday School families should arrive no later than 10:00am. Please review and read all COVID -19 Safety Guidelines prior to signing the form online. Each student will be escorted to his/her designated seat for church and classroom following Holy Communion. Only the students will be allowed in the classrooms, not the parent/guardian.

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The St. Paraskevi Sunday School and Parish Council has put in place protective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the St. Paraskevi Sunday School and Parish Council cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19.

CLASSES: We have class sizes that meet the social distancing guidelines. Our program has classes which include grades Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our program runs from 9:45 am until approximately 12:00 pm, during the pandemic period classes will end promptly with the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please call our Director at (631) 266-5826 or e-mail at Fioannou@optonline.net. We always welcome your feedback.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS, DIRECTOR AND CHURCH PERSONNEL: As parents, we must set an example for our children by always speaking politely and respectfully with the people who are there to help educate our children and promote their safety. We have a zero-tolerance policy for people who are disrespectful to our director, teachers, other parents, children, etc. Inappropriate

language or behavior towards others will not be tolerated on church premises, including the parking lot, and will be immediately addressed by the Sunday School Board and/or Parish Council.

CONDUCT: Students must be respectful at all times of their teachers and other students. Children must not engage in disruptive behavior during classes. Offensive behavior and/or language will not be tolerated. Children may not open any exit door or leave the building without the permission of their teacher or director and must be accompanied by an adult. Children must follow the directions of their teachers at all times. We have a zero tolerance for any form of bullying.

DISCIPLINE: In order that all of our students have an opportunity to learn, children who do not follow within the Code of Conduct and/or disrupt their class will be subject to disciplinary action. When this type of behavior is observed initially, the child will be spoken to by their teacher. If the child fails to correct their behavior, the teacher will communicate with the parent. After the second occasion, a meeting will be held with the child's parents and our director.

DISMISSAL - During Pandemic Period: The parents may wait for their children inside the Community Center of the St. Paraskevi facility, socially distanced. In an effort to maintain social distancing the students will be dismissed to the Community Center by grade from their classroom. Please exit the Hellenic Community Center doors promptly upon receiving your child.

If you need to pick up your child early, or have another adult pick up your child, you must provide the teacher or our director with a written, advanced notice so that we can have your child ready and available. Only authorized persons may pick up your child.

DISTANCE LEARNING: Distance learning (also called **distance education, e-learning, and online learning**), is a form of education in which the main elements include physical separation of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate student-teacher and student-student communication.. The recent pandemic has forced all to strongly consider distance learning as an alternative to in school education. The Sunday School Director/Teachers will contact Sunday School families if on-line learning will be used. There will be more information given by the Sunday School Director and/teacher for each grade level.

DISTANCE LEARNING RULES: For students when using remote or distance learning they must adhere to the following rules:

Note: Students parents in grades 1st - 6th will be contacted by the assigned Sunday School teacher by e-mail regarding specifics for distant learning.

For Students 7th to 12th grades when using Zoom:

- Students should notify their teacher by e-mail that they are attending Class
- Students' cameras are to be on at all times during class
- Students' microphone should be muted unless instructed to un-mute or to ask a question
- Students must be seated in a chair at a table/desk and be ready to learn

- Students must have all necessary materials designated by the instructor
- Students' workspace should allow for minimal distractions
- Students should conduct themselves in a professional manner, as if sitting in school
- Students will be given a schedule of Zoom and/or Google times if different from the regular class time.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather, the Parish Council President, Director and Presiding Priest will make the decision to cancel Sunday school for the day.

PANDEMIC: Pursuant to New York State Department of Health, during a pandemic, schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds. The Parish Council has reviewed the occupancy of each classroom and has implemented changes to accommodate the students. Our classrooms may occupy half the number of students as in normal conditions. Students must come to school with their own masks. (The Sunday School will have extra masks in the event a child does not have one.) Each class will have a bottle of sanitizer, located on the teacher's desk (if students prefer, they may bring their own small sanitizer bottle from home). We remind our students to Wear your Mask, Watch your Distance, and Wash your Hands thoroughly and often.

PANDEMIC - HEALTH CHECK: Before entering the church, we require parents to perform a health check of their child, including a temperature check. To help ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, the health check needs to be performed prior to coming to Sunday School on Sunday morning. This is also applicable to all Teachers, Parents, Assistants, Support Staff and any other person entering the St. Paraskevi Facility. If you have a temperature, cough, sore throat, chills, loss of smell or taste, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, muscle pain or have come in contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have Covid-19 in the past 14 days, please stay home. If you need to keep your child home for one of the aforementioned symptoms, please contact the Church.

PARKING: Please observe standard rules of courtesy and safety while using our parking lot. We have many small children, and their behavior can often be unpredictable. Please do not park in the Fire Lane with the orange cones and/or the blue painted spaces which are reserved exclusively for those persons with valid handicapped permits only. Even if you intend to only be inside for a moment, it is important that you park in a designated space. Please exercise every caution when using our parking lot. Your children's safety is important to us.

SANITIZER KITS: Our Sunday School has prepared sanitizer kits for all Classrooms. These kits include sanitizer, wipes, and masks. We recommend that your child comes with his or her mask, but in the event something happens with their mask, we will provide one.

SANITIZING & CLEANING OF OUR FACILITY: The School and Church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after our school sessions.

SECURITY: The security of our students and teachers is an important concern of our School Board and Parish Council. We recently conducted a walk-thru with members of the police and fire departments to address how we can improve the security of our facility. A document with all the recommendations has been written and is being implemented.

USE OF THE FACILITY: As you know, many of our organizations use our classrooms and facilities. In order that we keep the premises in the best possible condition for our community, we ask that you encourage your child to treat the premises with care and respect.

The St. Paraskevi Sunday School Board reserves the right to modify the aforementioned as needed.