

GRADE AND MAIN THEME OF YEAR	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b> <b>GOD THE FATHER</b></p> <p>Who He is; His Nature, Attributes and commandments. What He does. Doctrine Response to God</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b> <b>GOD THE SON</b> <b>JESUS CHRIST</b></p> <p>Who He is; His nature, Attributes and gifts. What He does. Doctrine Response to Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b> <b>GOD THE</b> <b>HOLY SPIRIT</b></p> <p>Who He is; His nature, Attributes and gifts. What He does. Doctrine Response to the Spirit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> <b>CHURCH</b></p> <p>Community Doctrine History Administration Architecture</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> <b>WORSHIP AND PRAYER</b></p> <p>Meaning Purpose Benefits Methods</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b> <b>LITURGY</b></p> <p>Meaning Purpose Structure Participation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b> <b>SACRAMENTS</b> <b>AND OTHER SERVICES</b></p> <p>Meaning Purpose Structure Participation</p>	
<p><b>GRADE 4 – GROWING WITH GOD</b></p> <p>The theme of the fourth grade, Growing with God, explores a period of deeper moral and spiritual growth in the life of the child. By concentrating on the prayers and sacramental acts related to human growth (Pre-baptismal services, Baptism, Chrismation, Liturgy, and Confession), the children begin to gain a sacramental vision of life. They come to understand the world, and their own growth in the light of their faith, prayer, and sacramental life.</p>	<p>Adam and Eve as sinless but imperfect, having been given a rule or a test in order to grow and mature. Old Testament examples of being tested and growing: Moses, Daniel, Esther, Joseph, the Three Youths in the fire. God loves us and gives us free will, but also gives us commandments by which to exercise our freedom and to grow. God allows for repentance and forgiveness.</p>	<p>Jesus as the model of a child growing with God: Infancy accounts Jesus in the Temple. Jesus is God but also man who grew to maturity as a human being. Jesus' love for God and obedience to His earthly parents.</p>	<p>How the Holy Spirit works in us and helps us to grow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We receive it as a mystical gift in Baptism.</li> <li>2. As we grow in prayer, worship and Christian life, we become aware of its warm presence in our hearts.</li> <li>3. As we continue to grow with God, the Holy Spirit becomes like a flame, a holy fire, in our hearts, which guides and strengthens us to fight sin and to do God's will.</li> </ol>	<p>The Church, too, grows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The increases following Pentecost.</li> <li>2. St. Paul and his many Churches.</li> <li>3. The Orthodox Churches in the Byzantine Empire.</li> <li>4. The Orthodox Churches all over the globe today.</li> </ol>	<p>How we pray and how prayer helps us to grow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daily prayer as continual friendship and communication with God.</li> <li>2. Difficulties and helps in prayer – methodology. Compose personal prayers.</li> </ol>	<p>The Liturgy as spiritual food for growth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Entering into God's Kingdom.</li> <li>2. Hearing God's Word.</li> <li>3. Remembering Christ's life and work.</li> <li>4. Celebrating the Last Supper.</li> <li>5. Receiving Holy Communion.</li> <li>6. Giving thanks.</li> <li>7. Our daily life as a Liturgy.</li> <li>8. Baking the Prosforon.</li> </ol>	<p>Prayers at birth: Naming of a child. Forty-Day blessing.</p> <p>Baptism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confession of Faith in Christ</li> <li>2. Baptism</li> <li>3. Chrismation</li> </ol> <p>Confession:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meaning</li> <li>2. Methodology</li> </ol>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b> <b>PRAYERS AND HYMNS</b></p> <p>Actual Prayers Actual Hymns</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b> <b>SAINTS, FEAST AND CYCLES</b></p> <p>Meaning Witness Relevance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b> <b>SCRIPTURE</b></p> <p>The Gospel The role of Scripture in the Orthodox Church Persons, events and salvation history Passages Biblical skills</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b> <b>TRADITION</b></p> <p>Importance of Tradition Liturgical acts outside of the Sacraments Iconography Customs Symbols</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b> <b>CHRISTIAN FAMILY</b></p> <p>Meaning Purpose Way of Life and values Praying and working together Joys and responsibilities Customs and traditions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b> <b>ETHICS AND SPIRITUALITY</b></p> <p>Doctrine of personhood; Theosis: image and likeness; Mystical union; new creation; Lie in Christ; fruit of the Spirit. Faith, repentance, fasting and good works. Divine grace and free will Christian values Sin and forgiveness Evil, suffering and death</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b> <b>SERVICE AND MISSION</b></p> <p>Gifts and talents Ministries Vocations, jobs and professions Witness Evangelism</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b> <b>OTHER FAITHS, SOCIETY AND WORLD</b></p> <p>Christian Ecumenism Other Living Religions Social Issues and Problems Justice and Peace Recreation and Entertainment Ecology Apologetics</p>
	<p>Review known prayers as indicated above. Learn additional hymns from the Liturgy. Learn Sunday Dismissal hymns. Prayer to the Theotokos. "To You, O Champion"</p>	<p>Children Saints such as the daughters of Sophia: Faith, Hope and Love. A youth Neo-Martyr. Great Lent as period of preparation and growth with God. (Go to Holy Confession during Great Lent.)</p>	<p>Give children their own Bibles as sign of growth. Importance of Bible. Recognizing the Old and New Testaments. Biblical accounts related to lessons and Strands 1, 2, 3, and 4. Memorization of verses. How to use the Bible.</p>	<p>Pre-baptismal services. Basic symbols and elements related to baptism and Liturgy. Icons related to lessons. Variety of prostrations as expressions of repentance.</p>	<p>Examples of give and take as we grow in the family. Concentrate on asking for forgiveness, reconciliation, and preparation for the Liturgy, and the festal cycles. Confession as a family. Celebrate name days. Giving names of family members for commemoration in the Liturgy.</p>	<p>Image and likeness as basis for growth. Freewill: obedience and disobedience. Repentance, Confession and forgiveness. Prayerful personal relationship with Christ. Empathy and compassion.</p>	<p>Acolytes. Children's choir. House chores. As we grow, we not only receive but also give to others. Visiting a children's hospital to sing carols. Stewards.</p>	<p>The world is a place where many other people and their religions are also living. People desire to grow in justice, peace, and cooperation. War, injustice, and hatred are evils. Right and wrong ways of growing in the world. Saying "no" to things not in agreement/harmony with the Orthodox Faith is important.</p>