

June 29, 2010

Dear Members of the St. Thomas Sunday School Staff,

I warmly welcome you to the Staff of our Sunday School for the 2010-11 school year. I look forward to working with you all to improve the quality of our religious education program and create a loving environment for all the children of the St. Thomas Family. Your input is always of interest to me. Please feel free to make suggestions and share any ideas you think will benefit our program.

For the purpose of communication, discussion, planning and continuing education, we will meet four times throughout the school year. These dates are:

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 @7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 @ 7:00 pm

Please mark these dates on your calendar as it is very important that everyone be present at these meetings. If for any reason you should find that you are unable to attend, please contact me.

The theme of our Sunday School this year is "Let Us Lift Up Our Hearts Unto the Lord." These words, taken from the Divine Liturgy, are met with the response "We lift them up unto the Lord." Let us give his heartfelt response throughout the school year as role models to our students and encourage them to lift up their hearts through faithful, on-time attendance at the Divine Liturgy, frequent participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and, through the Sunday School, service to the less fortunate. You will also be asked to incorporate lessons about the Divine Liturgy in your curriculum. There are many resources you can use from our Sunday School Office or on-line at the Archdiocese web site <http://www.goarch.org/>.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention a very special date - Registration Sunday, September 12, 2010. We are attempting to streamline the registration process for all parish youth ministries and have developed one, multi-purpose registration form. This form can be returned over the summer by mail or families may return it on September 12th. The Sunday School will have a registration booth in the gym on that day for the purpose of welcoming back students, updating contact information, accepting stewardship pledges and distributing stewardship envelopes. All staff members are needed to participate. Please plan to attend as this is considered the first day of Sunday School. The first classroom session will be September 26th.

Wishing you and your families a blessed summer, I remain

With love for our Lord,

Father Emmanuel Pratsinakis
Rector