

# 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

We recognize that students come with different experiences and levels of knowledge around these topics. The following Learning Ladder is meant to serve as a first reference point for Sunday church school educators and not a rigid rubric for instruction. Teachers may choose to explore these topics at different levels or in combinations of levels. We encourage you to see what your students might already know about a topic and let that inform your instruction around it. This Learning Ladder is meant to serve as a starting guide for teachers and Sunday church school program leaders as they discuss together what, when, and how they want to embed catechetical learning into their programs.



## Focus Areas for the Year

- Learning how Christians lived and worshipped in the early Church
- Connecting symbols, feasts, and sacraments to God's presence
- Understanding that faith is something people lived and died for

## Orthodox Worship

- Recognize elements of worship, including vestments and their symbols, items on the altar, and incense
- The role of godparents

## Feasts

- Annunciation
- Transfiguration
- Pentecost

## Lent & Pascha

- Holy Week prepares me for Pascha by walking me through the Passion of Jesus. (Basic outline of Holy Week and the meaning of each major day)

## Holy Mysteries

- Chrismation is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Intro to Chrismation)

# Essential Questions for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades



- What do we believe—and how do we show it?
- Why did the early Christians worship the way they did?
- What do the sacraments tell us about God and how do they help us to connect to Him?

## Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- St. George as a brave witness to Christ
- St. Thekla who followed Christ and preached the Gospel
- St. Ignatius who led the Church and gave his life for Christ
- Sts. Constantine and Helen who supported the early Church and found the True Cross

## Church History

- Early Christians lived and worshipped during times of both persecution and public faith.
  - Catacombs
  - Early symbols like fish and anchor
  - Martyrdom
  - Constantine
  - Ancient Byzantine churches

## Old Testament Literacy

- Stories of how God leads and saves His people
  - Moses
  - David/Goliath

## New Testament Literacy

- The Beatitudes
- Parables

## Texts of the Faith

- Sing the Trisagion Hymn
- Sing "As many as have been baptized..."

## Resources

[www.orthodoxlearningladder.com](http://www.orthodoxlearningladder.com)

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