

# 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</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

- Discovering how Orthodoxy grew through mission, councils, and prayer
- Exploring saints as missionaries, monastics, and teachers
- Seeing our place in the Orthodox story—including North America
- Understanding the role of the Theotokos as the model for our faith..
- Understanding the role of the Church as a place of repentance and healing

## Orthodox Worship

- Review litanies and their responses in the Divine Liturgy
- Establish a small prayer rule
- Prepare for Confession

## Feasts

- Nativity of the Theotokos
- Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple
- Dormition of the Theotokos

## Lent & Pascha

- Lent helps me repent and grow in love (exploring the Sundays of Great Lent and their themes)

## Holy Mysteries

- God offers healing and forgiveness (intro to Confession and Unction)

# Essential Questions for 4th - 6th Grades



- How did the Church grow—and how do I fit in that story?
- What does it mean to follow Christ in my time and place?
- How do prayer and worship help me grow closer to God?
- Why is the Theotokos such a central figure in our faith?

## Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- Saints who shaped the Church through mission and monasticism
  - Saints of North America
  - St Raphael
  - St. Herman
  - Sts. Cyril & Methodius
  - St. Anthony the Great

## Church History

- The Church grew throughout time and place
  - Desert monasticism
  - Missionary saints
  - Beginnings of Orthodoxy in North America
  - The story of my own parish's history)

## Old Testament Literacy

- Stories of God's mercy
  - Jonah
  - Elijah
  - Esther

## New Testament Literacy

- Stories of the Risen Christ
  - Road to Emmaus
  - Myrrh-bearing Women
  - St. Thomas

## Texts of the Faith

- Recite the Prayer of St. Ephraim
- Sing and understand the meaning of the Cherubic Hymn

## Resources

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

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