

7th & 8th 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

- Understanding how Orthodox theology was shaped and protected
- Exploring the role of the Ecumenical Councils and the things that shape our faith
- Beginning to reflect on personal belief and the meaning of worship

Orthodox Worship

- Structure of the Divine Liturgy

Feasts

- Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Lent & Pascha

- Awareness of various Lenten services
 - Akathist
 - Presanctified Liturgies

Holy Mysteries

- Marriage
- Ordination / Holy Orders

Essential Questions for 7th & 8th Grades



- What do we believe about Jesus—and why does it matter?
- How did the Church protect the truth in the face of challenge?
- How is truth expressed through words, icons, and worship?

Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- Athanasius
- 3 Holy Hierarchs
- St. Nicholas (revisited)
- John of Damascus

Church History

- Defending the faith and shaping Orthodox theology
 - 7 Ecumenical Councils
 - Christological debates
 - Triumph of holy icons

Old Testament Literacy

- Prophecies
 - Isaiah (Primary focus)
 - Melchizedek

New Testament Literacy

- Pauline Epistles

Texts of the Faith

- Nicene Creed
- Lenten Hymns

Resources

www.orthodoxlearningladder.com

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