

# Kindergarten - 1st

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.



## Themes for the Year

- What makes the church the church — the Beginning

## Focus Areas

- Discovering Bible stories and feast days as part of our story
- Recognizing the Church as a family of saints, clergy, and friends
- Beginning to see time as sacred (liturgical calendar, feast cycles)

## Orthodox Worship

- Name and recognize different clergy (priest, deacon, bishop)
- Identify key parts of the church (narthex, nave, altar, iconostasis)
- Practice bowing and prostrating during prayer
- Liturgical colors

## Feasts

- Nativity
- Theophany
- Ascension

## Lent & Pascha

- Lent is a journey.
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead on Lazarus Saturday.
- Pascha is the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead.

## Holy Mysteries

- Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ (Intro to the Eucharist).
- Baptism is our entrance into the church. (Intro to Baptism)

# Essential Questions for Kindergarten & 1st



- What makes the church?
- Who are the saints, and why do we remember them?
- How do we celebrate Jesus in the Church?

## Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- St. Nicholas' generosity and faithfulness to God.
- The Life of John the Baptist
- St. Stephen's faithfulness to God
- Sts. Peter and Paul spreading the Good News of Jesus

## Church History

- The Church began through the apostles and the sharing of the Good News of Christ.

## Old Testament Literacy

- Stories of God's provision
  - Creation
  - Fall
  - Joseph & coat of many colors
  - Abraham & Sarah

## New Testament Literacy

- The Great Commission at the Lord's ascension
- Stories of St. Peter and Paul's missionary work
- Stories of God's provision through healing.

## Texts of the Faith

- Recite The Lord's Prayer.
- Sing "As many as have been baptized..."

## Resources

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

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