

Dear Parents:

The Early Church Fathers, like St. Basil, St. Gregory and St. John Chrysostom, believed that the purpose of education should be to develop the human being into a person possessing faith with a core of values and a persistent effort to apply them in everyday life until the icon of Christ is formed in him/her. Likewise, the classic Hellenic Fathers like Plato, Aristotle, Solon and Socrates, agreed that the educated person has a good character, is thoughtful and inquisitive. They spoke of the educated person as a person of self-control (sophron), justice (dikaios), goodness (agathos), and piety (euseves aner).

They believed that the ultimate purpose of education was to form or make what they referred to as "the good and beautiful person" (kalos k'agathos anthropos). Both the Holy Church Fathers and the Hellenic Fathers understood that it was only by contemplation of the beautiful and the good that a person could develop into a beautiful and good person. They also agreed that this contemplation and effort to apply it, not only educates the soul but it also shapes the inner person to the ideals of excellence. It was this philosophy, these educational ideals, which gave impetus to the manifold achievements of our ancient Greek culture, effected great social reforms during one of the most critical times in the history of Western Civilization, and enabled Orthodox Christianity to grow and flourish.

This leads us to conclude that we too should strive to keep before us things of beauty, goodness, and excellence, such as will inspire us to truth, wisdom, and love of God. We also conclude that we should instill in our children the same traditions of the Orthodox Christian Faith and Hellenic Classical wisdom.

Through Youth Ministry at Kimisis Church, we seek to provide our youth with the knowledge of the will of God, an understanding of how to live by faith and to do good, and lead them to what can be fashioned usefully by the soul, mind and heart throughout their lives.

OUR VISION:

Kimisis's Sunday School and Youth Ministry Program educates our children by providing a rich religious education's curriculum, and offers activities based in Greek Orthodox Christian values, while centering on a love of Christ, service to His Church, respect for all people and outreach to those in need. Accordingly, we have set the following goals:

- To honor God and educate children in the faith.
- To guide children in development of a spiritual maturity as evidenced by increased sacramental life.
- To provide a safe and loving environment.

- To act as an extension of the parental role in the religious education of the child.
- To draw families more fully into the life of the Church.
- To further form character in our youth so they will become productive and good members of our community.

YOUTH MINISTRIES AT KIMISIS CHURCH

Acolytes assist the clergy and receive keen insight into the beauty and importance the Divine Liturgy can have in their lives.

Choir offers all members the opportunity to sing praises to the Lord, as a family filled with love and joy.

Sunday School is held for children from pre-school through post high school ages, thus introducing Christian fellowship as well as instructions in their faith. Adults are welcome to join their children's class.

HOPE (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Enrichment): An early introduction to Orthodox fellowship for children in kindergarten through second grades.

JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth): Open for all children in the third to sixth grades. Its members continue to interact through worship, service, and fellowship opportunities.

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America): Its members, defined as 7- 12th graders, participate in various activities on the local, regional and Metropolis levels. Discussion groups, retreats, service projects and athletics are examples of the ways teenagers are encouraged to become involved in parish life.

YAL (Young Adult League): Offers young adults of post high school through 25 years of age opportunities for education and growth in the Church.

HELLENIC SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO): Help support the efforts of this group as they endeavor to make our children's Greek School years memorable.

Thank you very much for Supporting our Church by encouraging your children to participate in the Youth Ministries of our Church.

I am waiting to see you.

Fr. Panagiotis

<p style="text-align: center;">REGISTRATION SUNDAYS: September 10, 17 & 24 October – Sunday School will continue registration</p>
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