



Registration and Policies Package

Updated January 2025

Message from our Church Family

On behalf of the parish, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church family! We are very excited to have you with us in our parish.

Sunday School is a special program we offer our young parishioners so that they can learn and grow with the teachings of Christ. Our teachers not only create programs to enrich your child's understanding about the service and the rites of the Orthodox faith, they also help little ones understand how to be a good person and walk in the footsteps of the saints. It is our mission to create engaging and active lessons that interest our students so that coming to Church is a positive and joyful experience.

We have prepared the following document for you so that the policies of our Sunday School program are accessible and understood by every parent and student. Please ensure you read it carefully. It will help answer many questions. It is our pleasure to ensure you are informed about our school. Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions.

We look forward to working with your child and welcoming you to Sunday School!

Sincerely,

Father Walter Makarenko



Welcome to Sunday School at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church!

1. Motto

As I sow, I shall reap

2. Mission Statement

“To inspire our young parishioners to be joyful and confident when following Christ by providing them with a safe, fun, and informative Sunday School Program.”

3. What is Expected at Sunday School?

Registration

- Sunday School is designed for children aged 6 to 10
- Children under 6 are allowed to play in the lounge under their parents’ supervision
- Children older than 10 are requested to stand in the church for the duration of the service
- All students must be registered to attend Sunday School
- A copy of the registration form is appended at the back of this package
- Please complete the form in full and submit it to the Sunday School teacher directly
- No child will be admitted without a completed registration form. Only one registration per child per academic season is required

Arrival on Sundays

- Classes begin promptly at 10:00 am
- Students arriving later than 10:20 will not be admitted as this is disruptive to the programming
- Parents must sign in their student each week. **NO DROP OFFS WITHOUT A PARENT SIGNATURE IS PERMITTED.** If your child arrives alone, they will be sent upstairs to the service and teachers will not accept them into the program for that day.
- Once your child is signed in they will receive a Sunday School Pass to wear for the day. This means that the child is under the care and supervision of the Sunday School Teacher.
- Parents are requested not to enter the classroom itself for the duration of the program

During the Church Service

- Children will be brought up to the service during collection
- Teachers will arrange them and take all children to communion. If your child is not expected to take communion that day, please inform the teacher at sign in.
- If there are any issues of behaviour, parents will be requested to sign out their child for the day, even if it is during the service.

Sign out and Departure

- **Once your child has taken communion**, please come to the front pew to collect your child to discreetly sign him or her out. The Sunday School tag will be removed at this time.

Dates

Please note that Sunday school runs from September to June and does not operate in the summertime. It also does not operate on high holidays such as Christmas or Easter or on long weekends.

4. Program

Our program is based on teaching children about the tenets of Christianity, our Orthodox rites, and how to make Good Decisions. The program begins with a prayer and the lesson of the day (10 min). After the lesson, children will be engaged with activities based on the lesson. This may include crafts, songs, games and activity pages. For holidays, children will be able to participate in Church events and concerts by performing on stage for our church community. We also participate in the singing of the service on the first Sunday of each month. We encourage students to come every week to engage with the program themes and to keep up with the class teachings. The Sunday School program follows and adheres to all Safety and Abuse Prevention protocols followed by St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

First Confession Students

After the age of 7, students will be prepared for the rite of confession. They will be able to take their first confession in May. Please speak to a Sunday School teacher for more details about First Confession.

Linguistic Expectations

Our program runs in both Ukrainian and English. All efforts will be made to ensure the students understand the lessons, instructions and expectations. Please be advised that our teachers do not use Russian as a language of instruction.

5. Parent Engagement

Our Sunday School loves and respects its parent community! They provide support to the school by providing physical help, advising on progress and process, fundraising, and providing a network of support for our students. They also share their special talents with the school which are critical to the school's success. We encourage parents to get involved with their children's religious education and with the church itself. If you wish to find out more about joining our parish community, please contact your teacher or stdemetrius@rogers.com. We would love to have you onboard!

6. Communication Policies

We love sharing our learning with you! Our teachers will contact you regarding any updates or special activities via the email you provided on your student's registration form. To contact us, please email stdemetrius@rogers.com. All communication to the school can be made in Ukrainian or in English. Our teachers do not speak Russian.

7. Reasons for Removing a Student from the Program

Unfortunately there may be times when students must be dismissed from programming for the day. Issues of sickness, injury, behaviour and bullying are documented and shared with parents as they occur. If issues of behaviour and bullying cannot be resolved, the student will be asked to leave the program entirely. The Sunday School retains the right to send students home for the reasons described below.

a) Sickness

If your child is too sick to participate in the program, please keep them at home. If the child becomes sick during the program day, parents will be contacted to pick the student up immediately. Teachers will not administer over the counter medication. Please see "Medications" below.

b) Injury

In the case of an injury, students will receive first aid attention as is required. Parents will immediately be contacted if the injury is to the head or warrants professional medical attention.

c) Behaviour

It is the policy of the Sunday School to set limits for children which will ensure a safe and secure environment while demonstrating respect for the individual needs of children. Students are expected to show respect for themselves and others.

A 3- step resolution model will be used in dealing with behavioural issues. This model is intended to assess, monitor and manage issues of behaviour. As required, parents will be consulted on behaviour issues on an escalated basis.

On the first case of physically violent behaviour, offensive or hurtful language, willful damage or theft of property, students will immediately be placed into a mediation process by the Sunday School teacher. On the second case, parents will be notified in writing. On the third instance, we will consider the removal of the student from programming.

d) Special Note on Bullying

The Sunday School at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church does not tolerate bullying in any form. We encourage monitoring and support for conflict resolution versus top down solutions. Students are given skills to deal with conflicts/disagreements in a safe and appropriate way should they arise. Bullying is defined as: “when one person applies and or enforces direct or indirect control over another person, using any method available.” This can be verbal, physical, cyber based and/or emotional. If bullying does occur, it is taken seriously. On the first offense, the student is placed into a mediation process with the Sunday School teacher. On the second offense, parents will be informed and a plan will be developed cooperatively. On the third offense, the student will be excused from further participation in the program.

Issues of sickness, injury, behaviour and bullying are documented and shared with parents as they occur. If issues of behaviour and bullying cannot be resolved, the student will be asked to leave the program.

8. Other Policies

a) *Policy on Lateness*

Class begins at 10:00 am. Students will not be admitted after 10:20 and will be expected to join their parents for the entirety of the service.

b) *Medications Policy*

Staff will not administer any medications other than an epi-pen in cases of emergency. If your child requires an epi-pen, you will be required to provide an emergency action plan with a doctor’s signature. EPI PENS must come from a Canadian pharmacy and must have corresponding pharmacy labels.

c) *Electronic Devices and Cell Phones Policy During Classroom Hours*

Cell phones are disruptive to teachers who are there to engage students in the joys of cooperative learning. Cell phones will not be needed during class time and will therefore be left in bags during class time. iPads and laptops may be used for lessons under special circumstances, however parents will be informed if personal devices are being requested for presentations or learning opportunities.

d) *Eating and Allergies Policy*

Students are not expected to eat or bring snacks during class. The school has **a strict “No Nuts or Seeds” policy. We ask that you do not send your child with snacks or food.** Please keep our children safe by being aware of their friends.

e) *Photo and Video Use*

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church will periodically take photos and videos of school activities to inform our community about our classes. A media consent form will be part of the registration process.

f) *Lost and Found*

We have a lost and found box in the classroom. Things left at school will be left there for parents’ inspection. Items not claimed by the last day of school will be donated to charity.

9. What to leave at home

- Electronic games or personal listening devices
- Expensive items/precious items that will devastate student/parent if lost or broken
- Cell phones
- Nut Snacks/Gum
- Perfume/Scented Products
- Aggressive/Gun toys

10. What to Bring to Class

- Apron for messy crafts