

Sunday School 2.0



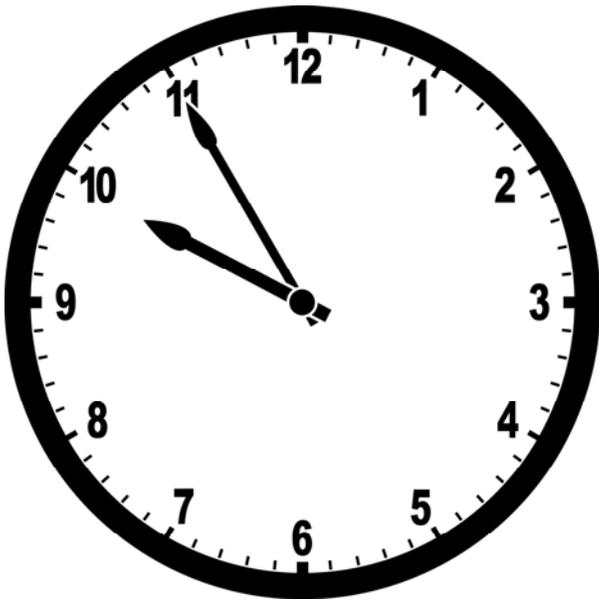
SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS
AT HOLY TRINITY
IN 2018



Like parishes throughout the country, Sunday School has been a part of life at Holy Trinity for generations.

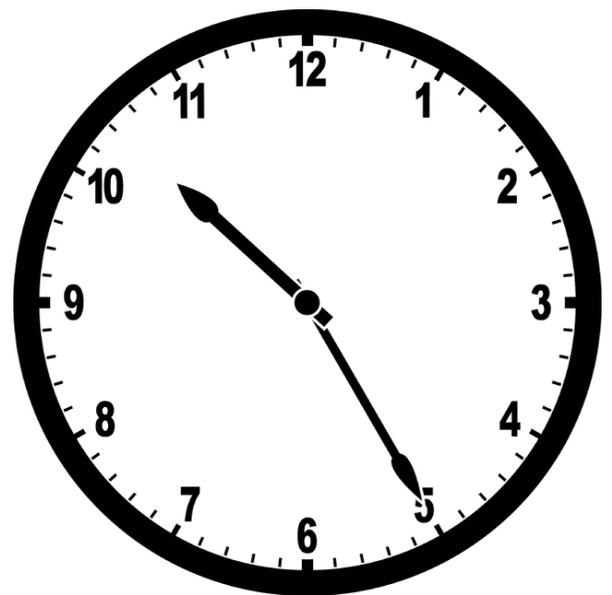
This year we will build on that long tradition by modifying meeting times in order to

- ❖ offer adults Sunday morning religious education,
- ❖ encourage families to worship and receive Holy Communion together,
- ❖ and make it possible for teachers to participate in Liturgy.



Beginning Sunday, September 23, religious education for youth and adults will be offered for 30 minutes prior to the start of Divine Liturgy. Orthros (matins) will begin at 8:45 am and con-

clude at 9:45 am. **Sunday School will begin at 9:55 am and end at 10:25 am, with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:30 am.** While our youth meet on the lower level of the church, a class for adults will be offered in the sanctuary. Adults with children in Sunday School can go downstairs at the end of the adult classes and bring their children upstairs to Liturgy, **sitting together as families.**



Why does this new format for Sunday morning religious education include time for adult classes?

- ❖ The continued growth and maturation of the Church in the United States depends upon spiritually renewed adults who are also well-acquainted with knowledge of the Faith.
- ❖ The most important component of any church's Sunday School or youth ministry program is to have that church comprised of adults who are committed to the life in Christ.



This format change encourages families to worship together. This is important!

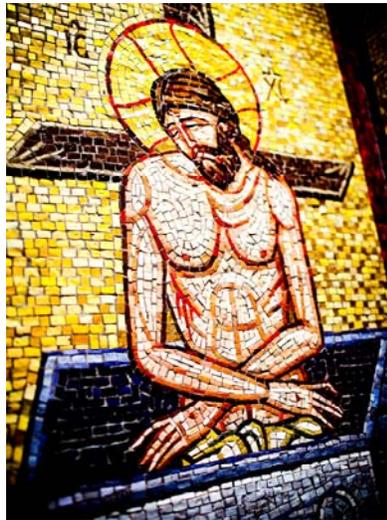
❖ When children worship and receive Holy Communion with their families it reinforces the identity of the family as the “small church” – it is in the home where children learn to live as Christians.



❖ Through this shared experience, children learn by following the example of the adults in their families.

❖ Worship is the single most powerful aspect of any religious education program. Liturgy and the Eucharist are the basis and the purpose of the life of the Church.

Adults can take specific actions to help children get the most out of Liturgy:



- ❖ Worship together as regularly as possible. This instills a liturgical yearning that will last a lifetime.
- ❖ Begin bringing babies to Liturgy when they are 40 days old, so that they literally grow up worshiping in church.
- ❖ Sit where children can see what is happening in the altar.
- ❖ Accept the fact that babies make noise. Sure, if a child starts to cry go out to narthex, but the other noises they make are a response to what they are hearing in church. This is a good thing!

What if a child complains that 10 o'clock is too early to come to church?

❖ Babies cannot tell time. When children are brought to church from an early age, being at church becomes a natural part of their lives.



❖ During the week, most households are up and preparing for the day by 6:00 am and most school-age children must be at class well before 10:00 am. By comparison, arriving at church by 10:00 am is a break from the Monday through Friday routine.

❖ What about teens who want to sleep in? Teens need sleep. They need Christ more. If they complain that they get nothing out of going to church, call the priest. If they are being lazy or obstinate, remember that they are adolescents and that the adults in their lives are responsible for their upbringing.

Two more changes this year will make it easier for families to participate in Sunday School and Liturgy.

❖ By the first day of class, the Parish will publish a list of every Sunday that religious education classes will be offered. This will make it easier for families to plan vacations and trips away from the area.

❖ **We will begin preaching the sermon in its more appropriate place: immediately following the Gospel reading.** This way, if there is a memorial service at the end of the Liturgy and little ones have “reached their limit,” families can retreat to the tranquility of coffee hour a bit early while still being to hear the sermon and receive Communion together.

