



SUNDAY SCHOOL

FAQ FOR FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE PARISHIONER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM THROUGH A. FANTIS SCHOOL



REGISTER THROUGH
EASY TITHE

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Introduction

Church attendance is vitally important to us as Orthodox Christians because gathering for Divine Liturgy, and especially receiving Holy Communion, is the primary way we encounter Christ together as His Church. The purpose of the Parishioner Engagement Program (PEP) is not to make church attendance feel like an obligation but rather, it provides a meaningful financial incentive to help encourage families to make worship, Sunday School, and participation in the life of the Cathedral a regular part of family life. We know that every family's schedule looks different, and our goal is to encourage and support participation in a way that is welcoming, reasonable, and centered on growing together in Christ.

I am part of the PEP program. Am I automatically registered for Sunday School?

Yes. All PEP families (whether Stewards or Founders) are automatically enrolled in Sunday School and there is no need to worry about filling out another form. However, please make sure to provide the teachers with any important allergy information.

Will Sunday School attendance be taken?

Yes. Teachers will take attendance during Sunday School using our attendance app. Attendance will be recorded through our church system, so you do not need to keep track of your family's attendance yourself unless you personally would like to.

How is church attendance tracked?

For children in 6th grade and younger, Sunday School attendance will also serve as the way we recognize church attendance for PEP. This keeps the process simple for families and avoids requiring an additional check-in each Sunday.

Because our Sunday School program currently goes through 6th grade, 7th and 8th grade students have two options. (1) they may serve as Sunday School class assistants by coordinating directly with Ms. Rachel Kokenes at rachelkokenes6392@gmail.com, or (2) they may check in using the church iPad during coffee hour.

For more information:
Contact the John Strzelecki or Rachel Kokenes
at jstrzelecki@afantis.org or rachelkokenes6392@gmail.com



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What happens if we have an especially busy month or are away for much of the month?

We understand! Sunday School takes place over approximately eight months of the school year, and we recognize that there may be seasons when getting to church is much easier than others because of travel, sports, family commitments, or other circumstances.

We will therefore be looking at participation in a broader, overall sense rather than treating one unusually busy month as a problem. It simply gives us a consistent way to see that families receiving the PEP benefit are genuinely participating in the worship and life of the Cathedral throughout the year.

If you know that your family will have an unusual circumstance that significantly affects your participation, please reach out to us. We would much rather have a conversation and work together than have anyone worrying about attendance.

Are there other Sunday School events connected with PEP participation?

Yes. We also ask our Sunday School families to participate in two important community Sundays:

- Christmas Show — December 13
- Graduation Sunday — June 6
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These are wonderful opportunities for our children and families to worship and celebrate together as one Cathedral community.

Can Altar Boy service be substituted for Sunday School attendance?

The short answer is no, mainly because altar service and Sunday School take place at different times. After receiving Holy Communion, our altar boys will go directly to Sunday School.

We absolutely want and encourage all of our boys in 1st through 12th grade to serve in the altar as often as they are able. Altar service is a beautiful and important way for our young men to participate directly in the worship and life of the Church.

Although the altar boys have been divided into teams to help us stay organized, those teams are not meant to limit when a boy may serve. An altar boy is welcome and encouraged to serve every Sunday he is able to be with us. The assigned team Sundays simply help ensure that we have enough boys scheduled to serve each week.

For more information:

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