

## Sunday School

**EXCITING NEWS:** We are offering IN PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL for our Toddler 2's - 6th Grade. These classes will be conducted right AFTER Holy Communion, every Sunday, for the remainder of the School Year!! Of course we understand that you may not be ready to return to church quite yet. For that reason we will continue to send out our VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons every week.

We will not have classes for our 7th - High School students, but we do expect them to attend church in person or virtually, complete the weekly lesson on the Gospel Reading provided by Fr. Stavros, and attend GOYA meetings.

### CALENDAR FOR MARCH:

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH: BEING A GOOD FRIEND – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**



# St. John's Greek Orthodox



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

# Orthodox SUNDAY

This is the first Sunday of Great Lent, and it is the Sunday we celebrate the return of the icons to our church. We venerate icons because we respect and honor these people who have loved God so completely, and we also honor Christ as we see Him reflected in their life. Furthermore, that is not the only reason that it is proper to have and venerate icons. More importantly, since Christ took on human flesh, He has become visible and tangible. As a result, we can make an icon of Him because we know how He looks.

Some people did not understand this, and lives were lost as icons were removed and ruined from the churches. Orthodox neighbors were then persecuted and killed. Icons were not in our churches for a century. This struggle ended on the first Sunday of Great Lent in 843, when Empress Theodora (acting as regent for her son Michael) proclaimed that icons should be returned to their proper place in the churches. Now we celebrate the return of the icons!

Icons remind us that God became a Man, and we see that pictured. Icons teach us that if we devote ourselves, we can become holy like the saints. For the non-Orthodox, veneration is often mistaken for worship. We do not worship icons; we venerate saints, icons, and relics. We venerate them because, thanks to Christ, the world he entered and made a part of himself is good and holy.

Draw your own icon

