



## USING THE THEME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2010 – 2011

**Symbols:** cross, censer, gospel book, chalice (attached). Note: there are over 25 other line art drawings appropriate to this theme on the website of the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America website ([www.dce.oca.org](http://www.dce.oca.org)). Here is a link. <http://dce.oca.org/resources/line-drawings/page/1/>

**Icon:** Christ the High Priest

**Ongoing** – Assign each classroom a “patron saint” for the year.

- Choose this saint from the ranks of the clergy! Suggestions follow.
- Use the icon on the room sign.
- During the year let the students research their saints – use the data to role play, celebrate the saint’s feast, learn and sing the hymnography
- Create a competition among the classes – which class finds most info, most unusual life, “Saints Fair” (patterned after Science Fair), write a modern day story

**Incentives** – Using a chart with each child’s name on it, place a sticker for each thing you are trying to encourage (attendance, being on time, memorization, class participation, attending extra services, etc.) When this chart is filled up, reward the child with a small gift or use a points system to save up for bigger gifts or outings. For inexpensive gift items check out U.S. Toys

(1-800-255-6124 or [www.ustoy.com](http://www.ustoy.com)) or Oriental Trading Company ([www.oriental.com](http://www.oriental.com))

**Bulletin Boards** – There are lots of visuals available for your use—enough to switch bulletin board themes a few times during the year.

**Crafts & Projects:** Learn about and make various items that are used by the clergy – cross, prayer rope, prayer book, incense, holy bread (prosfora)

**St. Nicholas Day** – Learn about this very special Bishop Saint!

- On the Sunday closest to December 6<sup>th</sup> have the kids leave their shoes outside of their classroom. While they are in class have St. Nick pay them a visit! Don’t forget the gold coins!
- A Christmas program including the life of this saint would be perfect this year!
- If Santa Claus always visits at the end of the program...this year introduce “St. Nicholas”!

**Gospel Reading** – Prepare the kids a week ahead asking them to read it at home, or to listen carefully for the “special Gospel.” If you are not aware of the Antiochian Gospel Program, please check out the right side of the Christian Education webpage for that button.

**Ordination** – Plan to attend, watch a video or view photos of an actual ordination of a deacon or priest to the Holy Orders.

### **Service Project Ideas**

Plan a visit to a nearby monastery, or invite a monastic to visit you

Adopt a seminarian

Create a fundraiser with the money going to an Orthodox Seminary. (AOCWNA is raising money this year for St. Thekla's Convent at the Antiochian Village ([http://www.antiochian.org/women/project\\_2010](http://www.antiochian.org/women/project_2010)) – maybe a coordinated effort with the ladies in your parish!)

**Creative Festivals** – see downloadable lesson plans provided by AODCE. Press Ctrl and click here: [Creative Festivals | Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese](#)

**End of the Year/Recognition Day** – Use the theme and logo as the central part of the certificate or award being given. Decorate certificates and scrapbooks!! Any gifts given to teachers or students can reflect this year's theme: icon, prayer rope, personal censer, prayer book, holy bread seal

*These ideas submitted by Kh. Leslee Abud, are only suggestions to tie in the theme with Church School activities for the year. If you have an idea that can add to this, please share it with the rest of us! E-mail the Christian Education office at [AODCE@aol.com](mailto:AODCE@aol.com)*

### **Ideas for Classroom Patron Saints**

#### Bishops

St. Ignatius  
St. Nicholas  
St. John Chrysostom  
St. Gregory Palamas  
St. John Maximovitch  
St. Raphael of Brooklyn

#### Deacons

St. Stephen -first martyr  
St. Lawrence of Rome  
St. Romanos  
St. Philip the Evangelist  
St. Ephraim the Syrian

#### Priests

St. Arseny  
St. Joseph of Damascus  
St. Moses of Ethiopia  
St. John of Kronstadt  
St. Juvenaly  
Sts Cyril and Methodius

#### Monastics

St. Herman of Alaska









