

# SAINT SERGIUS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MACROCYCLE YEAR I



## THE GREAT FEASTS & ORTHODOX LITURGICAL LIFE 2026–2027 CURRICULUM

Book Study Companion | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy



*"With all my soul I want to  
learn reading and writing.  
Holy Father, pray for me to  
God, that He may help me to  
become literate."*

+ Saint Sergius of Radonezh



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

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**Age Range** | approximately 4–14

**Schedule** | Sundays

**Term 1** | September 20 – December 27, 2026

**Term 2** | January 10 – April 25, 2027

**Term 3** | May 9 – June 27, 2027

**Book Study Companion** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

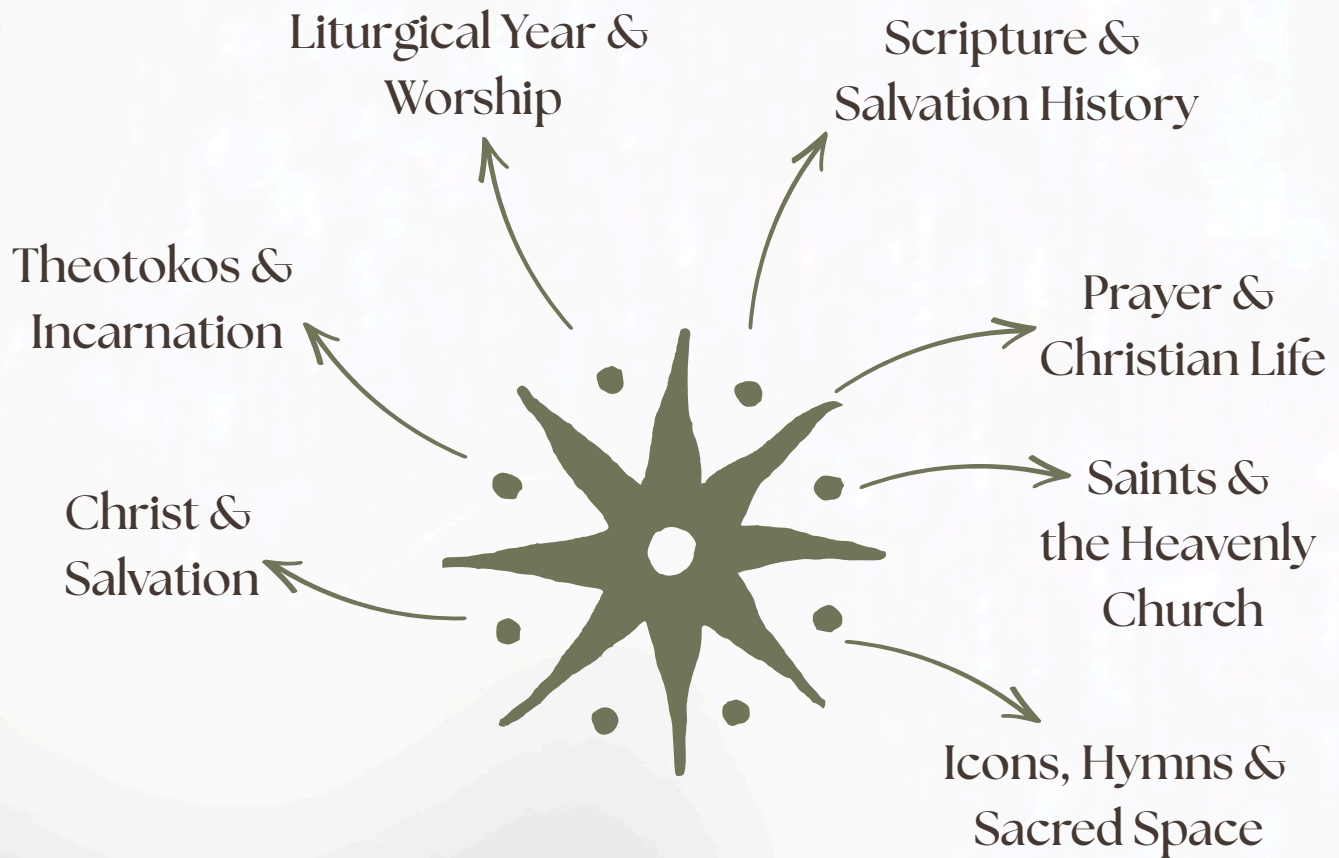
## GOVERNING PRINCIPLE

The liturgical year determines the rhythm of the school; the macrocycle determines the breadth of formation.

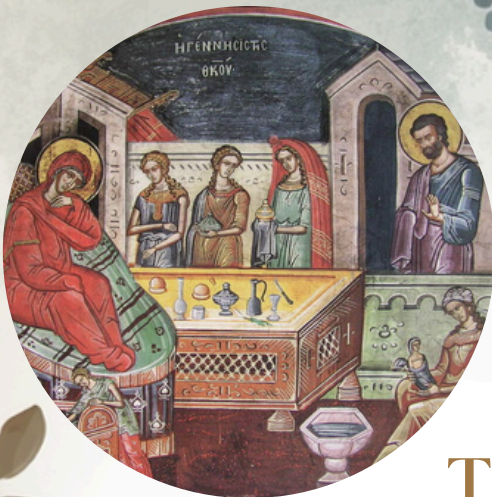




# FORMATION OVERVIEW







# TERM I ENTERING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*Feasts, Saints, Scripture,  
and Preparation for the Nativity*

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SEPTEMBER 20 — DECEMBER 27



# TERM I

Entering the Life of the Church | September 20 – December 27, 2026



SEPTEMBER 20

## Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Mary's birth, Saints Joachim and Anna, and God's preparation for the Incarnation.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 1, The Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary (PDF pp. 416–419) (BOOK pp. 223–224).

SEPTEMBER 27

## Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The Cross as victory, salvation, love, and Christian discipleship.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 62, The End of Persecution. The Elevation of the Cross of the Lord (PDF pp. 744–752) (BOOK pp. 399–403).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, section on the Exaltation of the Cross (PDF pp. 1138–1140) (BOOK pp. 612–613).

OCTOBER 4

## St. Sergius of Radonezh

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Patronal identity; holiness through prayer, humility, work, obedience, and monastic witness.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Chapter 12, Concerning Monasticism and Monasteries (PDF pp. 1145–1156) (BOOK pp. 616–622); Part I, Chapter 4, Prayer (PDF pp. 59–60) (BOOK p. 19).

OCTOBER 11

## Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | The intercession of the Theotokos and the Church's love for the Mother of God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 6, feast-calendar section listing the Protection of the Mother of God (PDF p. 923) (BOOK p. 496); Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110) (BOOK pp. 37–47).



# TERM I

Entering the Life of the Church | September 20 – December 27, 2026



OCTOBER 18

## How Orthodox Christians Celebrate a Feast

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | A feast as worship, Scripture, icon, hymnody, fasting, remembrance, and participation in the life of the Church.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 6, feast-and-fast calendar section (PDF pp. 922–925) (BOOK pp. 495–497); Part V, Chapter 1, The Concept of Serving God, Divine Services (PDF pp. 970–973) (BOOK pp. 523–524).

OCTOBER 25

## Holy Scripture in the Life of the Church

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | How Scripture is proclaimed, prayed, preserved, and interpreted within the Orthodox Church.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 2, Supernatural Divine Revelation. Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture (PDF pp. 783–792) (BOOK pp. 421–425).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Chapter 5, Divine Service Books (PDF pp. 1010–1015) (BOOK pp. 545–547).

NOVEMBER 1

## Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | St. Luke as apostle, evangelist, physician, witness, and servant of the early Church.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 60, A Short Summary of the Preaching and Lives of the Holy Apostles (PDF pp. 736–739; St. Luke on p. 738) (BOOK pp. 395–396).

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 2, Supernatural Divine Revelation. Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture (PDF pp. 783–792) (BOOK pp. 421–425).



# TERM I

Entering the Life of the Church | September 20 – December 27, 2026



NOVEMBER 8

## Great Martyr Demetrius — What Is a Martyr?

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Martyrdom as faithful Christian witness, taught in an age-appropriate way.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110; types of saints and martyrs) (BOOK pp. 37–47); Part III — New Testament, Chapter 57, The First Martyr St. Stephen (PDF pp. 716–721) (BOOK pp. 385–387).

NOVEMBER 15

## Learning to Read a Festal Icon

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | How icons communicate theology through persons, gestures, symbols, setting, and sacred memory.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110) (BOOK pp. 37–47).

NOVEMBER 22

## Archangel Michael and the Bodiless Powers

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | Angels as created spiritual servants of God; Archangel Michael; the distinction between angels, saints, and God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — Old Testament, Chapter 1, Creation of Heaven, the Invisible World (PDF pp. 150–153) (BOOK pp. 77–78).



# TERM I

Entering the Life of the Church | September 20 – December 27, 2026



NOVEMBER 29

## Nativity Fast — Preparing for Christ

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | Fasting, prayer, repentance, almsgiving, and anticipation before the Nativity of Christ.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 6, section Fasts established by the Church – Nativity Fast (PDF p. 924) (BOOK p. 496).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Nativity of Christ section (PDF pp. 1141–1142) (BOOK pp. 613–614).

DECEMBER 6

## Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Mary's dedication in the Temple and her preparation to become the Mother of Christ.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 2, The Entry into the Temple of the Most-holy Virgin Mary (PDF pp. 420–424) (BOOK pp. 225–227).

DECEMBER 13

## Prophets and the Promise of the Messiah

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | Old Testament prophecy and the expectation of the coming Saviour.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — Old Testament, Chapter 37, The Prophets (PDF pp. 362–377) (BOOK pp. 193–200); Chapter 43, The Roman Empire. The Universal Expectation of the Messiah (PDF pp. 407–415) (BOOK pp. 217–222).



# TERM I

Entering the Life of the Church | September 20 – December 27, 2026



DECEMBER 20

## St. Nicholas

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Holiness expressed through mercy, generosity, pastoral love, and care for others.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 6, feast-calendar section (PDF p. 924) (BOOK p. 496); Part IV, Chapter 5, Christian Life (PDF pp. 906–909) (BOOK pp. 487–488).

DECEMBER 27

## Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Salvation history and the faithful people of the Old Testament who prepared the way for Christ.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part III — Old Testament, Chapter 34, King David (PDF pp. 349–353) (BOOK pp. 185–187); Chapter 37, The Prophets (PDF pp. 362–377) (BOOK pp. 193–200); Chapter 43, The Roman Empire. The Universal Expectation of the Messiah (PDF pp. 407–415) (BOOK pp. 217–222).

**Liturgical Context** | This Sunday gathers the righteous ancestors and forefathers of Christ within the Church's final preparation for the Nativity.





# TERM II CHRIST REVEALED & THE JOURNEY TO PASCHA

*From the Incarnation and Theophany  
through Great Lent and Holy Week*

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JANUARY 10 — APRIL 25





# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



JANUARY 10

## Nativity of Christ

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The Incarnation: the Son of God becomes man for our salvation.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 7, The Nativity of Christ the Saviour (PDF pp. 442–450) (BOOK pp. 236–240).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Nativity of Christ section (PDF pp. 1141–1142) (BOOK pp. 613–614).

JANUARY 17

## Theophany

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The Baptism of Christ, the revelation of the Holy Trinity, and the sanctification of creation.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 12, The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ (PDF pp. 468–471) (BOOK pp. 250–251).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Baptism/Theophany section (PDF pp. 1143–1144) (BOOK pp. 614–615).

JANUARY 24

## Holy Water, Baptism, and the Blessing of Creation

CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | Theophany extended into sacramental life: holy water, Baptism, and the sanctification of creation.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 8, Baptism and Chrismation (PDF pp. 1085–1088) (BOOK pp. 584–586).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Theophany/Great Blessing of Water (PDF pp. 1143–1144) (BOOK pp. 614–615).



# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



## JANUARY 31

### Troparia and Kontakia — How the Church Teaches Through Hymns

#### CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | How festal hymns teach theology and preserve the Church's memory.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 5, Divine Service Books (PDF pp. 1010–1015) (BOOK pp. 545–547); discussion of troparia and kontakia (PDF pp. 1011–1012) (BOOK p. 546).

## FEBRUARY 7

### The Temple — Meeting God in Orthodox Worship

#### CORE SUPPORT

**Lesson Focus** | The Orthodox church building as sacred space shaped by worship and theology.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 2, The Church Building and Its Arrangement (PDF pp. 974–990) (BOOK pp. 525–533).

## FEBRUARY 14

### Meeting of the Lord — Receiving and Seeking Christ

#### REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Simeon and Anna receive Christ; the lesson also provides a natural transition toward the Lenten journey.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 8, The Meeting of the Lord (PDF pp. 451–454) (BOOK pp. 241–242).

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 5, Christian Life (PDF pp. 906–909) (BOOK pp. 487–488).

**Liturgical Context** | Zacchaeus Sunday falls on this date, while the Meeting of the Lord is observed the following day. The lesson connects Simeon's receiving Christ with Zacchaeus's desire to seek Christ.



# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



FEBRUARY 21

## Publican and Pharisee

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Humility, repentance, and true prayer before God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (within Chapter 36) (PDF pp. 577–580) (BOOK pp. 308–309).

FEBRUARY 28

## Prodigal Son

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Repentance as return to the loving Father; forgiveness, grace, and restoration.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 37, The Parable of the Prodigal Son (PDF pp. 581–595) (BOOK pp. 311–318).

MARCH 7

## Last Judgment

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Love of neighbour, mercy, responsibility, and Christ's teaching concerning judgment.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 4, The Christian Faith — Seventh Article of the Creed, Second Coming and Last Judgment (PDF pp. 867–869) (BOOK pp. 465–467).



# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



MARCH 14

## Forgiveness Sunday and the Expulsion from Paradise

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | The Fall, forgiveness, fasting, and the return toward communion with God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 9, Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday (PDF pp. 1111–1112) (BOOK p. 598).

**Supporting Reading** | Part III — Old Testament, Chapters 5–6, The Fall into Sin and its results (PDF pp. 199–205) (BOOK pp. 104–107).

**Liturgical Context** | This is the final Sunday before Great Lent begins. The lesson joins Adam's exile from Paradise with mutual forgiveness and the Church's entrance into the Fast.

MARCH 21

## Sunday of Orthodoxy

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | The Incarnation, holy icons, and the Church's faithful confession of Orthodox teaching.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, Triumph of Orthodoxy (PDF pp. 1113–1114) (BOOK p. 599).

**Supporting Reading** | Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110) (BOOK pp. 37–47).

MARCH 28

## St. Gregory Palamas

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Prayer, fasting, grace, spiritual purification, and the life of communion with God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, St. Gregory Palamas (PDF pp. 1114–1116) (BOOK pp. 599–600).

**Supporting Reading** | Part I, Chapter 4, Prayer (PDF pp. 59–60) (BOOK p. 19).



# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



APRIL 4

## Sunday of the Precious Cross

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | The Cross as strength and encouragement in the middle of Great Lent.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, Adoration of the Holy Cross (PDF pp. 1116–1117) (BOOK pp. 600–601).

**Supporting Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 48, The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus Christ (PDF pp. 659–665) (BOOK pp. 354–357).

APRIL 11

## Annunciation

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Mary's free obedience and the beginning of the Incarnation.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 4, The Annunciation to the Holy Virgin Mary (PDF pp. 429–432) (BOOK pp. 230–231).

**Liturgical Context** | This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, St. John Climacus, while the Annunciation was observed earlier in the week. Year 1 gives primary classroom emphasis to the Great Feast while the Teacher Reference may acknowledge the Sunday context.

APRIL 18

## St. Mary of Egypt

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Repentance, ascetic struggle, and the transforming grace and mercy of God.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, The Sundays of Great Lent — St. Mary of Egypt (PDF pp. 1117–1119) (BOOK pp. 601–602).



# TERM II

Christ Revealed & The Journey to Pascha | January 10 – April 25



APRIL 25

## Lazarus, Palm Sunday, and the Beginning of Holy Week

### REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Christ's authority over death, His entry into Jerusalem as King, and His voluntary approach to the Passion.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 38, The Raising of Lazarus (PDF pp. 596–602) (BOOK pp. 319–322); Chapter 39, The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (PDF pp. 603–607) (BOOK pp. 323–325).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10 — Passion Week (PDF pp. 1120–1127) (BOOK pp. 602–606).

**Liturgical Context** | Palm Sunday is the primary Sunday context. The classroom lesson intentionally integrates Lazarus Saturday, the Entry into Jerusalem, and the transition into Holy Week.





# TERM III LIVING THE RESURRECTION

*From the Paschal Gospel Cycle to  
Ascension, Pentecost, and All Saints*

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MAY 9 — JUNE 27





# TERM III

Living the Resurrection | May 9 – June 27



MAY 9

## St. Thomas Sunday

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | The reality of the Resurrection and faith seeking and encountering Christ.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 53, The Appearance of the Lord to the Apostle Thomas and the Other Apostles (PDF pp. 693–700) (BOOK pp. 372–377).

MAY 16

## Myrrh-bearing Women

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Courage, service, faithfulness, and witness to the Resurrection.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 50, The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (PDF pp. 677–687) (BOOK pp. 363–368).

**Supporting Reading** | Part III — New Testament, CHRIST IS RISEN! Paschal feast material (PDF pp. 701–703) (BOOK pp. 376–377).

MAY 23

## Paralytic

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Christ as the source of healing and restoration.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 19, The Healing of the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (PDF pp. 494–499) (BOOK pp. 264–266).

MAY 30

## Samaritan Woman

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Christ as living water; true worship; the Gospel offered to all people.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 18, The Conversation of Jesus Christ with the Woman of Samaria (PDF pp. 487–493) (BOOK pp. 260–263).



# TERM III

Living the Resurrection | May 9 – June 27



JUNE 6

## Blind Man

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | Physical and spiritual sight; recognizing Christ and seeing with faith.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 35, Healing of the Man Born Blind (PDF pp. 566–569) (BOOK pp. 303–304).

JUNE 13

## Ascension and the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Christ glorified in His Ascension and the Church's faithful confession of who Christ is.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 54, The Ascension of the Lord (PDF pp. 704–708) (BOOK pp. 378–380).

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 3, First Ecumenical Council (PDF pp. 793–794) (BOOK p. 426).

**Liturgical Context** | Ascension was observed earlier in the week, while this Sunday commemorates the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The combined lesson intentionally links Christ's glorification with the Church's faithful confession of His divinity.

JUNE 20

## Pentecost — The Holy Spirit and the Church

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The descent of the Holy Spirit, the life of the Church, and the beginning of her mission.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 55, The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (PDF pp. 709–713) (BOOK pp. 381–383).

**Supporting Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 56, The Life of the First Christians (PDF pp. 714–715) (BOOK p. 384).



# TERM III

Living the Resurrection | May 9 – June 27



JUNE 27

## All Saints — The Call to Holiness

ANNUAL COMPANION

**Lesson Focus** | All Christians are called to holiness; the saints reveal what a life in Christ can become.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 5, Christian Life (PDF pp. 906–909) (BOOK pp. 487–488); Chapter 7, The Nine Beatitudes (PDF pp. 936–955) (BOOK pp. 503–513).

**Supporting Reading** | Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110; types of saints) (BOOK pp. 37–47).

**Liturgical Context** | All Saints is celebrated on the Sunday following Pentecost, showing that the gift of the Holy Spirit bears fruit in the holiness of the Church's members.







# OUT-OF-TERM REQUIRED ANCHORS

*The Liturgical Year Continues  
Beyond the Classroom*

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PASCHA | TRANSFIGURATION | DORMITION



# OUT-OF-TERM REQUIRED ANCHORS



PASCHA | TRANSFIGURATION | DORMITION

MAY 2, 2027

## Holy Pascha

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The Resurrection of Christ as the victory over death and the center of Orthodox Christian faith and life.

**Suggested Use** | Family / parish / website resource; no regular Sunday class is scheduled on Holy Pascha.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 50, The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (PDF pp. 677–687) (BOOK pp. 363–368).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Chapter 11, The Feast of Pascha – The Radiant Resurrection of Christ (PDF pp. 1128–1131) (BOOK pp. 607–611).

**Liturgical Context** | Holy Pascha falls between Term II and Term III. It is retained as a Required Anchor rather than reassigned to May 9; the scheduled Term III sequence begins with St. Thomas Sunday.

AUGUST 6/19

## Transfiguration of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | Christ reveals His divine glory to Peter, James, and John and prepares the disciples for His Passion and Resurrection.

**Suggested Use** | Family / parish / summer / website resource.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 31, The Transfiguration of the Lord (PDF pp. 541–544) (BOOK pp. 294–295).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (PDF p. 1140) (BOOK p. 613).

**Liturgical Context** | The feast falls after the regular school year but remains a Required Anchor because the Great Feasts themselves are central to the Year 1 macrocycle.



# OUT-OF-TERM REQUIRED ANCHORS



PASCHA | TRANSFIGURATION | DORMITION

AUGUST 15/28

## Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

### REQUIRED ANCHOR

**Lesson Focus** | The falling asleep of the Theotokos, Christian hope in the Resurrection, and the Church's continuing love and veneration for the Mother of God.

**Suggested Use** | Family / parish / summer / website resource.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 58, The Dormition of the Mother of God (PDF pp. 722–727) (BOOK pp. 388–391).

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 6, feast-and-fast calendar sections listing Dormition and Dormition Fast (PDF pp. 923–924) (BOOK p. 496).

**Liturgical Context** | The Dormition falls after the regular school year and is therefore developed as an out-of-term Required Anchor rather than moved artificially into the June schedule.





# SUPPLEMENTAL & EXTENSION RESOURCES

*Further Opportunities for  
Liturgical and Christian Formation*

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# SUPPLEMENTAL & EXTENSION RESOURCES



## GREAT LENT – FIRST WEEK

### Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit (Theodore Tyro)

#### SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | Faithful Christian witness, keeping the fast, and the Church's remembrance of St. Theodore's help to Christians during persecution.

**Suggested Use** | First week of Great Lent; parish or family extension.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, The Sundays of Great Lent, Their Significance and Basic Rubrics – section on Great Martyr St. Theodore Tyro (PDF p. 1113) (BOOK p. 599).

## GREAT LENT – FIFTH SATURDAY

### The Akathist Hymn and the Laudation of the Theotokos

#### SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | The Church's prayerful praise of the Theotokos and the place of the Akathist within Great Lent.

**Suggested Use** | Akathist Saturday; parish, family, or older-student extension.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, section on the Laudation of the Theotokos and the Akathist (PDF p. 1117) (BOOK p. 602).

## GREAT LENT – FOURTH SUNDAY

### St. John Climacus – The Ladder of the Virtues

#### SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | The spiritual life as an ascent in virtue, perseverance, repentance, prayer, and growth toward God.

**Suggested Use** | Fourth Sunday of Great Lent; especially useful as an older-student extension when another Required Anchor receives the main classroom emphasis.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, section on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent and St. John of the Ladder (PDF p. 1116) (BOOK p. 601).



# SUPPLEMENTAL & EXTENSION RESOURCES



## LAZARUS SATURDAY

### The Raising of Lazarus

SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | Christ as the Resurrection and the Life; the raising of Lazarus as preparation for Palm Sunday and the Lord's voluntary Passion.

**Suggested Use** | Lazarus Saturday; family/parish resource or standalone Holy Week extension.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 38, The Raising of Lazarus (PDF pp. 596–602) (BOOK pp. 319–322).

**Supporting Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, Lazarus Saturday (PDF p. 1119) (BOOK p. 602).

## HOLY WEEK

### Bridegroom Services and the Journey through Holy Week

SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | Watchfulness, the final days of Christ's earthly ministry, the Mystical Supper, His saving Passion and burial, and the Church's preparation for the Resurrection.

**Suggested Use** | Family/parish Holy Week resource; presentation or older-student extension.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Suggested Reading** | Part V, Chapter 10, Passion Week (PDF pp. 1120–1127) (BOOK pp. 602–606).

## PASCHAL SEASON – BRIGHT FRIDAY

### The Life-Giving Spring of the Most Holy Theotokos

SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | The Theotokos, the healing mercy of God, sacred images, and the continuing joy of the Paschal season.

**Suggested Use** | Bright Friday or another appropriate Paschal-season family/parish resource.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part I, Chapter 13, Icons (PDF pp. 91–110) (BOOK pp. 37–47). The supplied edition has no dedicated Life-Giving Spring section.



# SUPPLEMENTAL & EXTENSION RESOURCES



## POST-PENTECOST / LOCAL SAINTS EMPHASIS

### All Saints of North America

#### SUPPLEMENTAL / EXTENSION

**Lesson Focus** | Holiness expressed in the local Church; missionary witness, pastoral service, monasticism, and faithfulness in the Orthodox life of North America.

**Suggested Use** | Where observed by the parish or jurisdiction; post-Pentecost saints extension or local Church resource.

**Book Study** | *The Law of God* — Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy

**Supporting Reading** | Part IV, Chapter 5, *Christian Life* (PDF pp. 906–909) (BOOK pp. 487–488); Part I, Chapter 13, *Icons* (PDF pp. 91–110; types of saints) (BOOK pp. 37–47). The supplied edition has no dedicated All Saints of North America chapter.





# YEAR I CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES



## Year I General Principle

The liturgical year determines the rhythm of the school; the macrocycle determines the breadth of formation.

Macrocycle Year 1 introduces students to the Great Feasts and the liturgical life of the Orthodox Church. The scheduled Sunday lessons, Out-of-Term Required Anchors, and Supplemental & Extension Resources work together to provide a broad encounter with Christ, the Theotokos, Scripture, worship, prayer, saints, icons, and Christian life.

Required Anchors remain part of the Year 1 curriculum even when their natural liturgical observance falls outside the regular teaching terms. Supplemental resources may be used according to the Church calendar, parish circumstances, available teaching time, family formation opportunities, or student interest.

The curriculum therefore follows the natural life of the Church rather than imposing an artificial sequence upon it.

## The Law of God — Book Study Companion

*The Law of God* by Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy serves as the principal Book Study Companion for Macrocycle Year 1.

**Suggested Reading** identifies a chapter or section that directly treats the subject of the lesson. **Supporting Reading** identifies material that complements the lesson or provides useful theological, scriptural, liturgical, or historical background.

These readings support the curriculum but do not determine the order of the weekly lessons. The Orthodox liturgical calendar and the Year 1 macrocycle remain the governing framework for curriculum placement.

PDF and hardcopy BOOK page references in this curriculum correspond to the editions used in the preparation of the 2026–2027 curriculum. Because pagination may differ between editions, the Part, Chapter, and Section titles should be treated as the primary reference.

Where *The Law of God* does not contain a dedicated treatment of a lesson subject, the curriculum identifies relevant supporting material rather than implying a direct chapter exists.

**Copyright Note** | *The Law of God* is a copyrighted work. This curriculum provides reading references only and does not reproduce the text of the book. Readers should consult an authorized copy of the work.