TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Delivery & Differentiation

SAINT SERGIUS SCHOOL

Lesson Purpose: Students learn that an Orthodox feast is not merely a date or a history lesson. The Church prepares, gathers, worships, remembers, and participates in the saving reality being celebrated.

Core Teaching: An Orthodox feast is a holy celebration in which the Church remembers God's saving work, worships together, and participates in the life of Christ.

Early Learner Emphasis: Feast = holy celebration. We prepare, come to church, pray and sing, see the icon, and carry the lesson home.

Elementary Emphasis: Introduce preparation, Vespers, Scripture, festal icons, hymnody, worship, and afterfeast.

Older Student Extension: Introduce the liturgical day beginning in the evening, the Church's "today" language, liturgical remembrance, and different degrees of festal observance.

Theological Safeguard: Do not reduce a feast to decorations, food, or a classroom theme. Its primary setting is the worshipping life of the Church.

Main Point to Remember
"We do not only learn about a feast. We enter it through the worship and life of the Church."

Fasting Note
Do not say that every feast has a special fast. Fasting practices differ according to the feast and the Church calendar.

Parish Practice Note
Do not imply that every parish celebrates every feast with exactly the same schedule of services.

Icon Guidance
A01 — primary feast-cycle image.
A02 — wide contextual support for the rhythm of the Church year.
A03 — approved reserve / secondary image.

Activity Guidance
Early Learners: Draw or dictate one idea in each section.
Elementary: Complete all four sections.
Older Students: Explain how the feast's meaning should shape Christian life afterward.

TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Answer Key & Resource Control

SAINT SERGIUS SCHOOL

Discussion Questions — Teacher Answer Key

1. What is an Orthodox feast?
Answer: A holy celebration in the worship and life of the Church.

2. Name two ways Christians may prepare.
Answer: Appropriate answers include prayer, fasting where appointed, learning the feast, attending services, and preparing attentively for worship.

3. Why can the feast begin the evening before?
Answer: The Orthodox liturgical day begins in the evening.

4. Matching:
Scripture → B. proclaims God's Word
Icon → D. shows the feast visually
Hymns → C. teaches and praises through song
Worship → A. gathers the Church in prayer

5. Why is celebrating different from only reading?
Answer: Christians do not only learn facts; the Church gathers and participates in the feast's meaning through worship.

6. How could a feast change the way you live?
Answer: Answers vary. Encourage a concrete response consistent with the feast and Christian life.

The Law of God
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).

Controlled Sources
SSS Year 1 Annual Curriculum MASTER v1.1; OCA — The Church Year; OCA — Vespers; OCA — Fasting & Fast-Free Seasons; OCA — Icons.

Image Provenance
See lesson Sources & Rights record.
A01 — Hermitage, Resurrection with Feasts — primary.
A02 — Arkhangelsk feast-cycle strip — wide support.
A03 — Chazen Museum, Great Deesis with Twelve Feasts — reserve.