

Creative Festivals 2009

Using the Theme Throughout the Year



Be mindful, O Lord,
of those who bear fruit
and do good works
in thy holy Churches,
and who remember
the poor.

The Anaphoras of Sts. Basil the Great and John Chrysostom

GENERAL SUBTHEMES:

- Stewardship (“do good works”)
- Service (“remember the poor”)
- Fruits of the Spirit (“bear fruit”)

ICON:

Archangel Raphael and Tobias (From the book of Tobit in the Old Testament)

SYMBOL:

Fruits, Fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control (see Galatians 5:22)

DECORATING:

The theme and/or symbol can be used as letterhead, clip art, crafts, decorations, gifts, and incentives throughout the year.

- Decorate the bulletin board with student’s name, photo and FRUIT! Borders, cut-outs, etc. can be made at teacher resource centers or purchased at teacher stores, dollar stores, or online at www.orientaltrading.com.
- Add an apple (or any fruit) to a chart listing a student’s “good works”
- Use fruit stickers when recording attendance, memorization, assignments, etc.

MUSIC:

- “Fruits of the Spirit” by Kh. Gigi Shadid – download at (www.antiochian.org/festivals)

LESSON PLANS:

See downloadable lesson plans provided by AODCE (www.antiochian.org/festivals)

SERVICE PROJECTS/CHARITY:

- Plant a garden @ church – give the “fruits” to the poor
- Soup Kitchen
- Food Pantry
- Clothes Closet
- The poor *in* our parishes – Contribute to a fund from which the priest can help the poor. Adopt a family.
- Shut-Ins – send cards, visit, make video or CD of prayers and services
- Parish ministry teams – Create a “gardening” team
- Organizations of the parish – Offer prayers, hold a coffee hour or special dinner to recognize the “good works” of the people that make up your church.
- OYO, IOCC, FFHP (World Food Day), Project Mexico/St. Innocent Orphanage
- The “Angel Tree” can become a “Fruit Tree” where students can pick a fruit that has the age and sizes of a needy child to buy for at Christmastime.

ACTIVITIES:

- Research the lives of Saints that have “remembered the poor”
- Do a study of the verses in the Bible that mention the “poor”
- Game Day/Family Night

THANKSGIVING:

A perfect time to remember the poor with food baskets or a meal.

ST. NICHOLAS:

A play or story-telling of the Life of St. Nicholas will teach how this generous saint gave of his riches to the poor. Why not take a collection and deliver it (in secret) to a family in need?

CHRISTMAS:

Besides any of the service projects that can be done at this time of year, consider performing an adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” or “It’s a Wonderful Life”—depicting what your church would be like without the “good works” done by its people.

PASCHA:

Assign each class a job to help get the church ready – cleaning, organizing, painting, polishing...there’s an endless list of “good works” that can be done in preparation for the “Feast of Feasts”! Replace the jelly beans and candy with fruit for your Egg Hunt! Have each child share something from their basket for the poor.

TRANSFIGURATION:

Have the children bring fruits they have grown (or from the farmer’s market or grocery store) to church to be blessed and eaten.

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 with the cutouts from the bulletin boards. Gifts given to staff, students or volunteers can reflect this year’s theme, i.e. an icon of the Archangel Raphael and Tobias, fruit basket, fruit tree, or a donation to a charity in their name.

These ideas are only suggestions to tie in the theme with Church School activities throughout the year. If you have an idea that we can add, please share it with the rest of us! E-mail the Christian Education office at AODCE@aol.com