

Orthodox Life - Parent Information Sheet

What is Orthodox Life?

***** Please watch the video describing Orthodox Life.*****

Orthodox Life is a Program at St. Mary's Camp where the 3rd-5th grade cabins have the opportunity to learn more about the Orthodox Faith and how to live as Orthodox Christians. When at church camp, the 6th-12th graders have other activities (i.e., Community and Q&A with a priest), and the 3rd-5th graders are working diligently on Orthodox Life.

The Orthodox Life Program is made up of six books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and Romans. Each book has items for the camper to complete that may include memorizing/learning a prayer, reading a parable from the Bible and saying it back in their own words, community work, learning the meanings of Saints, crossing ourselves, the church structure, and many more. Orthodox Life is an interactive program where they are working on one book at a time independently, but have their counselors there to ask questions, guide them, and eventually check-off their progress to move onto the next book.

Each time a camper completes a book, they are recognized for their accomplishments in-front of the whole camp that evening and receive a reward (i.e., an icon, cross, etc.). Although we are not in person or at camp, as a staff and camp, we highly encourage your campers to complete and work on their Orthodox Life this summer! We will keep record of all the camper's progress and they will be recognized next year at the St. Mary's Orthodox Summer Camp!

Please refer to the information sheet for more details regarding modifications to the program, where to start, recording the camper's progress, etc. Orthodox Life is meant to help the camper's learn about their Faith. Some tasks may be more challenging than others, and that's okay! The goal is to help them learn and become stronger in their Orthodox Faith!

As it says on the booklets we pass out at camp:

Orthodoxy is a way of life...
We are called to remember Christ & His Church
From Baptism to Death
From Feast Day to Feast Day
From Week to Week
From Day to Day
From Second to Second.

I pray that your camper's experience with Orthodox Life may be enriching for their growth in the Orthodox Faith.

If you have any questions, please contact myself (Matthew) or Liam Boris. Our contact information is on the bottom of the Parent Information Sheet. Thank you!

Books Order:

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans

Where does my camper begin and what can they complete?

- If your camper has attended camp in previous years, we have records of what they have completed while at camp. Please contact Matthew Klein and Liam Boris to gather information of where your camper should start.
 - Matthew Klein - klein.matthew28@gmail.com
 - Liam Boris - liamrboris@gmail.com
- If your camper is in their first year at camp, they must begin with the Book of Matthew.
- If your camper is registered as a 3rd Grader, they can complete the books through Luke (Matthew, Mark, Luke).
- If your camper is registered as a 4th Grader, they can complete the books through Acts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts).
- If your camper is registered as a 5th Grader, they can complete all the books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans).

Recording Camper's Progress

There are two options to record your camper's progress for Orthodox Life this Summer. Please read below for information on the two options.

1. Sign Hard Copy and Send Picture Via Email
 - a. You are able to download and print a worksheet for each book listed above. Once your camper has completed a task on the worksheet, sign your name on "Approved by" line.
 - b. Once a sheet is complete, please send a photo or scan of the completed sheet to either Matthew Klein and Liam Boris (emails below).
2. Google Form Completion
 - a. Each worksheet has a link to a Google Form. Once a book is completed, please fill out the Google Form associated with the book your camper completed. We will then be able to record the completion in our records.
 - b. Please complete the online form once all items are complete (according to directions per sheet).

*** If for some reason your camper only completes part of a book by the end of virtual camp, please record what they completed and send that to, so we can have accurate records for next year.

Worksheet Answers

Some items on the worksheets have answer sheets for the adult helping your child. This can also be used to help the camper learn, but the camper should not use the answer sheet when 'testing' an item to get it checked-off.

Modified for Virtual Summer Camp

We understand that some of the items to complete throughout the books tell the camper to “talk to the counselor”, “complete during devotions”, “pick up trash around the cabin”, “find a camper”, etc. In general, if it states something like said above, feel free to modify it to your home (i.e., talk to the parent/grandparent, complete during morning or evening prayers, take out the trash at home, clean up a room, help a family member/sibling, etc.). They can even share some of their Orthodox Life tasks during Zoom with their cabin!

See below for specific modifications for each book:

- Luke
 - Writing a thank you note
 - Luke is no longer the WAPO Camp Director, but the camper can write the note starting, “Dear WAPO Camp Director,”. Please do write the note and either send a picture to Matthew or Liam or type it out in the online record.
- John
 - ‘What Christ Means to Me’
 - Once your camper writes this, please share it with us (via email or type in google completion form) so they can read it to the camp next year. The sheet says 3-5 minutes, this is typically ¾ to 1 page in length.

Thank you! Again, if you have any questions, please contact both of the following:

- Matthew Klein: klein.matthew28@gmail.com
- Liam Boris: liamraboris@gmail.com