Date of the Competition:
The Diocesan Centralized Written Competitions (CWC) for the 2018 Sunday School year is scheduled to be held on **Saturday, October 20, 2018.** The date is tentative, please check with your Regional Sunday School Coordinator for the final date and schedule specific to your area/region.

Competition Categories:
1. Drawing
2. Bible Quiz
3. Essay Writing
4. Story Writing
5. Poetry Writing

Participant’s Groups:
*Note: For those Sunday Schools that combine children of different grades into one Sunday School classroom, please group each participant based on their academic school grade.*

- Group 1 – Pre-K and KG (Ages 4-5)
- Group 2 – Grades 1 & 2
- Group 3 – Grades 3 & 4
- Group 4 – Grades 5 & 6
- Group 5 – Grades 7 & 8
- Group 6 – Grades 9 & 10
- Group 7 – Grades 11 & 12

Special Notes:
1. A Diocesan level CWC Committee will be responsible for the overall coordination of the CWC. **The evaluations will only be done once at the regional level and there will be no further evaluations at the diocesan level. Awards will be distributed to those individuals who rank in the top 3 for each group (Group 1-7) within each category (Drawing, Bible Quiz, Essay Writing, Story Writing & Poetry Writing).** It will be the responsibility of each Sunday School Regional Coordinator to coordinate this evaluation process in a timely manner within their respective region.

2. The Orthodox Study Bible (OSB) will serve as the base Bible version from which all topics, Bible quiz questions, etc., will be developed. Please make note of this and be sure to follow the OSB in preparation for the competitions.

3. **Participants shall not use any reference materials or books on the day of the competition, including any electronic devices and no personnel (including parents) shall aid them while they are completing the CWC. The materials required are described in section “d)” of each category. Make sure to use BLACK INK for all writing events to aid in making copies.**
2018 CWC Categories, Topics & Evaluation Guidelines

1. Drawing

a) **Participents:** This category is open to all children from Group 1 thru Group 7.

b) **Topics:**

**Group 1** – Pre-KG & KG (Ages 4 & 5): (Samson and his Strength) “And Samson took hold of the two pillars of the house, the very two which held up the house, and he leaned himself against them. He grasped one with his right hand and the other with his left.” *(Judges 16:29 OSB)*

**Group 2** – Grades 1 & 2: (Baptism of our Lord) “When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’” *(St. Luke 3:21-22 OSB)*

**Group 3** – Grades 3 & 4: (The Offerings of Cain and Abel) “Now in the process of time Cain brought a sacrifice to the Lord from the fruits of the ground. Abel also brought a sacrifice from the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.” *(Genesis 4:3-4 OSB)*

**Group 4** – Grades 5 & 6: (The Man Born Blind Sees) “When He said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And he said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.’ So he went and washed, and came back seeing.” *(St. John 9:6-7 OSB)*

**Group 5** – Grades 7 & 8: (Joseph Humiliated by his Brothers) “So it came to pass, when Joseph came to his brothers they stripped the tunic of many colours off him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit, which was empty for there was no water in it.” *(Genesis 37: 23-24 OSB)*

**Group 6** – Grades 9 & 10: (Ascension of our Lord) “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” *(St. Mark 16:19 OSB)*

**Group 7** – Grades 11 & 12: (The Transfiguration) “And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.” *(St. Matthew 17: 2-3 OSB)*

c) **Time Limit:** Maximum time allowed for drawing is 45 minutes.
d) Materials & Supplies: (The registration ID numbers shall be on the official drawing sheet. Do not write participant’s name or any personal information including parish name on the official drawing paper. Violation to this rule will disqualify the entry).

Group 1 – Group 2: Participants will be provided with the outline of the drawing. The participants are required to bring their own colouring supplies including coloring pencils, crayons, paint and paint brushes depending on the participant’s choice.

Group 3 - Group 7: The official paper to draw on will be supplied by the Test Supervisor. The drawing shall be made only on the official paper supplied. The size of the official paper is 8.5”x11” and the space available for drawing is approximately 8 inches wide and 8.5 inches tall. **Students shall not write or draw outside the 8"wide X 8 ½" tall space available for writing or drawing.** The participants are required to bring their own drawing supplies including pencils, eraser, coloring pencils, paint and paint brushes depending on the participant’s choice. A second sheet of the official paper will be provided if a participant disregards the first sheet, but the drawing shall be completed within the original time limit and his/her time limit will not be extended.

f) Evaluation of the Drawing:

**Group 1 – Group 2**

I. **Composition:** Visual balance, use of color/texture (35 points)

II. **Reality of the Colour:** Realistic representation of the colour of the objects (30 points)

III. **Overall Quality & Presentation:** Completion of the artwork and attention to quality; artist’s effort; first and lasting impression (35 points)

IV. **Total score** = 100 points

**Group 3 – Group 7**

V. I. **Composition:** Visual balance, use of color/texture (30 points)

VI. II. **Content:** Creativity, maintains context, accuracy and vividness of portrayal, ability to engage the viewer (35 points)

VII. III. **Correlation:** How good the drawing relates to the topic referenced to the Bible and how it portrays the event/verse (15 points)

VIII. IV. **Overall Quality & Presentation:** Completion of the artwork and attention to quality; artist’s effort; first and lasting impression (20 points)

IX. V. **Total score** = 100 points
2. Bible Quiz

a) **Participants:** This category is open to all children from Group 2 thru Group 7.

b) **Topics:** All questions will be in multiple choice format and referenced from the Orthodox Study Bible (OSB). There will be one correct answer for each question and the correct answer will need to be circled.

Group 2 – Grades 1 & 2: Book of Jonah (OSB) - Chapters 1 to 4 (20 questions)

Group 3 – Grades 3 & 4: 1 Kings (OSB – 3 Kingdoms) - Chapters 17 to 21 (30 questions)

Group 4 – Grades 5 & 6: Book of Esther (OSB) - Chapters 1 to 10 (35 questions)

Group 5 – Grades 7 & 8: Gospel of St. Mark (OSB) – Chapters 1 to 16 (40 questions)

Group 6 – Grades 9 & 10: Gospel of St. Luke (OSB) – Chapters 1 to 24 (50 questions)

Group 7 – Grades 11 & 12: The Acts of the Apostles (OSB) - Chapters 1 to 28 (50 questions)

c) **Time Limit:** Maximum time allowed for answering the quiz questions is 30 minutes.

d) **Materials & Supplies:** (The registration ID Numbers shall be written on all pages of the answer sheets. Do not write participant’s name or any personal information including parish name on the official answer papers. Violation to this rule will disqualify the entry). The question and answer papers will be supplied by the Test Supervisor. The answers shall be written only on the official paper supplied. The participants are required to bring their own supplies, including pencils, pens, eraser etc. If the participant circles one answer and later changes his/her mind to choose another answer, the original circle shall be completely erased or a “void” should be written on the left side of the choice.

e) **Evaluation:** Total score varies for each group. 1 point per question. No partial scores.

3. Essay Writing

a) **Participants:** This category is open to all children from Group 4 - Group 7.

b) **Topics for Essay Writing:**

Group 4 - Grades 5 & 6: 5th Commandment (Exodus 20:12) Explain how God expects us to act towards our parents.
Group 5 - Grades 7 & 8: The importance of St. Mary in the Orthodox Church.

Group 6 - Grades 9 & 10: Explain why fasting is so important in the life of an Orthodox Christian.

Group 7 - Grades 11 & 12: But I say to you that for every idle word men speak, they will give account of in the Day of Judgment. By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned (St. Mathew 12:36-37). Explain how God attaches great importance to our speech.

c) **Time & Word Limitations**: Maximum time allowed for writing the essay is 30 minutes. The essay shall be a minimum of 100 words but there is no maximum word limit.

d) **Materials & Supplies**: (The registration ID Numbers shall be written on all pages of the answer sheets. Do not write participant’s name or any personal information including parish name on the official answer papers. Violation to this rule will disqualify the entry). The official paper to write the essay will be supplied by the Test Supervisor. The essay shall be written only on the official papers supplied. The participants are required to bring their own supplies, including pencil, pen, eraser etc. Additional sheets will be supplied, if required.

e) **Evaluation of the Essay**: 

I. **Introduction & Thesis**: Topic presentation; Introduction to position; Introduction of motive (10 points) 

II. **Content**: Content of essay and relevance to topic; Extent of research; Use of Scriptural/Patristic/Historical references and quotes; Maintain context (40 points)

III. **Conclusion**: Summarization of topic and position; Lasting impression on reader (10 points)

IV. **Language**: Diction, grammar & impressive style of writing (20 points)

V. **Overall Quality and Presentation**: Structure (Introduction, Body, Conclusion); Organization of various points and aspects; avoiding repetitions; engaging the reader; legible writing (20 points)

VI. **Total score** = 100 points

4. Story Writing

a) **Participants**: This category is open to all children from Group 4 - Group 7.

b) **Topics**:

**Group 4** – (Grade 5 & 6): **Theme**: Understanding that Christ is with us through our fears
Based on: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 22:4 OSB OR 23:4 in KJV Bible)
Group 5 – (Grade 7 & 8): Theme: God is mightier than we can comprehend
Based on: “But He said, ‘Things which are impossible with men are possible with God.’”
(St. Luke 18:27 OSB)

Group 6 – (Grade 9 & 10): Theme: Understanding the presence of God
Based on: “Fear not, for I am with you. Do not go astray, for I am your God who strengthens you; and I will help and secure you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10 OSB)

Group 7 – (Grade 11 & 12): Theme: Choosing the right path
Based on: “My son, do not envy evil men, neither desire to be with them.” (Proverbs 24:1 OSB)

c) **Time & Word Limitations:** Maximum time allowed for writing the story is 30 minutes. The story shall be a minimum of 100 words but there is no maximum word limit.

d) **Materials & Supplies:** (The registration ID Numbers shall be written on all pages of the answer sheets. Do not write participant’s name or any personal information including parish name on the official answer papers. Violation to this rule will disqualify the entry). The official papers to write the story will be supplied by the Test Supervisor. The story shall be written only on the official paper supplied. The participants are required to bring their own supplies, including pencil, pen, eraser etc. Additional sheets will be supplied, if required.

e) **Evaluation:**

I. **Structure:** Introduction, Body (Premise), Conclusion (15 points)

II. **Content:** Creativity, maintaining context, vividness of imagination, originality, flow of the story (35 points)

III. **Emotional impact:** Extent to which the story evokes an emotional response in the reader; vividness of portrayal of characters; level of engagement by reader (20 points)

IV. **Language:** Diction, grammar, impressive writing style (15 points)

V. **Overall Quality:** Presentation, measurement of how well the story makes the theme clear to the reader, legible writing (15 points)

VI. **Total score** = 100 points
5. Poetry Writing

a) Participants: This category is open to all the children from Group 4 - Group 7

b) Topics:

Group 4 (Grades 5&6): “I am setting my rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the Earth.” (Genesis 9: 13)

Group 5 (Grades 7&8): “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be merciful to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” (Numbers 6: 24 – 26)

Group 6 (Grades 9&10): “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15: 10)

Group 7 (Grades 11&12): “But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 18: 16)

c) Time & Word Limitations: Maximum time allowed for writing the poem is 30 minutes. The poem shall be a minimum of 50 words but there is no maximum word limit.

d) Materials & Supplies: (The registration ID Numbers shall be written on all pages of the answer sheets. Do not write participant’s name or any personal information including parish name on the official answer papers. Violation to this rule will disqualify the entry). The official papers to write the poem will be supplied by the Test Supervisor. The poem shall be written only on the official paper supplied. The participants are required to bring their own supplies, including pencil, pen, eraser etc. Additional sheets will be supplied, if required.

e) Evaluation:

I. Structure: Verse, stanzas, rhythm and rhyming patterns (25 points)

II. Content: Creativity, maintain context, vivid portrayal of the topic, smooth flow of words (30 points)

III. Emotional impact: Extent to which the poem evokes an emotional response in the reader; level of engagement by reader (15 points)

IV. Language: Diction, grammar, usage of metaphors, personifications (15 points)

V. Overall Quality: Presentation, legible writing, completion of the poem, creating a lasting impression on the reader (15 points)

VI. Total score = 100 points
This guideline is to be distributed to all Participants, Parents, Teachers, Principals, CWC Test Supervisors, Evaluators and all other individuals involved with the 2018 CWC. It is important for them to understand the requirements and how they are evaluated.

The general guideline and further procedures will be sent in a separate file and all the officials involved, including the Vicars and Principals, shall read and familiarize themselves with it.

As we enter in the midst of this year’s Centralized Written Competitions, let us work together in prayer and unity for His glory. Let us be encouragers to all the children so that they may use their God given talents for His purpose.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Sincerely,
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