The Department of Religious Education announces the first of three Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School programs as part of a curriculum written and field-tested by Rhonda Webb, Laura Morton, and Barbara Harris.

VCS is structured as a five-session, half-day program for children ages five to eleven (kindergarten to 5th grade). The authors also provide suggestions for adapting VCS to a parish’s needs, such as alternative schedules and age groupings.

The VCS Master Toolkit gives each church—of any size, on any budget—the resources and flexibility to plan, set up, and implement a successful program. The Director and Teacher Binders contain program manuals and reproducible forms and worksheets. Each binder also includes two CDs. The Data CD has printable publicity, classroom, and worship materials, along with logos and clip art for creating unique supplementary materials. The Music CD contains a variety of English hymns (in the Byzantine tradition) and original songs, in both vocal and instrumental sing-along versions.
This year, VCS explores the four Great Feasts of the Church dedicated to the Theotokos, focusing on the theme of “Traveling on the Ark of Salvation.” The robust program keeps children moving and engaged with the following components:

- Hymns and original songs
- Crafts
- Puppet theater
- Morning and afternoon prayer services
- Worship lessons
- Classroom lessons, activities, and memory verse
- Recreation and snack time
- Daily full-group assemblies and a closing program
- Spotlights on missions

**VCS Master Toolkit $79.95**

**Director Binder (with 1 Data CD and 1 Music CD)**
- Contains all materials for program planning, publicity, registration, staff selection and training, job descriptions, daily and weekly schedules, and curriculum implementation, as well as suggestions for decorations and craft suppliers
- Also includes all program-wide materials, such as group assembly outlines, puppet theater scripts, and music

**Teacher Binder (with 1 Data CD and 1 Music CD)**
- Contains all academic lessons, classroom activities, memory verses, crafts instructions, and music

**Supplementary Materials available from the DRE**

- Prayer Service Booklets (pack of 10) $11.95
- Student Classroom Booklets (pack of 10) $12.95
- Extra Director Binder (includes 1 Data CD and 1 Music CD) $49.95
- Extra Teacher Binder (includes 1 Data CD and 1 Music CD) $29.95
- Extra Music CD $10.95
- Extra Data CD $10.95

**Extras available for order from the VCS online store at CafePress**

- Adult and child shirts in a variety of colors and styles
- Tote bags
- Buttons
- Stickers
- Certificates
- Posters
- Signs

Greetings! We want to confirm in writing what we have already discussed concerning your involvement in our upcoming Vacation Church School program. As always, we are excited for your participation! For those of you who have not yet attended the training, the deadline for receiving registrations is [date]. After that date, registrations will only be accepted if space is available. If you have older children whom you would like to have participate in the program, please send in your registration & fee today! Please note that this is our only chance to come together, get acquainted with one another and with those of our community in a fun, memorable, engaging, and theologically sound manner. To that end, we have provided lessons, worship, activities, crafts, and a comprehensive administrative framework to ensure that the program can be readily implemented.

Following the completion of each of the three units, students should be able to:

- Actively participate in daily worship
- Sing catchy fun songs relating to the theme
- Recognize and sing hymns of the church
- Summarize each feast day in 1–2 sentences
- Display memorable craft projects that they have created
- Recall many enjoyable and fun interactions they have experienced with
- Discuss other countries where Orthodox Christian missionaries are at work
- Display their own work

Dear Vacation Church School Volunteer:

You have been asked to:

- Serve on the VCS staff as
- Attend!
- Teachers should plan to stay an extra hour and a half for more intensive classroom training.

Mark your calendars: Our training workshop is scheduled for [date]. We've attached a flyer with a registration form. If you have children who will be participating in the program, please send in your registration & fee today! Please note that the general orientation, which includes all staff, will take about one hour. The training workshop is an important event to attend!

Please call us if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great program. See you at our Training Workshop!