January 2, 2008

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you that the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will once again be held in our Church this coming March for all 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade Sunday School students. All 11th and 12th grade students may also participate, but it is voluntary at those two grade levels.

At a meeting for all parents and students (to be held on Sunday, January 13, after liturgy), the purpose of this worthwhile event will be explained. At this meeting, students will be receiving a list of topics and a registration form. Each participant must select a topic, fill out the registration form and submit it to NAME by Sunday, January 20. Research material will be given out the following Sunday, January 27.

Each student is to prepare a 3-5 minute speech and return it to their Sunday School teachers or NAME by Sunday, February 10. Each speech will be reviewed and returned with any corrections the following week. A practice session is planned for Saturday, March 8, at 11:30am in the church. The Oratorical Festival, itself, will take place after liturgy on Sunday, March 9.

We feel that the Oratorical Festival is an important component of the religious education of each Orthodox Christian student. In the words of St. Theophan the Recluse, "Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy." There is "no finer way to embark on such a worthwhile ministry," than to have our youth participate in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Sincerely,

Oratorical Festival Chairperson