

**FAMILY NOTES:** *To be copied and distributed to JOY parents.*

## **Family of Faith**

Today your child(ren) was introduced to our theme for the year, **People of Faith**. We learned about their **Family of Faith**, the Church. Through baptism and chrismation, we are connected to Christ and to each other. We have sent each child home with a Family Tree Project. Please help them complete the tree with any relatives which they may not remember. To find out a little about what they learned, ask them the following questions:

- How do we become members of the Family of Faith, the Church?
- What is the Genealogy of Christ?
- Who are the Church Militant and Triumphant?

## **Models of Faith**

The following are Family Models of Faith for September. Share their stories as a family. They may be found on the [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org) website on the Orthodox Calendar or [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) website under Feasts and Saints.

- Zacharias and Elizabeth (5)
- Synaxis of the Holy Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna (9)
- Demetrios, his wife Evanthia and their son Demetrian (11)
- Sophia and daughters Faith, Hope and Love (17)
- Eusthathius, his wife Theopiste and two children, Agapius and Theopistus (20)

## **Activity**

Sit down with your children and create a God-Family tree mapping out their godparents, god-siblings, and your god-children. Have them contact their godparents to find out who their godparents are and so on. Discuss with them how our Orthodox Christian Faith is passed down through families and god-families as well.

Have a family night where you watch your children's baptismal videos and or go through their baptismal photo album. If it is possible, have their Godparents over for dinner.

## **For Further Information**

The book *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home* is a wonderful reference for creating a home for a family of faith. There are a myriad traditional Orthodox practices for everyday and holidays which Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris describes in a user-friendly manner. It may be purchased at [www.light-n-life.com](http://www.light-n-life.com). You may also like to visit the Archdiocese Center for Family care at [www.familiaschurch.org](http://www.familiaschurch.org) for more resource on families. They have a variety of materials from table top prayer guides, to books to "Orthodox Observer" articles.