

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

BRINGING OUR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH MINISTRIES TO A CLOSE

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Angeliki Constantine

aconstantine@goarch.org

Educational Ministry Specialist

Department of Religious Education

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



WHAT CAN WE DO???

The end of the school year is approaching and you are not the only parish feeling unprepared...

Do you have:

- Limited resources
- Limited budget
- Limited interactions
- Limited EVERYTHING

What can you do to close the church school year in a time like this?



ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Things you can do:
 - Have your parish priest announce the name of each student at the end of Divine Liturgy on your parish's live-stream video
 - Send care packages to each student with items for the summer
 - Have teachers hand-write personal cards for each of their students
 - Mail gifts and Sunday Church School certificates to each student



HIGH SCHOOL AND GOYA



- Send care packages complete with items to help them grow in their faith over the summer
- Keep in touch virtually by having group zoom calls once a month during the summer
- Have virtual game nights to help everyone stay connected
- Start a virtual countdown for the start of Sunday Church school and GOYA in the Fall

GRADUATES

Things you can do to honor your parish graduates:

- Yard signs
- Distance parking lot parades for the grads
- Grads can wear caps and gowns and participate in a virtual Sunday Church School graduation open to the whole parish
- Create an “adopt a grad” program and have godparents or parishioners sign-up to send or drop off grad care packages
- Deliver care packages with gifts for the grads to take with them to their next destination (e.g., Bibles, Holy Week books, prayer books)
- Create a video and photo montage to be “viewed” together as a parish
 - Can be played at the end of a live-streamed service
 - Can be viewed together as a Facebook “viewing party” on the parish page
- Using the parish’s social media accounts, create posts highlighting each graduate



YARD SIGNS HONORING GRADUATES

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church
Jacksonville, Florida



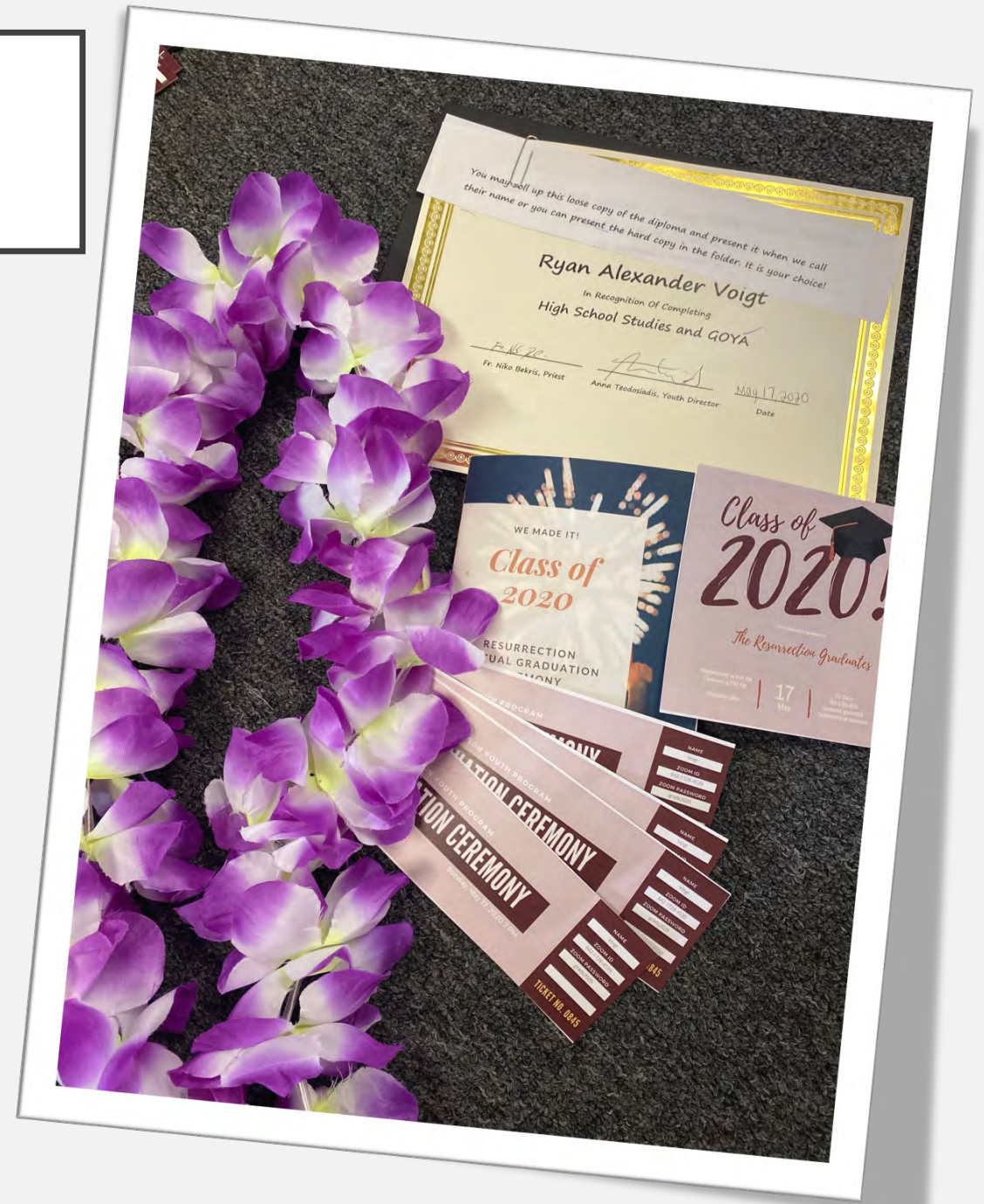
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Charlotte, North Carolina



HONORING GRADUATES

Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church
Castro Valley, California

- Young adult ministry group hosted a virtual graduation ceremony for the GOYA graduates
- Complete with caps, gowns, and diplomas!



TEACHERS AND MINISTRY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Some ideas:

- Send a small gift to each of your Sunday Church School or ministry leaders
- Give a gift card from a local coffee shop
- Hand-write personalized thank you letters
- Have your parish priest announce the names of the volunteers on the parish live-stream



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Home > Shop by Occasion > Graduation > Gifts > Gifts Under \$5

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Bookmark
\$3.99

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Archangel Gabriel
Magnet
\$3.75

CB245
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\$4.95

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Bookmark
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\$3.95

GIF601
Christ the Teacher Auto
Visor Clip
\$4.50

GIF012
Christ the Teacher
Magnet (round)
\$3.75

GIF600
Cross Auto Visor Clip
\$4.50

GIF010
Deisis Magnet (Arched)
\$3.75

CB608
God Cares for Me -
Coloring Book
\$7.95

CR621
Gospel Fun, 1, 2, 3 and 4
\$0.95

CR620
Gospel Fun: Jesus and
Me
\$0.95

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU

Keep in mind that in order to save money, you might need to spend a little bit more time!

- Assess your parish's capabilities and limitations
- Follow the guidelines of your state and metropolis
- Create a budget
- Come up with a plan
- Come up with a backup plan
- Meet with your priest and other ministry leaders to collaborate
- Work together to make sure each student of your parish feels special and honored as a member of your church family!



THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS HERE TO HELP

Reach out to the DRE for your parish educational needs:

(800) 566-1088

religioused@goarch.org

www.religioused.goarch.org

www.orthodoxmarketplace.com



**GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
50 GODDARD AVENUE, BROOKLINE, MA 02445

The mission of the Department of Religious Education is to serve the parishes and metropolises of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by providing materials and services that will advance their programs of religious education.