

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

2022 TOPICS

Junior Division (grades 7-9)

1. Share what you learned about yourself after a “technology fast” of at least 21 days. What can we learn about our relationship to God and the world by fasting?
2. In our personal prayer and liturgy, we usually make requests of God. Discuss why we make these petitions and how God fulfills them.
3. Choose a saint whose life has been important to you or your family. Discuss what you find most inspiring about this saint and what others can learn from how they lived their life.
4. Discuss how you would share your Orthodox Christian faith with a visitor to your parish.
5. Discuss your favorite Church service of the year and why it is meaningful to you.

Senior Division (grades 10-12)

1. Discuss the significance of Orthodox iconography (historically, symbolically and/or artistically) and how icons enhance our worship.
2. From the earliest days, Christian worship has been community-based, not only solitary, and Christians formed communities where the members learned from and took care of one another. Why is it important to be part of a Church community, and how is this relevant today?
3. The Orthodox faithful pray to the saints for physical healing and we have examples of saints like Cosmas and Damian who were doctors. What does this teach us about the Orthodox perspective on faith, health, and medicine?
4. Discuss ways that a young person can respond to God’s call to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and one’s neighbor as oneself (see Luke 10:27).
5. In every Church service, we pray for “peace in the world,” usually many times. Yet, war and violence persist. What is the Orthodox Christian approach to war and violence?