

Praxis Session Ten: Glory to God for All Things!

Main Ideas: *Giving Thanks through prayer.*

This should be used as a family session. It is also suggested that this be the final session with your youth.

Supplies needed:

- Copies of Akathist Glory to God for All Things- <http://ww1.antiochian.org/orthodox-prayers/akathist-of-thanksgiving>
- Copies of Scripture Verse – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV) ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Snack size packets of Skittles.
- Copies of Thankfulness Exchange Cards



Prior to the service, begin with an introduction.

Remind youth that we have spent our year learning how to pray without ceasing. Pass out the scripture verse from 1 Thessalonians. Ask the youth what they have learned. Allow time for discussion. Ask them what has helped them the most in their prayer life.

In this very short passage, St. Paul gives us the three main reminders about prayer – “rejoice always,” “without ceasing,” and “give thanks.” Our prayer life should be joyful. We should be mindful of God through prayer at all times. Be thankful for everything! (referenced from Orthodox Study Bible).

Today we are going to do all three – rejoice together through praying together; praying together and learn an akathist that we may use at any time; and being thankful for all God has given us, especially our year together.

Explain that the group will do an activity before the akathist so that we can take a little time to talk about some things in our life for which we are thankful.

Handout the Skittles packets with the Thankfulness Exchange cards. Have each person pick two skittles from their pack. These will be the colors that correspond with their card. Take turns sharing based on the color-coded categories on the cards..

When complete, have everyone clean up and prepare for the Akathist. You may want to take time to review the melody for the Akathist verses.

Alternate Activity: Instead of the Thanksgiving Exchange, you could create a Thankfulness Tree. Use brown paper to create the silhouette of a tree on one of your walls. Have colored paper in various greens or fall colors. Have each person make an outline of their hand on a piece of paper. Have them cut it out and then write on their cutout – their name and something they are thankful for. They can then hang their “hand-leaf” somewhere on the tree. Allow everyone time to read the completed leaves. This could be placed in your parish hall. Leave extra Hand-leaves or paper/scissors for parishioners to add their thankfulness to the tree. Following the Akathist, you could ask each person to make a second leaf with their favorite verse of thanksgiving from the service.



THANKFUL FOR...

Red - something about your parents.....

Green - something about your siblings.....

Yellow - something you love to do with your family..

Orange - an ability that God had given you....

Purple - something about your parish...

GLORY TO YOU FOR ALL THINGS



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