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Book Substitutions and Recommendations; Combining AO With Other Curricula/RE: Orthodox Hymn Study... 04-09-2017, 12:26 PM

#31

I was looking at the AO hymn page today and learned something I hadn't realized before - there is only one hymn scheduled per month. So if that same approach is taken with Orthodox hymns then, theoretically, a family could take most of the major hymns used throughout the year and spread them out over 12 years of school, learning 1 per month without too much pressure. I don't exactly know how this would work out with families as more and more children are added to the mix as the years go by. More than likely many of these will be learned simply by regular attendance on Sundays and feast days throughout the year. But if one were looking for a systematic way to be sure to learn most of the major hymns this is how I'd do it:

Year 1: Learn the troparion for each of the 12 major feasts and of course Christ is Risen. You could do each troparion in the month in which the feast is celebrated. So for new calendar folks that would be:

January: troparion of Theophany

February: troparion of the Presentation of Christ

March: Annunciation

April: Christ is Risen

May: Ascension

June: Pentecost

July: Transfiguration (since there's no other major feast and the feast will be coming up in the beginning of August)

August: Dormition of the Theotokos

September: Nativity of the Theotokos

October: again no major feast this month so you could do the Troparion for the Elevation of the Cross here so as not to double up

November: Entrance of the Theotokos

December: Nativity

Year 2 (again 1 hymn per month):

The 8 resurrectional troparia plus the troparia for each day of the week:

Monday: the angels

Tuesday: St. John the Baptist

Wednesday and Friday: The Cross

Thursday: St. Nicholas and the Apostles

Y3: the 8 kontakia for the resurrection along with hymns to the Theotokos and St John the Baptist

Rejoice O Virgin

O Baptizer of Christ

Beneath Thy Compassion

Y4: the Canon or Katavasia for the Theotokos. Since there are 9 odes you could take 9 months and learn just the first verse (I know there's another name than verse here, but I'm blank right now). The other 3 months of this year you could learn the Kontakia for Lent and Advent (To Thee the Champion and Today the Virgin Cometh Unto the Cave) along with the Kontakion typically sung during the rest of the year - O Undisputed Intercessor of Christians. Also More Honorable Than the Cherubim along with the verses of the Magnificat (My soul magnifies the Lord, etc)

Y5: 9 months learning the odes of the Paschal Canon plus Let God Arise, The Angel Cried and At the Beauty of Thy Virginity

Y6: 9 months learning the odes of the Canon for the Nativity plus Who is So Great a God as Our God, Behold the Bridegroom and I See Thy Bridal Chamber Adorned O My Savior

Y7: 9 months learning the odes for the Canon of the Cross plus the Lenten Troparia (Open to Me the Doors of Repentance, etc)

Y8: 9 months learning the odes of the Canon of the Paraklesis plus O Pure Virgin

Y9: 9 months learning the Canon for the Presentation of Christ. Also maybe the troparia for the patron saints of family members.

Y10: Troparia for Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Today He is Suspended on a Tree, Today is Born of a Virgin. Plus begin learning the first of the 3 sets of Lamentations for Holy Friday.

Y11: Second set of Lamentations

Y12: Third set of Lamentations

Those in OCA parishes may not be as familiar with the canons because they are sung during Matins and from what I understand OCA parishes don't typically do Matins (is that right?). I think they're worth knowing though. Of course any family can change and adapt this list to include hymns that they

don't want to miss, and I'm sure I've left out plenty that I ought to have remembered and included. The music itself you'd want to get from your own parish choir director/chanter or priest as there are so many translations and settings that vary from parish to parish.

I hope that's helpful to some of you. I hope you all have a blessed Holy Week and Joyous Pascha!

~Lisa
Orthodox Christian mom to 5
my blog: [Through the Mind to the Heart](#)

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