

2021 Essay Contest Topics

Category A/Kindergarten: The Prokimen in the 3rd Tone says “Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!” Draw a picture of your church choir singing praises to our God.

Category B/Grades 1 and 2: At the end of Liturgy the priest says a prayer that includes: “For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from Thee, the Father of Lights...” Draw a picture and write 2 to 5 sentences showing and telling us, what good gifts you have received from God.

Category C/Grades 3 and 4: In the Lord’s Prayer we say: “...and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...” Write 50 to 100 words on why it is so important that we forgive those that trespass against us.

Category D/Grades 5 and 6: The First Antiphon, as sung on the major Feast Days of our Church, includes the refrain: “Through the prayer of the Theotokos, O Savior save us.” Why do you think it is important for us to pray to Theotokos to ask Her to pray for us? Write 125 or more words explaining your answer.

Category E/Grades 7 and 8: During the Great Litany, the Priest or Deacon prays for “Our God-loving and God-protected Country, America, for the government and for the Armed Forces and for our God-loving and God-protected homeland Ukraine.” Write 150 or more explaining why it is important to do this and pray for the country.

Category F/Grades 9 and 10: During the Great Litany, the Priest or Deacon prays, “For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.” Write 200 words or more on what this means to you.

Category G/Grades 11 and 12: On the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Kondak/Kontakion says: “Let us flee from the Pride of the Pharisee and learn humility from the Publican’s tears.” Write 250 words or more explaining how it is so difficult for people living today to follow these words of our Lord.

Category H/Adults: During the Supplicating Litany, the Priest or Deacon says: “A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgement seat of Christ...” What does this phrase mean to you and have you ever thought about how your own preparation for a Christian ending and the dread judgement seat of Christ? Write 500 words or more sharing your thoughts.