



The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate
DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Carole A. Buleza, Director

May 27, 2020

Staff Members

V. Reverend George Alberts
Diocese of Oakland,
Charleston, and the
Mid-Atlantic
Diocese of New York and
Washington, DC

Mr. Robert Snyder
Diocese of Toledo and the
Midwest

Rev. Christopher Rigden-
Briscall
Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern
Canada and Upstate
New York

Mrs. Anne Beach
Diocese of Eagle River and
the Northwest

Deacon Elisha Long and
Kb. Gigi Shadid
Diocese of Wichita and
Mid-America

(Carole Buleza)
Diocese of Los Angeles and
the West

Kb. Anna Timko-Hughes
Diocese of Worcester and
New England

Mrs. Anna-Sarah Farba
Diocese of Miami and the
Southeast

Kb. Gail Meena
Associate

Mrs. Sandy Mitchell
Associate

Dear Church School Students,

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Have you missed seeing your friends and relatives during the last several weeks? One way to remember that we are still all together is to look at the sky. We are together under the same sun and we look up at the same moon. A website, Sky Day Project, has been created for people to share photos of the sky, and the Antiochian Department of Christian Education has its own special gallery for you to upload photos and see one another's sky views.

God is together with all of us, and we can remember that we are together with one another when we look at our gallery of sky photos. We look forward to viewing photos knowing they may have been uploaded by students from Montreal to San Diego, Eagle River (AK) to Miami, Houston to Saskatchewan and everywhere in between. Let's see how many we can get in our gallery by June 14!! You can upload after that and as often as you would like.

Directions:

Sky Photos. Take a photo of a day or night sky. Crop it so that only the sky shows—the site will not accept photos containing horizons, trees, structures, etc.

Upload Instructions. Go to <http://skydayproject.org/>. Select "Refine Gallery" and search for the gallery named *Antiochian Orthodox Church Schools of North America*. Upload your photos to the gallery. (Every post is examined for appropriateness before appearing in the Sky Gallery, so there can be a delay between uploading a photo and seeing it posted in the gallery.)

Although at present we may not be able to gather at our camps, or even our churches, we are still one in our Archdiocese, and living under one sky. Take a moment to think about that, snap a photo of the sky, and share it with all of us.

In the Risen Lord,

Carole A. Buleza, Director
Department of Christian Education

A Sky Lesson (with Photo and Uploading Instructions)

Materials: Bible, dictionary, camera or smart device with photo capabilities

Personal computer or smart device to upload photos

Prayer: Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Heavenly Father, Who created the heavens and the earth, the sun, moon, stars, mountains, rivers, and us, Your children,

You know our hearts, our weaknesses, our trouble. We pray to You to have mercy on Your creation and to grant peace to your world. Help us endure this pandemic. Heal those who are sick and give strength to all those who are working hard to help others. Give us Your grace so that we might be together in one Spirit as we look to the same sky. We offer thanks to You, O God, our Father, and to Your only Son, Jesus Christ, and Your Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer provided by The Very Reverend Fouad Saba

1. *Read:* Genesis Chapter 1
2. *Discuss:* Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven for illumination to divide day from night. Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth. It was so." Genesis 1:14-15 (Orthodox Study Bible)
3. *Vocabulary Word:* Students will look up the definition of "**firmament**" and then reread the above passage with a new understanding.
4. *Photo:* Take your camera outside on a beautiful day. Look up and think about all of us looking up at the same sky. No matter where we are, we are all looking to the same heavens, the same moon, the same sun, and the same Creator. Take some shots of your unique sky. Crop so there is nothing but sky in the photo.
5. *Upload:* Go to <http://skydayproject.org/>. Select "Refine Gallery" and search for the gallery named *Antiochian Orthodox Church Schools of North America*. Upload your photos to the gallery. (Every post is examined for appropriateness before appearing in the Sky Gallery, so there can be a delay between uploading a photo and seeing it posted in the gallery.)
6. *Gallery:* Visit the gallery often as more and more church school students add their photos. Let us recite the prayer together as we look up at the sky each day. (Above)

Extension Activities

1. *Coloring page:* Icon of The Lord Jesus with the light of the firmament.
"The day is Yours, and the night is Yours; You created the light and the sun." (Psalm 74:16)
"Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him all you stars and light." (Psalm 148:3)
2. *Reflection:* Take time to study and color the icon after reading this passage on Creation from the Orthodox Study Bible, page 2. "The ever-existent Almighty God was not forced to create the universe. Rather, in His goodness and lovingkindness, He freely chose to do so."
Additional Reading for Upper Grade Levels (continuation of the above passage):
"And the fact that the Lord created the universe out of nothing stands in clear contrast to the creation myths of the surrounding cultures in the ancient world. The central role of Jesus Christ, the Word of the Father, in the creation of all things is plainly stated in the first chapter of the Apostle John's gospel, where it is written, 'In the beginning was the Word,...All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.' And the specific role of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Undivided Trinity, in the creation of the world is seen in Genesis 1:2."

3. *STEM experiment: Why is the sky blue?*

What you will need:

- A clear, straight-sided drinking glass, or clear plastic or glass jar
- Water, milk, measuring spoons, flashlight
- A darkened room

What to do:

- Fill the glass or jar about 2/3 full of water (about 8 - 12 oz. or 250 - 400 ml).
- Add 1/2 to 1 teaspoon (2 - 5 ml) milk and stir.
- Take the glass and flashlight into a darkened room.
- Hold the flashlight above the surface of the water and observe the water in the glass from the side. It should have a slight bluish tint. Now, hold the flashlight to the side of the glass and look through the water directly at the light. The water should have a slightly reddish tint. Put the flashlight under the glass and look down into the water from the top. It should have a deeper reddish tint.

What happened:

The small particles of milk suspended in the water scattered the light from the flashlight, like the dust particles and molecules in the air scatter sunlight. When the light shines in the top of the glass, the water looks blue because you see blue light scattered to the side. When you look through the water directly at the light, it appears red (like a sunset or sunrise) because some of the blue was removed by scattering.

Used with permission from https://www.sciencemadesimple.com/blue_sky_science_projects.html

