

In the past we have not made a huge issue of having parents and others sit in the hall when church services were going on, but Fr. Ghevond, together with the Parish Council, and in following orders from the Diocese in New York, cannot allow parents and others to sit in the hall when church services are going on.

It is a distraction to the students, to the teachers and to the Women's Guild. This is not a punishment by any means, but a way to help teach our children the importance of church by having the parents participate in the Divine Liturgy. Parents should be present, listening to the sermon and then explain and discuss what they have learned to their kids while, at the same time, asking and discussing what the children learned in school.

If parents do not understand what is going on in church, they must approach Der Hayr and not be afraid to ASK QUESTIONS. Der Hayr will be more than happy to explain why we do what we do and can even incorporate their questions into his sermons. Allowing the children to see their parents in church will teach the children the importance of church, the significance of God, and the meaning of community in their lives.

To ensure that the directive of the Diocese and the wishes of Der Hayr and the Parish Council are fulfilled, we will have the doors locked during church services, as a friendly reminder to all parents and others that the church doors are always open and they should enter through them.

If little children are an issue, Der Hayr will not be distracted by noisy children, in fact he encourages them to be present. Parents are encouraged to walk around the sanctuary with little children, showing and teaching them through the icons on the walls. If any parishioner makes a face, says something, or tells a parent with a child to leave the sanctuary, please inform Der Hayr immediately and he will address the issue.

*For there is nothing more sweet than a child's voice in the House of God.*

We look forward to worshipping with you every Sunday!!