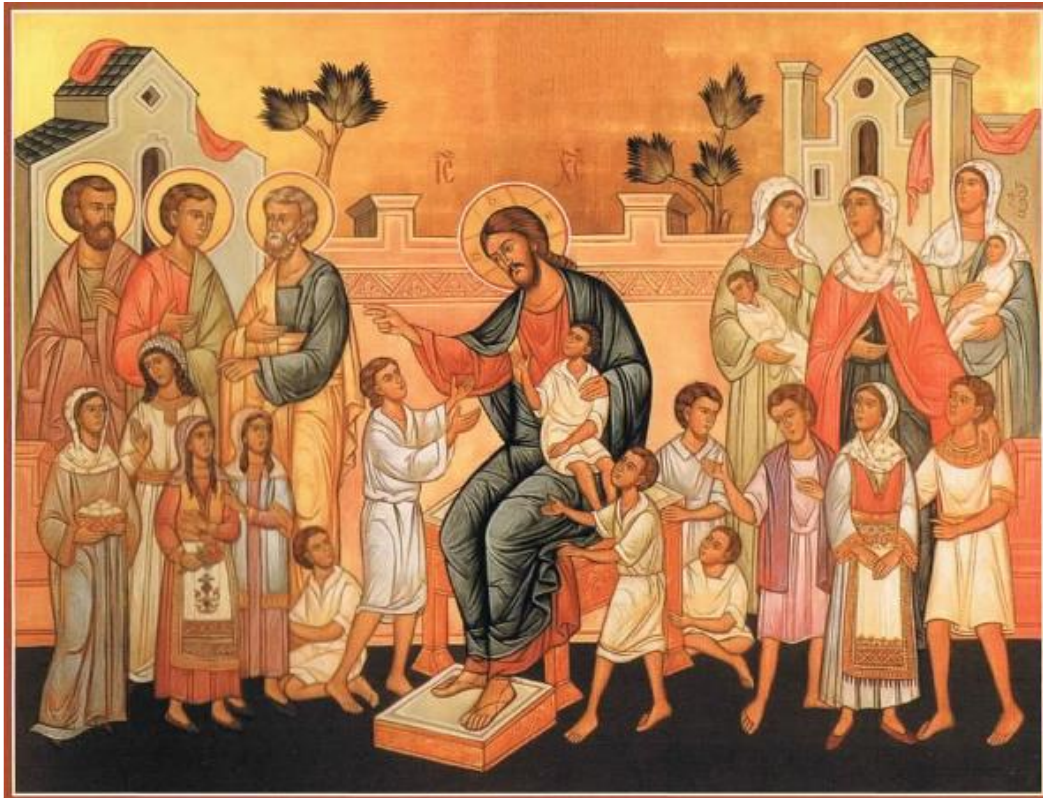




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2023

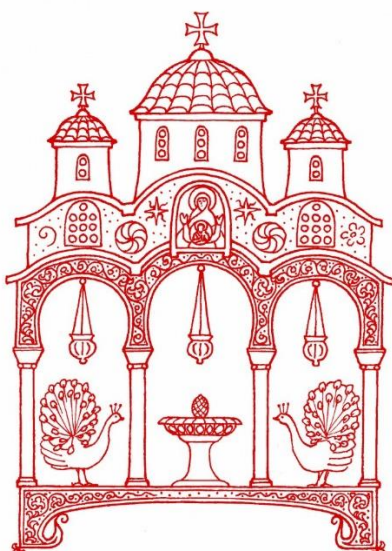
REVISED DECEMBER 2022

PRAYER OF THE CATECHIST



O Christ the true light, enlightening and sanctifying every person who comes into the world. Let the light of Your countenance shine on us, that in it we may behold the indescribable light. Guide our footsteps aright in keeping Your commandments. Through the intercessions of Your all-pure Mother and of all the saints. Amen.

GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM 2020



The purpose of this document is to outline the curriculum content for Greek Orthodox special religious education to the general public. It is a requirement of the Department of Education in New South Wales.

This is an outline of the 2023 program but the entire program comprises almost 300 lessons from Kindergarten to Year 6 and over 140 lessons for high school. The special religious education program endeavours to cover the key aspects of our Orthodox faith.

Aims and Goals

The program is designed to support the educational aims of public education for Orthodox Christian students, namely:

- To complement the existing curriculum with specific knowledge, skills or attitudes;
- To provide instruction in a specialised area (i.e., related to the Greek Orthodox faith); and
- To develop interest in religion as a discipline or field of study in its own right

There are five broad social goals:

- To promote the individual freedom of the child;
- To create an attitude of religious tolerance in the school;
- To accept everyone of all faiths;
- To reinforce the human right to religion; and
- To establish religiousness as an aspect of positive citizenship

There are five broad spiritual goals:

- To establish the importance of the human soul;
- To recognise that life is a great gift;
- To promote the happiness of the child;
- To foster the value of a religious outlook on life; and
- To encourage a sacramental life in children

Topics and Learning Outcomes

This document outlines the lesson content or topic for the 2023 Infants, 2023 Primary and 2023 High School stages. A more detailed curriculum including topic, aims and learning outcomes has been prepared and is available through sregreekorthodox@gmail.com

The Infants and Primary lessons are accompanied by a series of workbooks produced by the Pantanassa Monastery. Use of these workbooks is optional. For further details <https://pantanassamonastery.org/scripture-lessons/>



Emphasis

The emphasis in this curriculum is spiritual. It is not merely a matter of acquiring knowledge or facts as in some other school subjects. Religion is entirely different. Nor is it merely a course on ethics.

There is an emphasis on the individual freedom of the learner to absorb whatever they can at this stage in their religious development. The emphasis is on developing a Christian Orthodox identity.

Features and Content

Religious instruction cannot always be provided thoroughly in the home. Some features of the overall curriculum that are worthy of attention are:

- The program offers an educational scaffold for learners
- The program is multivariate in content
- The content of the units is timeless in its relevance
- The topic of each unit is actually applicable to people of all ages
- The program is descriptive
- The content of the units allows for increases in complexity across the ages

Finally, the general content falls under seven broad headings:

- Church (includes history of the church, vestments of the priest)
- Worship (includes the Divine Liturgy, prayers)
- Saints
- Our behaviour
- Feasts
- Christ (includes the life of Christ, parables and events in the New Testament)
- Old Testament

TOPICS FOR INFANTS STAGE 1 2023

| |
|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Agiasmos</i> in our homes |
| 2. Saint Philothea |
| 3. Do not say Lies |
| 4. Sunday of Orthodoxy |
| 5. All the Children of the World |
| 6. On Sunday we go to Church |
| 7. Our Prayers to Panagia |
| 8. The Last Supper |
| 9. Easter |
| 10. My Name Day |
| 11. Adam and Eve |
| 12. Honour your Father and Mother |
| 13. Moses |
| 14. The Holy Liturgy |
| 15. The Feast Day of our Parish |
| 16. Do not Steal |
| 17. The Holy Vestments |
| 18. The Birth of Saint John the Baptist |
| 19. Saints Peter and Paul |
| 20. The Prophoro |
| 21. Saint Panteleimon |
| 22. Do not be Jealous |
| 23. Panagia |
| 24. Prayer Before a Meal |
| 25. David and Goliath |
| 26. Keep Sunday Holy |
| 27. My Grandfather |
| 28. The Holy Cross |
| 29. The Monastery |
| 30. Esther |
| 31. The Forty-Day Blessing |
| 32. Zacchaeus |
| 33. The Holy Bible |
| 34. Saint Nectarios |
| 35. God Calls Samuel |
| 36. Saint Katherine |
| 37. The Three Wise Men |

Notes

This program is correct at the time of publication and will be updated as required.

The description "Stage 1" is different from the use of the phrase in the Department of Education.

that dates and timing of lessons will vary from school to school depending upon timetables and lesson arrangements and the ecclesiastical calendar.

TOPICS FOR PRIMARY STAGE 2 2023

| |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1.The Three Hierarchs |
| 2.The Ten Lepers |
| 3.Holy Confession |
| 4.The Second Coming |
| 5.Satan Tempts the Lord Jesus Three Times |
| 6.The Church during Turkish rule |
| 7.The Parable of the Ten Maidens |
| 8.GOOD FRIDAY |
| 9.EASTER |
| 10.The Parable of the Great Feast |
| 11The Rich Young Man |
| 12.The Parable of the Mustard Seed |
| 13.The Apostle Peter |
| 14.The Apostle Paul |
| 15.God Cares for Us |
| 16. Paul's First Journey |
| 17.Paul in Greece |
| 18.Paul's Third Journey |
| 19. The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ |
| 20.Panagia |
| 21.St John the Baptist |
| 22.The Age of Martyrs |
| 23.Elevation of the Holy Cross |
| 24.Saint John the Evangelist |
| 25.The First Martyr |
| 26.The Lord Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant |
| 27.The New Martyrs |
| 28.The First Disciples are Called |
| 29.Our Lord Jesus Christ Walks on the Sea |
| 30.The Parable of the Sower |
| 31.Orthodox Mission Work |
| 32.The Feeding of the Five Thousand |
| 33.The Clergy |
| 34.The Bishop |
| 35.Our Lord Jesus Straightens the Bowed Woman |
| 36.The Shepherds |
| 37.The Three Wise Men |

Notes

This program is correct at the time of publication and will be updated as required.

The description "Stage 2" is different from the use of the phrase in the Department of Education.

that dates and timing of lessons will vary from school to school depending upon timetables and lesson arrangements and the ecclesiastical calendar.

TOPICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 4 2023

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Introduction to the History of our Church |
| 2 The Canaanite Woman |
| 3 The Triodion |
| 4 The Prodigal Son |
| 5 St Moses the Ethiopian |
| 6 Great Lent |
| 7 Sunday of Orthodoxy |
| 8 The Feast of the Annunciation |
| 9 The Holy Cross |
| 10 Craft – Easter Kolouria/Red eggs |
| 11 Easter |
| 12 Thomas Sunday |
| 13 The Myrrh Bearing Women |
| 14 Saint Constantine |
| 15 The Samaritan Woman |
| 16 Pentecost |
| 17 The Early Church in Jerusalem |
| 18 St Peter in the early church |
| 19 St Paul’s Journeys |
| 20 The Age of Martyrs |
| 21 The First Ecumenical Council |
| 22 Early Monasticism |
| 23 The Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| 24 Panagia |
| 25 The 2 nd -7 th Ecumenical Council |
| 26 Saint John the Baptist |
| 27 Conversion of the Slavs |
| 28 Elevation of the Holy Cross |
| 29 The Great Schism |
| 30, St John the Theologian |
| 31 Fall of Constantinople |
| 32 The Russian revolution and the Church |
| 33 The Asia Minor Catastrophe |
| 34 Orthodox missions around the world |
| 35 Orthodoxy in Australia |
| 36 Monasticism today |
| 37 St Katherine |
| 38 Craft -Bookmark |
| 39. Recent saints of our Church |
| 40. Christmas |

Notes

This program is correct at the time of publication and will be updated as required.

The description “Stage 2” is different from the use of the phrase in the Department of Education.

that dates and timing of lessons will vary from school to school depending upon timetables and lesson arrangements and the ecclesiastical calendar.

A curriculum where regular weekly access is not available

For 2022 a draft abbreviation of the full high school curriculum has been developed in those instances where weekly access is not available in a high school. Special religious education may be scheduled for only once a term or even less. In those instances it is impractical to deliver the standard schedule of lessons in its normal sequence.

An attempt has been made to provide an all-purpose and inclusive curriculum that over a period of years will cover the essential details for Greek Orthodox Special Religious Education. For ease of reference this has been titled "A restricted curriculum". The draft curriculum is divided into four problem-solving units with 17 topics:

- How does one become an Orthodox Christian?
- What is the purpose of becoming an Orthodox Christian?
- How does an Orthodox Christian become a living member of the Church?
- What is the role of the saints, sainthood as the result of the life of the Church?

Problem solving Unit 1: How does one become an Orthodox Christian?

| Date | Topics |
|------|-------------------------|
| | Baptism and Chrismation |
| | The Cross |
| | The Creed |

Problem solving Unit 2: What is the purpose of becoming an Orthodox Christian?

| Date | Topics |
|------|-------------------------------|
| | An Orthodox Christian |
| | The Church |
| | Relating to Christ |
| | A living member of the Church |

Problem solving Unit 3: How does an Orthodox Christian become a living member of the Church?

| Date | Topics |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|
| | The Holy Trinity - Holy Tradition of the Church |
| | Prayer |
| | Commandments of God |
| | Worship- Divine Liturgy |
| | Holy Sacraments |
| | Ascesis |
| | Good deeds |
| | Reading |

Problem solving Unit 4: What is the role of the saints, sainthood as the result of the life of the Church?

| Date | Topics |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | The Saints throughout the centuries |
| | The common characteristics in the lives of the Saints The lessons we learn from the lives of the Saints |

MOVABLE ECCLESIASTICAL DATES 2023

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| Lent begins | 27 February | Holy (Good) Friday | 14 April |
| Meat Fare Sunday | 19 February | Orthodox Pascha | 16 April |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy | 5 March | Ascension | 25 May |
| Saturday of Lazarus | 8 April | Pentecost | 4 June |
| Palm Sunday | 9 April | All Saints | 11 June |

MAJOR GREEK ORTHODOX HOLY DAYS

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 1 | Circumcision of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ |
| January 6 | The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ |
| January 7 | Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner |
| January 17 | Anthony the Great |
| January 19 | Makarios the Great of Egypt |
| January 30 | The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom |
| February 2 | The Presentation of Our Lord and Saviour in the Temple |
| February 6 | Photius the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople |
| February 10 | St Haralambos the Martyr |
| February 17 | St Theodore |
| March 25 | Annunciation of the Theotokos |
| April 23 | St George |
| May 21 | Constantine and Helen Equal to the Apostles |
| June 11 | Bartholomew the Holy Apostle |
| June 29 | Sts Peter and Paul the Holy Apostles |
| July 20 | The Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) |
| July 23 | Ezekiel the Prophet |
| July 27 | Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer |
| August 6 | Transfiguration of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ |
| August 15 | The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary |
| September 1 | Ecclesiastical New Year |
| September 8 | The Nativity of the Theotokos |
| September 9 | The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna |
| September 14 | The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross |
| October 18 | Luke the Evangelist |
| October 23 | Iakovos the Apostle |
| October 26 | The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer |
| October 28 | The Holy Protection of the Theotokos |
| November 1 | Cosmas and Damianos the Holy Unmercenarys of Asia, and their mother Theodota |
| November 8 | Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachie |
| November 13 | John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople |
| November 16 | Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist |
| November 21 | The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple |
| November 25 | Catherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria |
| November 26 | St Stylianos |
| November 30 | Andrew the First- Called Apostle |
| December 4 | Barbara the Great Martyr |
| December 6 | Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra |
| December 12 | Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous |
| December 25 | The Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ |
| December 27 | Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr |

