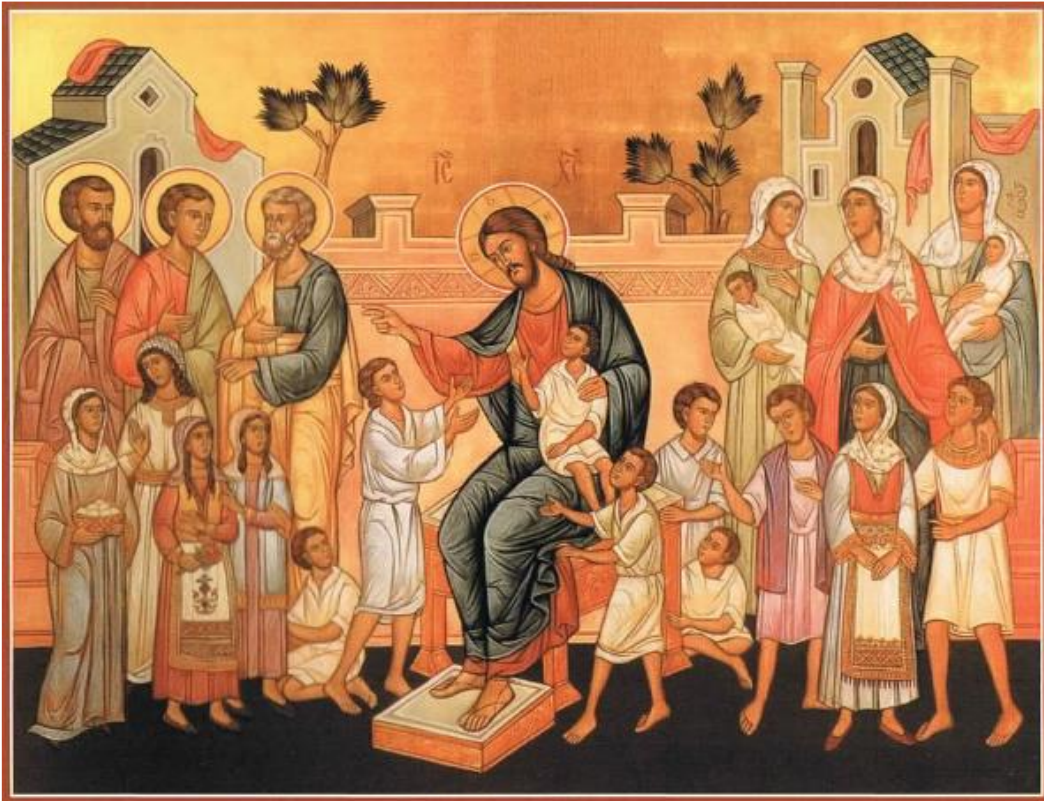




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2024

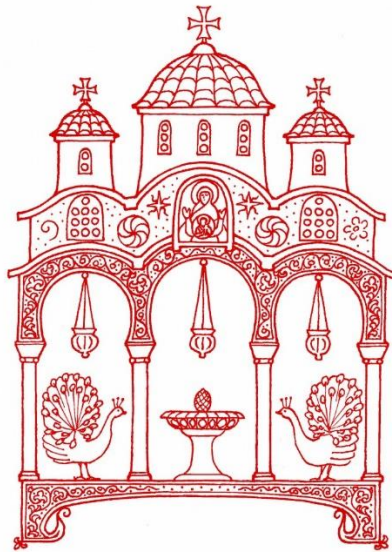
REVISED JANUARY 2024

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 segreekorthodox@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 2 2024

1.First Day – “Agiastos”
2.Saint Haralambos
3.The Lord’s Prayer
4.Our Lord Jesus Christ and Children
5.Icons
6.Gods Beautiful World
7.The Archangel Gabriel Visits Mary
8.Sunday School has Begun
9.Our Father in Heaven
10.Easter
11.St George
12.Mother’s Day
13.Joseph and his Brothers
14.Making the Sign of the Cross
15.“Hallowed be your Name, Your Kingdom Come”
16.Our Church
17.Thank You
18.Noah’s Ark
19.St Peter
20.Our Priest
21.“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”
22.Joachim and Anna
23.A Sick Little Girl
24.Fasting
25.Panagia
26.“Give us today our daily bread”
27.David the Shepherd Boy
28.My Father
29.The Cross
30.Saint Sophia and her Three Daughters
31.Praying to God
32.And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who...”
33.Daniel
34.St Demetrios
35.Our Archbishop
36.Our Guardian Angel
37.“And lead us not into temptation”
38, The Shepherds

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.

Note 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 3 2024

1. God creates the world
2. Sunday of Meat-Fare
3. Great Lent
4. The Vestments of the Clergy Deacon
5. Adam and Eve are Sent out of Paradise
6. Give us this Day our Daily Bread
7. The Holy Liturgy No. 1
8. Holy Week
9. The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10. Feasts after Easter – Sunday of the Apostle Thomas
11. Jacob and Esau
12. But Deliver us from Evil
13. The Weekly Cycle
14. Joseph Sold by his Brothers
15. Feasts after Easter – The Ascension
16. Your Kingdom Come
17. Feasts after Easter – Sunday of All Saints
18. The Holy Apostles
19. St Marina
20. The Parable of the Good Shepherd
21. Ruth
22. The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
23. Panagia, The Mother of God
24. The Holy Liturgy 2
25. Samuel
26. St John the Baptist
27. David and Goliath
28. King David
29. The Holy Liturgy 3 – The Trisagion Hymn, The Readings
30. St Gerasimos
31. St Demetrios
32. Good and Bad Angels
33. Solomon
34. St Katherine
35. The Holy Liturgy 4 – The Holy Offering
36. The Prophet Isaiah
37. The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

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.

Note 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 1 2024

1. The Presentation of our Lord
2. The Parable of the Talents and the New Year
3. The Older Son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son
4. Sunday of the Last Judgement
5. Adam and Eve exiled from Paradise
6. Sunday of Orthodoxy
7. Danial and the Three Youths
8. Forgiveness and the Holy Cross
9. Our Goal in life and St John of the Ladder
10. Great and Holy Week
11. Easter
12. St John Chrysostom and the Easter Sermon
13. The Liturgy Part 1
14. Sunday of the Blind Man
15. Noah's Ark
16. Pentecost
17. Feast of All Saints
18. Divine Liturgy Part 2
19. Apostle Peter and Paul
20. The Prophet Elijah
21. St Paraskevi
22. The Divine Liturgy Part 3
23. The Paraklesis Service
24. Dormition of the Theotokos
25. St Kosmas Aitolos
26. The Parable of the Two Builders
27. The Birth of the Mother of God
28. The Parable of the Rich Fool
29. The Divine Liturgy Part 4
30 Saint John the Theologian
31. The Divine Liturgy Part 5
32. Righteous Job
33. The Story of Esther
34. St Nektarios
35. The Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple
36. The Divine Liturgy Part 6
37. St Nicholas
38 The Feast of the Nativity

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.

Note 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 2024 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 2024

Lent begins	18 March	Holy (Good) Friday	3 May
Meat Fare Sunday	10 March	Orthodox Pascha	5 May
Sunday of Orthodoxy	24 March	Ascension	13 June
Saturday of Lazarus	27 April	Pentecost	23 June
Palm Sunday	28 April		

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 Unmercenaries 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

