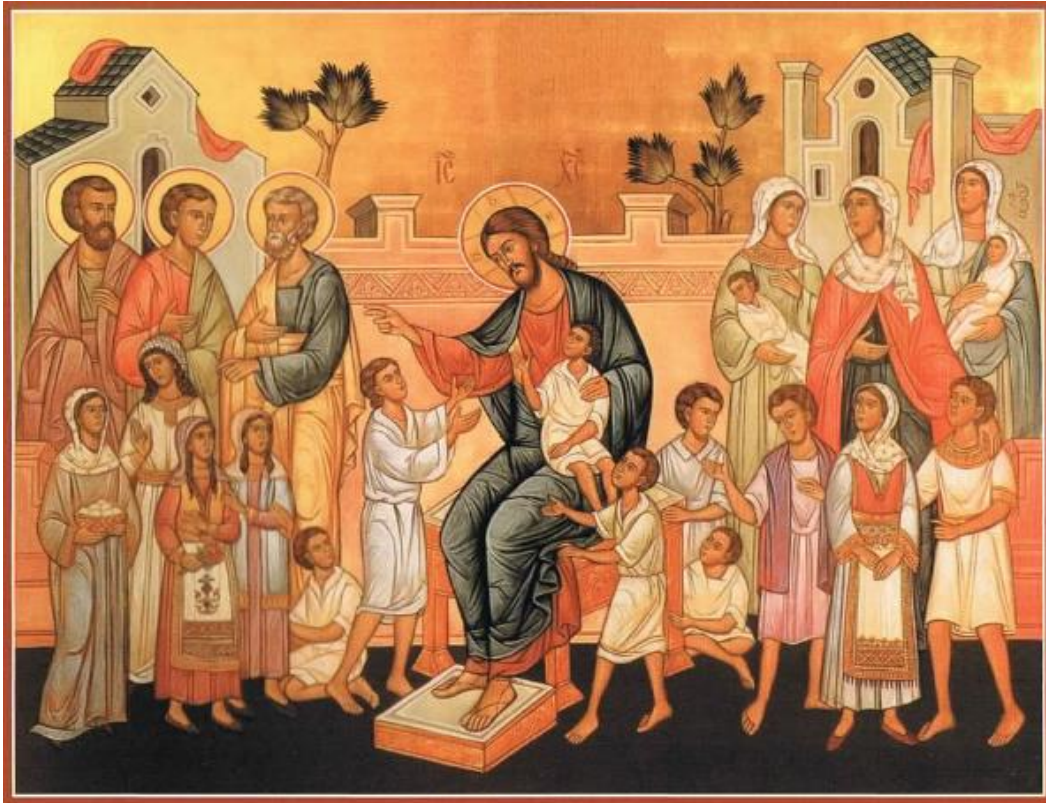




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2019

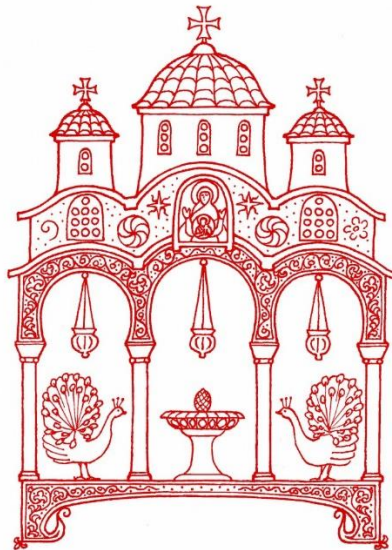
REVISED APRIL 2019

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 2019



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 2019 program but the entire program comprises almost 300 lessons from Kindergarten to Year 6 and over 100 lessons for high school. It 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 2019 Infants, 2019 Primary and 2019 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 <http://www.pantanassamonastery.org/scripture-lessons.html>



Emphasis

The emphasis in this curriculum is spiritual. It is not merely a matter of acquiring knowledge or facts like 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

2019 INFANTS SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		1.Jesus is Baptised
2		2.The Sacrament of Baptism
3		3.In God's house
4		4.Holy Confession
5		5.Sunday School
6		6.The Angel and Mary
7		7.Great Lent
8		8.Icons Help us to Pray
9		9.The Holy Cross
10		10.Jonah
11		11.Easter
12		12.Our Grandmother
13		13.Abraham
14		14.Saint Helen
15		15.Jesus is our Friend
16		16.The Blind Man
17		17.Holy Chrism
18		18.Pentecost
19		19.All Saints
20		20.Jacob
21		21.God is Everywhere
22		22.Holy communion
23		23.The Feast of the Mother of God
24		24.The Ten Commandments
25		25.St Kosmas Aitolos
26		26.God's Gifts
27		27.Our Priest
28		28.Prayer
29		29.Ruth
30		30.St Luke and the Holy Bible
31		31.Marriage
32		32.St Kosmas and Damianos
33		33.The Archangels – My Angel
34		34.The Good Samaritan
35		35.Holy Unction
36		36.The Sacraments
37		37.When our Lord Jesus was Born

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

2019 PRIMARY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
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
11		The 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

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

2019 HIGH SCHOOL SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		Introduction to the history of our Church
2		The Canaanite Woman – Perseverance in prayer – prayer routine
3		Triodion – Preparing for Lent (Humility/repentance/love)
4		The Prodigal Son – God’s forgiveness and love
5		St Moses the Ethiopian/ St Mary of Egypt – Repentance (film)
6		Great Lent
7		Bible Reading – Phillip and Nathaniel – Sunday of Orthodoxy
8		The Feast of the Annunciation
9		The Holy Cross
10		Craft – Making Easter koulouria
11		The Resurrection
12		Thomas Sunday
13		The Myrrh Bearing women
14		St Constantine and Helen
15		Bible Reading – The Samaritan Woman
16		Pentecost
17		The Early Church – love and fellowship
18		St Peter spreads Christ’s message
19		St Paul’s journeys and the spread of the early church
20		The Age of the Martyrs
21		The First Ecumenical Council – The Creed – What we believe
22		Early Monasticism
23		The Transfiguration of Our Lord
24		Panagia
25		The Second to Eighth Ecumenical Council – 5 patriarchates
26		St John the Baptist
27		The Conversion of the Slavs, Sts Cyril and Methodius
28		Elevation of the Holy Cross
29		The Great Schism – Greek Orthodox/Roman Catholic
30		Turkish occupation and St Kosmas Aitolos
31		Map of Orthodoxy around the world – Russian/Serbian/Romanian
32		Orthodox books and websites
33		Orthodox missions around the world - Videos
34		Orthodoxy in Australia
35		Monasticism today – Mt Athos
36		St Katherine
37		Craft – bookmark “Lord Jesus have mercy on me” – (prayer ropes)
38		Recent saints Porphyrios/Paisios/Jacob – the Church is alive
		On Christmas – Joy

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

A curriculum where regular weekly access is not available

For 2019 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 2019

Triodion begins	February 17	Holy (Good) Friday	April 26
Meat Fare Sunday	March 3	Orthodox Pascha	April 28
First Monday of Lent	March 11	Ascension	June 6
Sunday of Orthodoxy	March 17	Pentecost	June 16
Saturday of Lazarus	April 20	All Saints	June 23
Palm Sunday	April 21		

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 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 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 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

