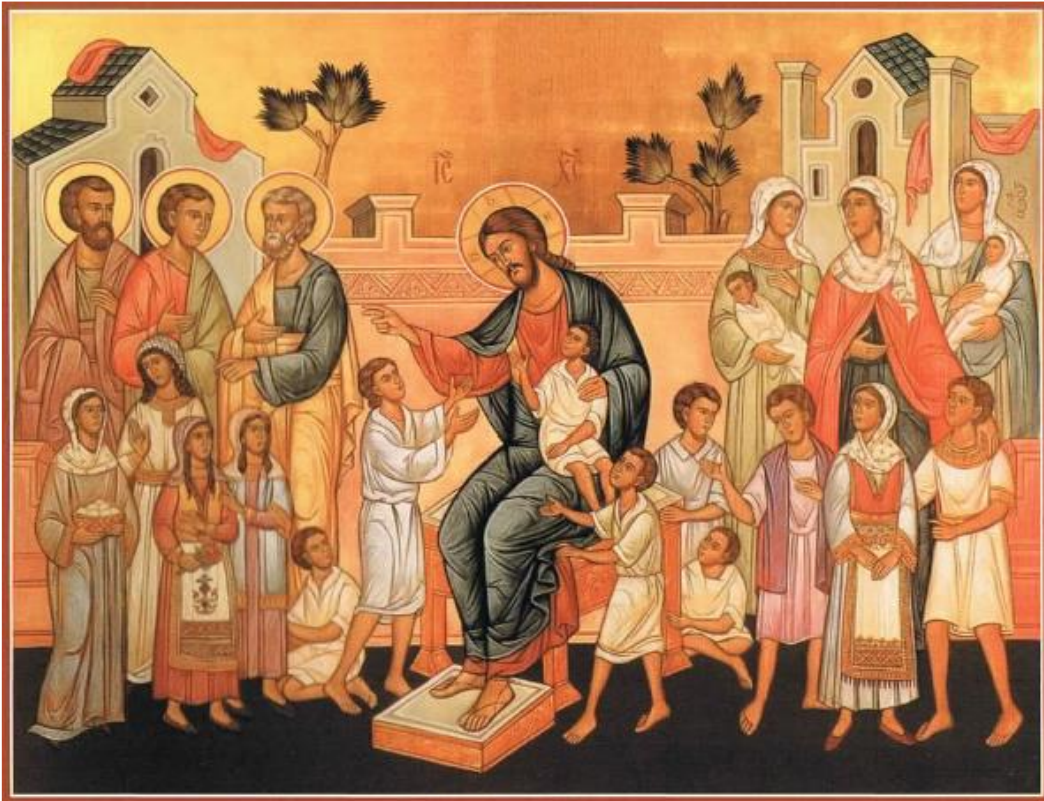




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2022

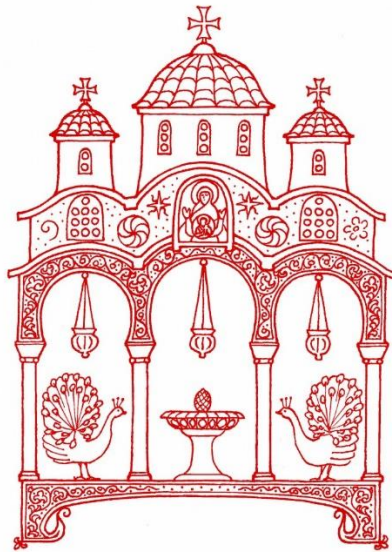
REVISED JANUARY 2022

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 2022 program but the entire program comprises almost 300 lessons from Kindergarten to Year 6 and over 140 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 2020 Infants, 2020 Primary and 2020 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 <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 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 3 2022

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

TOPICS FOR PRIMARY STAGE 1 2022

| |
|---|
| 1.The Four Gospels |
| 2.Jesus and the Woman from Canaan |
| 3.The Pharisee and the Tax Collector |
| 4.The Parable of the Prodigal son |
| 5.Icons and the Great Council |
| 6.The Angel visits Maria |
| 7.Palm Sunday |
| 8.The Last Supper |
| 9.Holy Week |
| 10.The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus |
| 11.God's plan |
| 12.A man healed at the Pool of Bethesda |
| 13.Saint Constantine |
| 14.The Ascension of our Lord Jesus |
| 15.Pentecost |
| 16.The first Church |
| 17.Saints Peter and Paul |
| 18.Paul in Rome |
| 19. Parable of the Good Samaritan |
| 20. The Sermon on the Mount |
| 21.Jesus heals and forgives a Paralytic |
| 22.The persecution of Christians |
| 23.Jesus is Transfigured |
| 24.The Dormition of the Theotokos |
| 25.A boy is healed |
| 26.The death of John the Baptist |
| 27.Jesus heals Jairus's daughter |
| 28.The Feast of the Holy Cross |
| 29.The Monasteries |
| 30.The first disciples |
| 31.Jesus heals a man born blind |
| 32.Our priests |
| 33.Saint James the Brother of Our Lord |
| 34.Saint Demetrios |
| 35.The Rich Man and Lazarus |
| 36.Water turned into wine |
| 37.The Church in Australia |
| 38.The Birth of Our Lord Jesus |
| 39.The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus |

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

TOPICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 3 2022

| |
|---|
| 1.Introduction to the Sacraments of our Church plus (Presentation of our Lord) |
| 2.The Epiphany (Christ’s Baptism) |
| 3.The Sacrament of Baptism |
| 4.Great Lent and Repentance |
| 5.The Sacrament of Holy Confession |
| 6.The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Last Supper/ Early Church |
| 7.The Sacrament of Holy Communion (preparation for/fasting, confession, asking for forgiveness, prayers before) |
| 8.The Symbol of the Holy Cross |
| 9.Craft (making Lambades) or Joseph and His brothers (Foreshadows Christ) Remembered in Holy Week |
| 10.Easter |
| 11.The Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes) |
| 12.Craft (The Beatitudes frame or embroidered bookmarks, “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me) or the Daily Services and Prayer (when you pray) Sermon |
| 13.Sermon on the Mount (Love your enemies Matthew 5:43-48) |
| 14.Sermon on the Mount (You are the light of the world) |
| 15.The Miracle of the Blind Man |
| 16.St Peter and the raising of Tabitha |
| 17.Pentecost |
| 18.St Paul in Prison at Philippi |
| 19.St Paul and the shipwreck at Malta |
| 20.Sacrament of Holy Chrism |
| 21.Sacrament of Holy Unction |
| 22.Sermon on the Mount (Do not worry) |
| 23.Sermon on the Mount (Treasures in Heaven -Matthew 6:19-24) |
| 24.Monasteries dedicated to Panagia and Miracles of Panagia |
| 25.Sacrament of the Priesthood |
| 26.Vestments of the Priest |
| 27.The Role of the Spiritual Father in the Church |
| 28.Craft (Embroidered Cross) Sermon on the Mount (Enter by the Narrow Gate) |
| 29.The Sacrament of Marriage – explanation of the Marriage service |
| 30.The Sacrament of Marriage – love |
| 31.Sermon on the Mount (judge not...) |
| 32.The Parable of the Sower |
| 33.The Gadarenes |
| 34.Parable of Rich man and Lazarus |
| 35.Jairus Daughter – Bible Reading or the Angels |
| 36.St John Chrysostom (On generosity) The Good Samaritan |
| 37.Sermon on the Mount (Ask and it shall be given to you.. |
| 38.The Rich Young Man – Bible Reading |
| 39.Craft – Christmas decoration – dove or St Spyridon |
| 40.On Christmas (Peace) |

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

A SUGGESTED ORDER OF LESSONS AND DATES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 3 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| February 7 | Introduction to the Sacraments of our Church plus (Presentation of our Lord) |
| February 14 | The Epiphany (Christ's Baptism) |
| February 21 | The Sacrament of Baptism |
| February 28 | Great Lent and Repentance |
| March 7 | The Sacrament of Holy Confession |
| March 14 | The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Last Supper/ Early Church |
| March 21 | The Sacrament of Holy Communion (preparation for/fasting, confession, asking for forgiveness, prayers before) |
| March 28 | The Symbol of the Holy Cross |
| April 4 | Craft (making Lambades) or Joseph and His brothers (Foreshadows Christ) |
| Remembered in Holy Week | |
| Holidays | |
| April 26 | Easter |
| May 2 | The Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes) |
| May 9 | Craft (The Beatitudes frame or embroidered bookmarks, "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me) or the Daily Services and Prayer (when you pray) Sermon |
| May 16 | Sermon on the Mount (Love your enemies Matthew 5:43-48) |
| May 23 | Sermon on the Mount (You are the light of the world) |
| May 30 | The Miracle of the Blind Man |
| June 5 | St Peter and the raising of Tabitha |
| June 13 | Pentecost |
| June 20 | St Paul in Prison at Philippi |
| June 27 | St Paul and the shipwreck at Malta |
| Holidays | |
| July 18 | Sacrament of Holy Chrism |
| July 25 | Sacrament of Holy Unction |
| August 1 | Sermon on the Mount (Do not worry) |
| August 8 | Sermon on the Mount (Treasures in Heaven -Matthew 6:19-24) |
| August 15 | Monasteries dedicated to Panagia and Miracles of Panagia |
| August 22 | Sacrament of the Priesthood |
| August 29 | Vestments of the Priest |
| September 5 | The Role of the Spiritual Father in the Church |
| September 12 | Craft (Embroidered Cross) Sermon on the Mount (Enter by the Narrow Gate) |
| September 19 | The Sacrament of Marriage – explanation of the Marriage service |
| September 23 | The Sacrament of Marriage – love |
| Holidays | |
| October 10 | Sermon on the Mount (judge not...) |
| October 17 | The Parable of the Sower |
| October 24 | The Gadarenes |
| October 31 | Parable of Rich man and Lazarus |
| November 6 | Jairus Daughter – Bible Reading or the Angels |
| November 13 | St John Chrysostom (On generosity) The Good Samaritan |
| November 20 | Sermon on the Mount (Ask and it shall be given to you.. |
| November 27 | The Rich Young Man – Bible Reading |
| December 4 | Craft – Christmas decoration – dove or St Spyridon |
| December 11 | On Christmas (Peace) |

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 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 2021

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| Lent begins | March 7 | Holy (Good) Friday | April 22 |
| Meat Fare Sunday | February 27 | Orthodox Pascha | April 24 |
| Sunday of Orthodoxy | March 13 | Ascension | June 2 |
| Saturday of Lazarus | April 16 | Pentecost | June 12 |
| Palm Sunday | April 17 | All Saints | June 19 |

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 |

