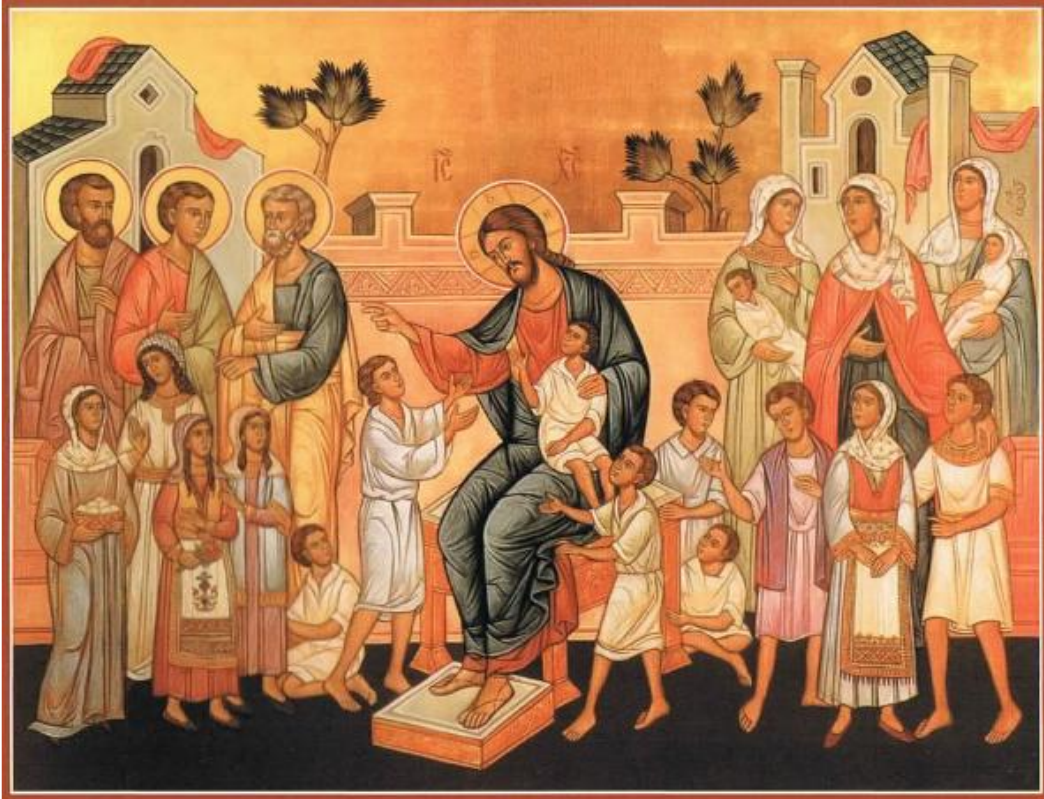




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2025

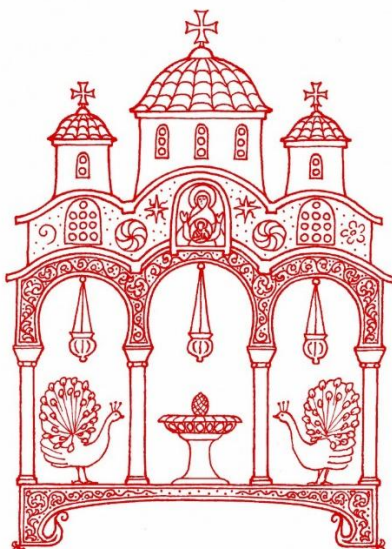
REVISED JANAUARY 2025

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 2025



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 2025 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 2025 Infants, 2025 Primary and 2025 High School stages. A more detailed curriculum including topic, aims and learning outcomes has been prepared and is available on request.

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 3 2025

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 Grandmothers
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

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 4 2025

1. The Ten Lepers
2. The Six Days of Creation
3. Every Sunday we go to Church
4. The Triodion
5. Adam and Eve in Paradise
6. Forgiveness Sunday
7. Great Lent
8. Holy Liturgy The Great Entrance
9. Holy Week
10. Christ is Risen
11. Feasts after Easter
12. The Vestments of the Bishop
13. The Tower of Babel
14. The Patriarch Abraham
15. For Thine is the Kingdom
16. Pentecost
17. Great Martyr Saints
18. Moses is Born
19. God Calls Moses
20. The Twelve Disciples
21. The Ten Plagues
22. Crossing the Red Sea
23. The Holy Liturgy - The Holy Anaphora
24. The Transfiguration
25. The Dormition
26. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares
27. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
28. The Ten Commandments
29. The Golden Calf
30. The Death of Moses
31. St Luke
32. Joshua
33. Judges
34. Saints Kosmas and Damianos
35. Saint Andrew
36. 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.

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 2 2025

1 Zaccheus Sunday
2. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Triodion)
3. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Triodion)
4. The Lord’s Prayer Part 1 and Sunday of the Last Judgement
5. Fasting – Beginning of Holy Lent
6. Saturday of All Souls
7. Sunday of Orthodoxy
8. Feast of the Holy Cross – Remembering Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross
9. St Mary of Egypt
10. Holy Week
11. The Hymn of the Resurrection/The Myrrh Bearing Women
12. St Matrona of Russia
13. Saint Helen
14. Saint Photini and the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
15. The Lord’s Prayer Part 2
16. The Feast of the Ascension
17. Lord’s Prayer Part 3
18. Pentecost/Holy Spirit
19. Sunday of All Saints
20. Saint Peter and Paul
21. St Euphemia
22. Saint Macrina
23. St Panteleimon
24. The Feast of the Transfiguration
25. The Great Feast of the Theotokos
26. The Lords Prayer Part 4
27. Jesus calms the Storm
28. St John the Baptist
29. Sts Joachim and Anna
30. The Elevation of the Holy Cross
31. The Lord’s Prayer Part 5
32. St Luke
33. Jonah the Prophet
34. St Arsenios the Cappadocian
35. St John the Merciful
36. St Matthew
37. St Andrew
38. St Anastasia the Great Martyr
39. On 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.

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 2025 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 2025

Lent begins
Meat Fare Sunday
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Saturday of Lazarus
Palm Sunday

Holy (Good) Friday
Orthodox Pascha
Ascension
Pentecost

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

