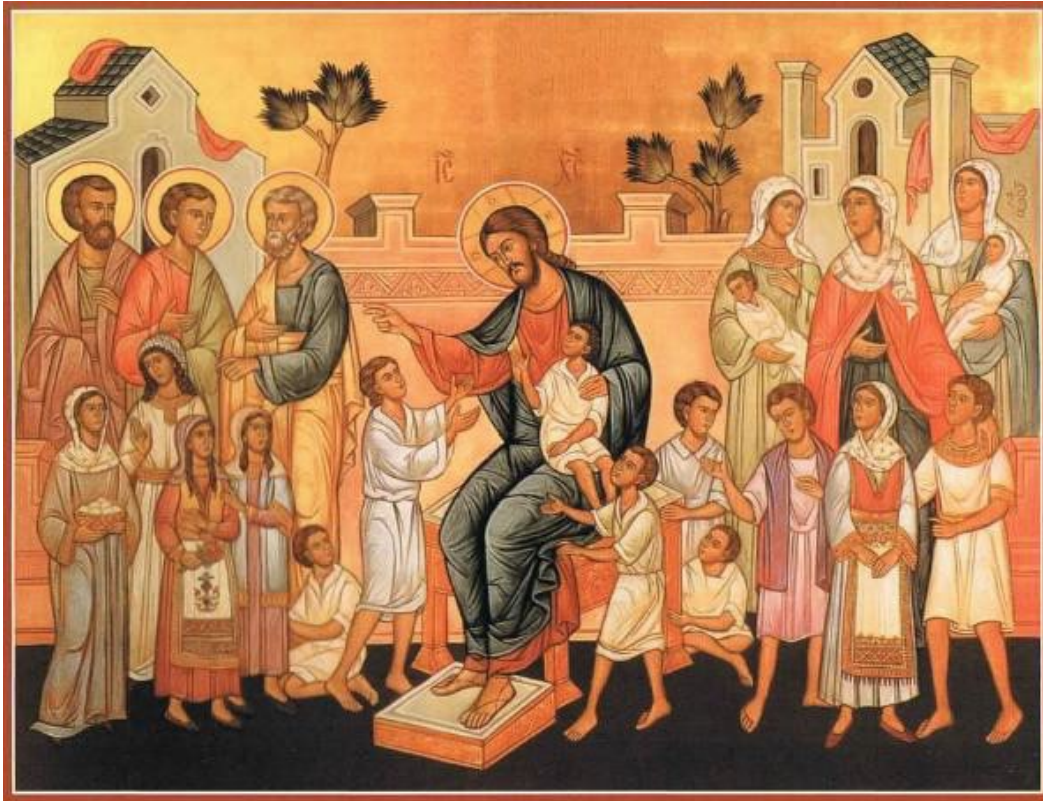




**GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA
SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
NSW**



**SUMMARY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CURRICULUM - 2026**

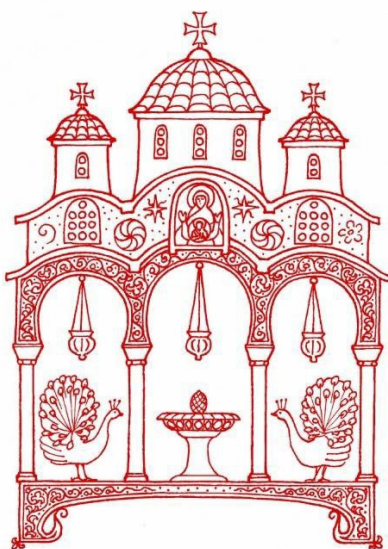
REVISED FEBRUARY 2026

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 2026



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 2026 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, aims and learning outcomes for the 2026 Infants, 2026 Primary and 2026 High School stages.

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 2026

Unit/Topic	Aim of the lesson	Early Stage 1 KINDERGARTEN Outcomes	Stage 1 YEARS 1 and 2 Outcomes
1. <i>Agiasmos</i> in our homes	To learn about the Blessing of the Waters in church and how we can use blessed water in our homes.	Relate the Blessing of the Waters to the Feast of the Baptism of Christ. Describe what is needed for the Blessing of Water.	Outline how we take blessed water home, drink some each day and how can invite the priest to bless our homes with it.
2. Saint Philothea	To realise that the best way to honour our saints is to imitate their lives and virtues. God wants all of us to help others just like St Philothei.	Recount the life of St Philothei, emphasising how she helped others.	List ways we can help others.
3. Do not say lies	For the children to value truth	Relate the story about lying and explain why it is so important.	Connect the lesson to God's Ten Commandments.
4. Sunday of Orthodoxy	For children to become familiar with icons To encourage children to have an icon in their room and an iconostasis in their homes.	Each child to hold an icon and to note different aspects.	Role play the procession of the Sunday of Orthodoxy which each child holding an icon.
5. All the Children of the World	For the children to recognise that all people are brothers and sisters with God as our Father	Relate the story of creation.	Reflect on all the children in the world who are suffering. List ways to help them.
6. On Sunday we go to Church	For the children to link Sunday and the Church	Talk about what we see and hear in church.	List ways we can behave in church. Learn about Sunday School.
7. Hymn to the Theotokos	To learn about the life of the Theotokos and to understand why she is so special.	Using icons recount her birth, entry into the Temple and the Annunciation.	Recite a hymn to the Theotokos. Talk about why she is so special in the church.
8. The Last Supper	To understand how the Mystery of Holy Communion is associated with the Last Supper. To learn how to prepare for Holy Communion	Outline the main events of the Last Supper	List ways to prepare for Holy Communion and Role play how to receive Holy Communion
9. Easter	To learn how our Lord's Resurrection is celebrated and to explore various customs connected to this great feast	Outline the events of Easter.	Explain how we celebrate Easter in Church every year.
10. My Name Day	To realise that their name it is tied to the feast day of the saint whose name they were given when they were baptised.	List ways we can celebrate our name day.	Use the example of St George and narrate his life.

11. Adam and Eve	To understand that: God created the world out of His great love, and also out of love he restored us.	Recount the Genesis story of Creation. Indicate God's love in creating the world.	Find ways to express our appreciation of creation and salvation.
12. Honour your Father and Mother	To learn that we have been instructed by God to respect and obey our parents. To learn ways to show our love and respect.	Narrate the childhood of Jesus and show how he obeyed his parents.	Identify the fifth of the Ten Commandments. List ways we can show our love and appreciation to our parents.
13. Moses	For the children to know that God is always by our side	Relate the story of Moses from birth to the burning bush	Talk about trusting in God and not to be afraid.
14. The Holy Liturgy	To learn what happens in the Holy Liturgy and to inspire love and respect for Holy worship.	To become familiar with different parts of the Holy Liturgy.	To learn when to stand during the Holy Liturgy.
15. The Feast Day of our Parish	For the children to learn that their parish is like a big family.	Know the name of the parish and recognise the icon of the parish saint.	Describe what happens during the celebration of the Feast Day of the Parish.
16. Do not Steal	To learn the importance of obeying God's Commands, and in particular the command, Do not Steal.	Tell the story about Christiana stealing her friend's doll and how they both felt.	Revise the Ten Commandments and identify the one about stealing.
17. The Holy Vestments	To learn about the vestments of our Orthodox clergy and to appreciate the sacredness of priesthood	See the vestments of the priest and discuss how they reflect their dedication to God.	Identify different vestments and colour them in.
18. The Birth of Saint John the Baptist	To appreciate the special position that St John the Baptist has in the Church and to learn about the exceptional circumstances surrounding his birth.	Relate the story of the birth of St John the Baptist	Show how the events surrounding the birth of John prepared him to become a great prophet.
19. Saints Peter and Paul	To learn about the life of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and to appreciate how much they laboured for the Church	Narrate the life of St Peter and then St Paul	Talk about the icon and why they are depicted holding a church together.
20. The Prosporo	To realise what a blessing it is to offer the Prosporon for the celebration of the Holy Liturgy and how everyone can participate	Recognise the offering of a prosporon as a gift from our home to the Church	Realise the link between the prosporo and Holy Communion
21. Saint Panteleimon	To understand that with God's power, the saints of our Church can bring about miracles, even today.	Relate the story of St Panteleimon, emphasising how healed without payment.	Indicate how saints and miracles still occur today.

22. Do not be Jealous	To use the story of Joseph and his brothers to learn about jealousy.	Relate the story of Joseph, highlighting the jealousy of the brothers and the forgiveness of Joseph.	Enjoy the things we have and share them with others
23. The Dormition of the Theotokos	To learn about the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and to realise that the Theotokos remains close to us, and she intercedes on our behalf to her Son.	Relate the story of her Falling Asleep in the Lord (Dormition)	Learn about her miracles and how we can pray to her for help.
24. Prayer Before a Meal	To understand that mealtimes are sacred and to be grateful for all the gifts and blessings God gives us.	Relate a story about a family who say the Orthodox prayer for before and after meals.	Learn the Orthodox prayer for before a meal off by heart.
25. David and Goliath	To learn the story of David and Goliath and to realise how God helps those who do good, who trust in Him, and ask for His help.	Narrate the story of David and Goliath	Explain that David defeated Goliath with the help of God and that love for God gives us strength and courage.
26. Keep Sunday Holy	To understand that Sunday is a holy day, which is dedicated to God.	Connect to the Ten Commandments, "Keep the Lord's Day Holy".	Talk about how on Sundays we can attend Church, be with family, rest, relax and focus on being with others and helping them.
27. My Grandfather	To learn how to express their love for their grandfathers.	Respect the experience of my grandfather. List ways we can show our love.	Learn to say a pray for my father/grandfather(s)
28. The Holy Cross	For the children to recognise the value and symbolism of the Cross for Orthodox Christians	Relate how the Holy Cross was found by Saint Helen	Recognise the value of the Cross as a symbol of our faith
29. The Monastery	To learn about Orthodox Monasteries and to learn what to expect when they visit a monastery.	Identify how monastics dedicate their life to God and how they pray for us.	Encourage children to visit a monastery and learn what happens when they visit.
30. Esther	To learn the story of Esther and how God protects and saves us from various dangers.	Recount the story of Esther with an emphasis on God's providence and protection.	Point out Esther's courage, prayer and fasting.
31. The Forty-Day Blessing	For the children to learn that a newborn is blessed by the Church	Relate how Jesus was presented to Simeon in the Temple	Explain what happens at a Forty Day Blessing

32. Zacchaeus	To appreciate God's love for all of us and how we should not ignore and judge people.	State what happened to Zacchaeus when he met Jesus and how his life changed.	Discuss how we should not ignore others or judge them. God loves everyone.
33. The Holy Bible	To learn how the Holy Bible speaks to people about God and reveals His will and to understand the blessings that we receive when we read it.	Distinguish between books of knowledge and the Bible and appreciate the value of the Bible in our life.	Become familiar with what the Bible teaches us and how we can read it every day.
34. Saint Nectarios	To learn about the life of the Saint and to realise that the saints of our Church had strong faith and love for God and for all people.	Relate the life of Saint Nectarios	Recall one of the miracles of Saint Nectarios.
35. God Calls Samuel	Learn the story of Samuel to understand why the Church building is a sacred place and how our conduct should be respectful.	Narrate the story of Samuel growing up in the temple and called by God.	List ways of how to behave in Church appropriately.
36. Saint Katherine	To learn about St Katherine and to show how her faith and courage brought many to Christ.	State what happened to Saint Catherine	
37. The Three Wise Men	Using the Three Wise Men learn to appreciate the extraordinary joy of Christ's birth.	Recount the story of the birth of the Jesus and the three wise men.	Talk about what gift we can offer Jesus this Christmas.

Notes

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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 1 2026

Unit/Topic	Aim of the lesson	Stage 2 YEARS 3 and 4 Outcomes	Stage 3 YEARS 5 and 6 Outcomes
1. The Four Gospels	To introduce the four Gospels and the four Evangelists. Appreciate the centrality of the Gospel message to the Christian life.	Recognise that the Gospels describe the life of Christ. Identify where it is used in the Holy Liturgy.	Recognise the harmony between the four Gospels.
2. Jesus and the Woman from Canaan	To learn from the example of the Canaanite woman as to how we should pray to God and what we should ask for in our prayers.	Relate the determination of the woman of Canaan and the response of Jesus.	Recognise that Jesus accepts our persistent faith and prayer. Recite a prayer to Jesus for help each day
3. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	To learn about this parable which Christ used to teach us to avoid pride and to cultivate humility.	Relate the parable and discuss why Christ praises the the tax collector.	Explore examples of pride and humility.
4. The Parable of the Prodigal son	To appreciate the depth of God's love for us and to realise that God forgives us no matter what we have done in our life, if we repent.	Relate the story of the prodigal son, emphasising the journey and return of the younger son.	Explore how we are all like the prodigal son when we sin and repent. Emphasis the mystery of Holy Confession.
5. Icons and the Sunday of Orthodoxy	To learn why we venerate icons in the Orthodox Church and how the Sunday of Orthodoxy is connected to icons and their place in Orthodox worship.	Discuss the place of icons in our churches and homes. Talk about the importance of taking an icon to church on Sunday of Orthodoxy.	Explain the Iconoclastic controversy in relation to the Sunday of Orthodoxy.
6. The Angel visits Maria	To learn about this feast day, which is dedicated to the Mother of God, and to be inspired by the obedience shown by the Theotokos	Recall the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary and the words of the angel and Maria's response.	Explain why the obedience shown by the Theotokos was so important.
7. Palm Sunday	To learn about Palm Sunday, why it is named like this and to reflect on some of the messages from this event.	Describe the raising of Lazarus, Jesus weeping for Jerusalem and the triumphant entry	Recite the words: Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
8. The Last Supper	To learn how we have received the tradition of Holy Communion and to learn how to prepare.	Describe the events of the Last Supper.	Provide and read Holy Communion prayers.

9. Holy Week	To learn about the events of the last three days of Holy Week and to convey a sense of the sacredness of these events.	List the different events of Holy Week	Focus and reflect on the events of Holy Thursday evening with the Crucifixion.
10. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus	To learn about many of the appearances of Christ after His Resurrection and to appreciate some of the messages related to these appearances.	Relate the events after the third day that Jesus was in the tomb	Discuss the appearance to the Myrrh Bearers and the two disciples going to Emmaus. Focus on how Christ overcomes every fear and sadness.
11. God's plan	To appreciate God's plan to save us and bring us back to Paradise and grant us eternal life and joy with Him in His Kingdom.	Relate the story of creation and the loss of paradise. Indicate how the Resurrection restores paradise.	Make a timeline of key events related to God's plan of salvation
12. A man healed at the Pool of Bethesda	To learn about this miracle and how Christ is the healer not only of our bodies but also of our souls.	Discuss Christ's compassion for those who are ill	List ways we can help those who are sick
13. Saint Constantine	Recognise the contribution of Sts Constantine and Helen in the history of the Church	Value the role of St Constantine in allowing Christians to be free	Esteem St Constantine and St Helen as equal to the Apostles
14. The Ascension of our Lord Jesus	The children will learn about the feast of the Ascension as well as what it means	Describe the events of the Ascension	Find what the angels said to the disciples at the Ascension.
15. Pentecost	To learn about the feast day of Pentecost and to appreciate how the Holy Spirit guides us and enlightens us.	Relate the events of Pentecost.	Learn the prayer to the Holy Spirit.
16. The first Church	To learn what the first Christian community was like	Read from Acts and list the characteristics of the first church, emphasising in particular the love they had for each other.	Narrate the story of how Peter raised a lame man in the name of Christ.
17. Saints Peter and Paul	To learn about the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and to understand why they are considered as pillars of the Church and chief of the Apostles.	Briefly outline the life of the Apostle Peter and Paul.	Outline the qualities of these two Apostles that make them 'pillars of the Church'.
18. Paul in Rome	To learn about Paul's last journey to Rome. To be inspired his courage and all that he had to endure for the love of Christ.	Narrate the shipwreck at Malta	List the achievements of St Paul during his imprisonment.

19. Parable of the Good Samaritan	To learn about the Parable and to understand that we should imitate Christ in the love that He shows to all.	Relate the details of the St Samaritan. Note that Samaritan was a foreigner.	Transfer the example of the Good Samaritan to our own life.
20. The Sermon on the Mount	To learn about the Sermon on the Mount and specifically to learn the Beatitudes.		
21. Jesus heals and forgives a Paralytic	For students to learn that: God loves us very much and helps us.	Relate the story of the paralytic, emphasising what his friends did for him.	
22. The persecution of Christians	To learn about the persecutions which took place during the first 300 years and to appreciate the courage of the martyrs.	Define pagan, persecution and Christian. Outline stages of persecution,	Indicate how the Church grew despite persecutions. Describe the love for Christ as revealed by martyrs.
23. Jesus is Transfigured	Students to learn: About the events and the nature of the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ	Relate the events of the Transfiguration	Understand why the Transfiguration took place.
24. The Dormition of the Theotokos	To learn about this special feast and to learn about some of the miracles of the Theotokos	Relate the events of Panagia's role in the early church and her dormition.	Tell the story of the miracle working icon and monastery, Panagia Prousiottissa.
25. A boy is healed	To stress the importance of prayer and fasting and faith in God.	Relate the story of the miracle and highlight how the disciples were unable to cure the boy	Pray and fasting as a first step to increase our faith
26. Jesus heals Jairus's daughter	For the children to see that Jesus has power over death	Relate the miracle of Jairus's daughter	Discuss Christ's words, "Do not be afraid, only believe"
27. The Feast of the Holy Cross	To learn about this special feast of the Holy Cross. To appreciate the central role of the Holy Cross in the Church and in our life.	Relate the story of the finding of the true cross and its elevation.	List all the places in church where we see and do the sign of the cross.
28. The Monasteries	For the children to recognise monasticism as an expression of complete dedication to Christ	Know that St Anthony is recognised as the father of Monasticism	Visit a monastery Australia
29. The first disciples	To learn about how the first disciples were called, and to understand that we can all become disciples.	Relate the events in the story about the fishermen. Focus on key moments.	List how we can become disciples of Christ

30. Jesus heals a man born blind	To reveal the faith, obedience and courage of the blind man and the spiritual blindness of the pharisees.	Relate the miracle and observe the faith and courage of the blind man.	Evaluate the words of Christ regarding illness. Talk about how Christ is the 'True Light'
31. Our priests	To understand that our Lord Jesus Christ's work was continued by the Apostles and passed on to the bishops and priests of our Church through Apostolic Succession.	Give examples of the work of the priesthood	Explain Apostolic Succession
32. Saint James the brother of Our Lord	For the children to admire the example of St James as someone who is righteous	Relate the life of St James and his martyrdom. Elaborate on his virtues of asceticism and prayer.	Indicate the contributions of St James in the early life of the Church
33. Saint Demetrios	To learn about the life of Saint Demetrios, the myrrh which pours out of his body and his protection of the city of Thessaloniki	Relate the life of St Demetrios. Indicate why he is the protector of Thessaloniki	Give reasons why the tomb St Demetrios gives off a sweet myrrh
34. The Rich Man and Lazarus	While we have the chance, to value the suffering of others who are not as fortunate as us	Relate the parable and highlight the rich man's indifference.	Write out some lessons from this parable
35. Water turned into wine	To learn about the first miracle by Jesus and to show us that marriage is blessed by God	Describe the miracle in detail.	Give some reasons why Jesus did this miracle
36. The Church in Australia	For the children to recognise some achievements of a migrant church in Australia	Name the first Orthodox church in Australia. Name the Greek Orthodox archbishop.	Evaluate the contribution of the Greek Orthodox Church
37. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus	To explain the joy of Christmas and how in the Orthodox church we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) for twelve days.	Indicate some meanings from the icon of the nativity	Explain how we can experience true joy.
38. The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus	To learn about the Feast and the Blessing of the Waters which is connected to this feast.	Relate the events of the Baptism of Jesus and how it is connected to the blessing of the waters.	Explain the revelation of the Trinity.

Notes

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TOPICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 3 2026

Unit/Topic	Aim of the lesson	Outcomes Year 7-8	Outcomes Year 9-10	Outcomes Year 11-12
1. Introduction to the Holy Mysteries of our Church	To familiarise students with the Holy Mysteries of our church.	Relate each Mystery to the acts of Christ and His disciples	Explain how the Holy Spirit is at work with all the Holy Mysteries.	Detail our preparation for each Holy Mystery
2. The Epiphany (Christ's Baptism)	To see the Theophania as a revelation of God's appearance among mankind	Read the baptism of Christ in Matthew 3	Explain the icon of the Baptism of Christ. Chant the hymn of the Holy Theophany of Christ	Relate the Blessing of the Waters to The Feast of Theophania.
3. The Sacrament of Baptism	To value the Sacrament of Baptism for Orthodox Christians	State the purpose of Baptism. Find out when and where you were baptised and who is your godparent	List the stages in the sacrament. Recite the Creed then indicate its importance in the service of Baptism	Evaluate the requirements for preparing to serve as a godparent
4. Great Lent and Repentance	To comprehend the call to repentance from John the Baptist through to Christ.	Relate and interpret the parable of the lost son.	Define repentance. Define the Greek term <i>amartia</i> Define conscience Indicate what it means to repent	Undertake a private self-examination through (a) Ten Commandments; (b) Beatitudes
5. The Sacrament of Holy Confession	To recognise Holy Confession as a Sacrament	Explain the two references that relate to the establishment of Holy Confession (John 20; 1 John 1)	State what happens at Holy confession	Prepare for Holy Confession
6. Sunday of Orthodoxy and Holy Eucharist.	Highlight how the Holy Eucharist is central to Orthodox worship.	Read the Bible Passage for Sunday of Orthodoxy which is about Phillip and Nathaniel meeting Christ.	Discuss how Christ established the Mystery of Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, and how our Church continues this.	Discuss the importance of regular Holy Communion and how we meet, and experience Christ.
7. Preparing for the Holy Eucharist and St Gregory Palamas.	Highlight the importance of careful preparation for the Holy Eucharist.	List ways of preparing for Holy Eucharist with an emphasis on forgiveness and prayer.	Become familiar with Orthodox prayers for preparing for Holy Communion.	Talk about St Gregory Palamas defence of the Jesus prayer and learn how to make use of this prayer.
8. The Symbol of the Holy Cross	To relate the symbol of the Cross to other Church symbols but also to our faith and life	Relate all the places where we see the Holy Cross and make the sign of the Cross.	Indicate the meaning of the early Christian symbols. Talk about the Feasts of the Holy Cross in our church.	Discuss what it means to "take up your Cross" (Matthew

9. Holy Week (Joseph and his brothers)	To understand the story of Joseph for its moral lessons but also as a foreshadowing of the sufferings of Christ in Holy Week.	Relate the story of Joseph and indicate how we remember him on Holy Monday of Holy Week.	Emphasis the sufferings of Joseph, and the way he forgave his brothers and make the connections with Christ.	Discuss the consequences of jealousy and the importance of forgiving others.
9(a) Additional power point on Holy Week	To become familiar with what is remembered on each day of Holy Week.	Outline the events of each day of Holy Week	Bring Holy Week book so that students become familiar with this service book.	Discuss what aspects of Holy Week have been memorable for students.
10. The Resurrection of our Lord	To see Holy Saturday as the climax of the Holy Week	Describe the services of the Holy Saturday - morning and evening services and Vespers of Love read in many languages, including Indigenous.	Discuss the readings of Holy Saturday morning and explain the icon called the 'Harrowing of Hades'.	Analyse the Easter Sermon of St John Chrysostom.
11. The Sermon on the Mount	To become familiar with Christ's central teaching	Compare the Ten Commandments (Old Law) with the Sermon on the Mount (New Law)	Read and explain each of the Beatitudes.	Discuss the word 'Blessed' and the paradoxes in the Beatitudes.
12. "And when you pray"	To understand how Christ teaches us to pray in the Sermon on the Mount.	List different ways we can pray and different prayes. Personal, church prayers, the Lords Prayer, the Jesus Prayer, etc.	Outline the importance of a prayer routine and familiarise student with our Church's prayer book.	Discuss Christ's messages about vainglory, humility and sincerity in prayer. Learn a prayer for times in trouble.
13. Love your enemies	To learn about how to respond to Christ's instruction to love our enemies.	Read the Bible passage on 'Love your enemies' and discuss how it was a revolutionary concept.	Relate a story about forgiveness and discuss if and how it is possible to love our enemies.	Relate the parable of the Good Samaritan to our daily lives. Value St Pau's message about love.
14. Let your light shine	To encourage students to be an example to others and in this way bring them to Christ.	Read the Bible passage "Let your light shine" and discuss the importance of physical light.	Tell story of saints who became a light to others.	Discuss the dangers of hypocrisy and being a Christian in name only.
15. The Blind Man	To understand spiritual blindness.	Relate the miracle of the blind man.	Discuss the courage of the blind man	Discuss the reasons for spiritual blindness and ways to overcome it.
16. The Sacrament of Holy Chrismation	To learn about the Mystery of Holy Chrismation that takes place during our baptisms.	To appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.	To explain how the Holy Chrism is prepared every 10 years at the Patriarchate of Constantinople and	To outline the steps in the Mystery of Holy Chrism.

			then distributed to all the churches.	
17. Pentecost	To understand Pentecost as the beginning of the Church and to appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.	Outline the events of Pentecost and the growth of the early church.	Describe the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Mysteries of our church.	Discuss our personal response to the Holy Spirit based on St Paul's writings.
18. St Peter raises Tabitha from the dead	To find meanings in the miracle of Tabitha	Read Acts 9: 36-41 and explain how the miracle took place in the name of Jesus.	Examine how selfless love like that of Tabitha can be a part of our life	Discuss the importance of gratitude.
19. St Paul in Prison at Philippi	To learn about the travels of St Paul and all that he went through in order to preach the Gospel.	Read Acts 16:16-34) and tell the story of Paul and Silas in Phillipi. Locate Philippi in northern Greece	Highlight and discuss the dangers of fortune telling.	Discuss how to face difficulties in life with trust and faith in God.
20. St Paul and the shipwreck at Malta	To outline the hardships experienced by St Paul and his trust in God and courage.	Recount the story of the shipwreck and highlight the hardships experienced by St Paul.	Discuss the ability to be cheerful in the midst of difficulties.	Recount St Paul on the island of Malta and discuss the idea of hospitality.
21. The Mystery of Holy Oil	To appreciate the Mystery of Holy Oil for the healing of our illnesses.	Outline how the Mystery of Holy Oil is connected to the teachings of Christ, the Apostles and Fathers of the Church.	Explain how to prepare for the Mystery of Holy Oil in our homes and when and where we do the Service of Holy Oil.	In groups discuss each of the seven Gospel readings read during the service of Holy Oil.
22. Sermon on the Mount: Do not Worry	To learn what our Lord Jesus tells us about overcoming worry and trusting in His loving care.	Read the passage in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:25-34 and highlight how many times Jesus tells us not to worry.	Discuss the reasons why we worry and how to overcome them.	List outcomes of worry and highlight the need to trust in God and to work without worrying.
23. Sermon on the Mount: Treasure in Heaven	To understand that the treasures of heaven are more worthwhile than material wealth.	Make a list of future goals in life and discuss why.	Read the passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:19-21) and identify Christ's message.	Discuss the consequences of earthly treasures vs heavenly treasures.

24. Miracles and Monasteries dedicated to the Theotokos	To familiarise students with monasteries devoted to the Theotokos	Locate Mt Athos on a map of Greece Locate Panagia Malevi Locate Panagia Soumela in Pontus Locate Panagia Evangelistria of Tinos	State the importance of the Theotokos to Mt Athos Relate the stories of these miracle working icons.	Identify the importance of the two monasteries dedicated to the Theotokos in Australia. Discuss how Christians throughout the world turn to the Theotokos for her help.
25. Mystery of Ordination	To recognise priesthood as a calling and Ordination as a Mystery of the Church	Define the priestly orders and Apostolic Succession	Describe the service of Holy Ordination	Outline details in the calling of priesthood
26. Vestments of the Priest	To show how the Vestments of a priest reflect his calling to serve God and His people.	Name and describe the Vestments of a priest.	Label the priestly vestments	Explain the symbolism of each vestment.
27. The Role of the Spiritual Father in the Church	To appreciate the role of a spiritual father in our life.	Outline the role of a spiritual father	Summarise the value of having a spiritual father as a guide in our life	Take steps to contact a spiritual father
28. Sermon on the Mount - Enter by the Narrow Gate	To appreciate that the Christian life is both difficult and joyful	Read the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 7:13-14	Discuss why it is difficult to follow Christ's path.	List examples from everyday life where we need to decide between the easy way or the hard way.
29. The Mystery of Holy Marriage	To respect the sacredness of Marriage	Outline Old Testament readings regarding marriage	Outline New Testament readings regarding marriage.	Relate two saintly couples and the ideal of marriage as revealed by them.
30. The Greek Orthodox Marriage Service	To understand the different parts of the Wedding Service and their symbolisms.	Explain the symbolism of the rings, the crowns, the cup, and the dance of Isaiah	Explore the significance of the Epistle and Gospel Readings	Revise the different parts of the service and discuss the beauty and uniqueness of the Service.
31. Sermon on the Mount – Judge not, that you may not be judged.	Learn how important it is to love and not judge others.	Read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1-3	Talk about the difference between judging, condemning and slander	Discuss the importance of love in relation to judging. Read St Paul's letter regarding love.
32. The Parable of the Sower	To understand the message of the parable	Read Matthew 13: 3-9) and discuss who is the Sower and what is the Seed.	Examine the four categories outlined by Christ.	Discuss ways to put into practice the teachings of the Gospel.

33. The Healing of the Demon Possessed man	To understand that Christ is more powerful than the forces of evil.	To relate the miracle of the demon possessed man. (Luke 8: 26-39)	To discuss how Christ can overcome every evil around us and in us.	To examine why the Gadarenes ask Jesus to leave.
34. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus	To value generosity and to avoid selfishness	Relate the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)	Discuss "If the World were a village" and its implications for us.	Examine what the Fathers of the Church say about generous giving.
35. The Angels	To explain the Feast of the Synaxis of Angels and to learn about the role of angels.	Explain the existence of a non-material world.	Explain the role of the Seraphim, Cherubim and Guardian angels.	Relate the miracles of the Archangel Michael.
36. The Parable of the Good Samaritan	To encourage students to have compassion and help others.	Relate the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)	Debate why it is important to help others especially those for whom there exist traditional dislikes	Relate the example of St John the Merciful to (a) the Good Samaritan and (b) to the way we should live (i.e., how to forgive and bear others and show kindness to all)
37. The Sermon on the Mount: Ask and it shall be given to you.	To learn how to pray	Read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:7-9	Relate what Jesus taught us about prayer.	Discuss what to do when our prayers are not answered
38. The Rich Young Man	Do have a balanced view of material possessions and wealth.	Read and discuss the passage about the conversation between Christ and the rich, young man. (Mark 10: 17-22)	Discuss what would have happened if the young man had stayed with Christ, using the examples of saints.	Discuss attitudes to wealth.
39. Christmas peace	To value the peace which only Christ can give.	Discuss why there is no peace in the world, in families, in countries and in ourselves.	Discuss the Bible passages that refer to peace.	Discuss ways to acquire inner peace.

Notes

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

The description "Stage 3" 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 2026 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 2026

Lent begins- February 23
Meat Fare Sunday- February 15
Sunday of Orthodoxy- March 1
Saturday of Lazarus-April 4
Palm Sunday-April 5

Holy (Good) Friday-April 10
Orthodox Pascha- April 12
Ascension- May 21
Pentecost- May 31

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

