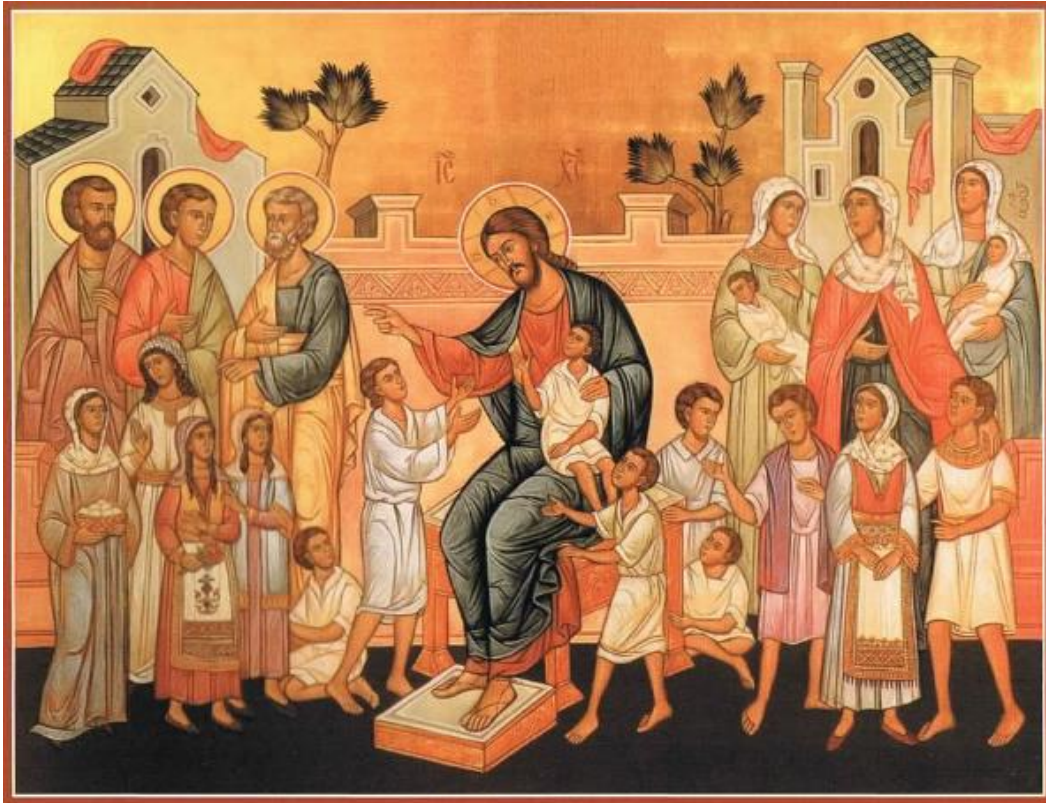




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2018

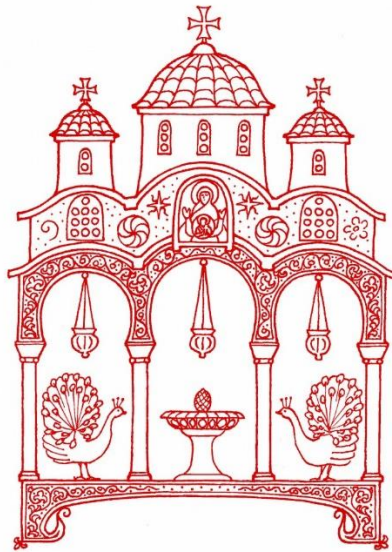
REVISED FEBRUARY 2018

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 2018



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 2018 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 2018 Infants, 2018 Primary and 2018 High School stages. A more detailed curriculum including topic, aims and learning outcomes has been prepared and is available at <http://www.pantanassamonastery.org/resources.html>

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

This background 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

MY 2018 INFANTS STAGE 2 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
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”

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

MY 2018 PRIMARY SCHOOL STAGE 1 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
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

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

MY 2018 HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 3 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		Introduction to the Sacraments of our Church
2		The Epiphany (Christ's Baptism)
3		The Sacrament of Baptism
4		Great Lent and Repentance
5		The Sacrament of Holy Confession
6		The Symbol of the Holy Cross
7		Holy Week
8		Craft (Making Easter candles)
9		Sacrament of Holy Unction
10		Easter Feast
11		The Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes)
12		Craft (The Beatitudes frame)
13		The Sacrament of Holy Chrism (the making of Holy Chrism)
14		Pentecost
15		The Holy Spirit and the Church
16		St Peter – in Prison
17		St Peter and the raising of Dorcas
18		St Paul in Prison at Philippi
19		St Paul and the shipwreck at Malta
20		The Gergesenes and their greed
21		The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Last Supper/ Early Church)
22		The Sacrament of Holy Communion (preparation for/fasting, confession, asking for forgiveness, prayers before)
23		Monasteries dedicated to Panagia
24		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 (e.g., embroidered crosses for card or bookmarks)
29		The Sacrament of Marriage – explanation of the Marriage service
30		The Sacrament of Marriage – love
31		Sermon on the Mount (judge not...)
32		Sermon on the Mount (Ask and it shall be given to you..)
33		The Church building/iconostasis etc
34		The Angels
35		St John Chrysostom (On generosity)
36		History of Monasticism
37		The Rich Young Man – Bible Reading
38		Craft – Christmas decoration – dove
39		On Christmas (Peace)

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

MOVABLE ECCLESIASTICAL DATES 2018

Triodion begins	January 28	Holy (Good) Friday	April 6
Meat Fare Sunday	February 11	Orthodox Pascha	April 8
Lent begins	February 19	Ascension	May 17
Sunday of Orthodoxy	February 25	Pentecost	May 27
Saturday of Lazarus	March 31	All Saints	June 3
Palm Sunday	April 1		

MAJOR GREEK ORTHODOX HOLY DAYS 2018

January 1	The Circumcision of Jesus Christ; St. Basil the Great	July 20	Prophet Elias
January 6	Epiphany Day: The Baptism of Jesus Christ, Sanctification of the Waters and Manifestation of the Holy Spirit	July 27	St. Panteleimon
January 7	St. John the Baptist	August 6	Transfiguration of Jesus Christ
January 17	St. Anthony the Great	August 15	Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Theotokos)
January 30	The Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom	August 29	Commemoration of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
February 2	The Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple	September 1	The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year (Indiction)
February 6	St. Photios the Great	September 8	The Nativity of the Theotokos
February 10	St. Haralambos the Martyr	September 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
February 17	St. Theodore	October 23	St. Iakovos (James)
February 19	Paschal Lenten Period Begins	October 26	St. Demetrios
February 25	Sunday of Orthodoxy (observed on the First Sunday of Lent)	November 1	SS. Cosmas and Damianos
March 25	The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (The Theotokos)	November 8	The Archangels Michael and Gabriel
April 1	Palm Sunday	November 13	St. John Chrysostom
April 6	Holy (Good) Friday	November 15	Nativity Lenten Period begins
April 8	HOLY PASCHA The Resurrection of Jesus Christ	November 21	The Entrance of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Theotokos) into the Temple
April 23	St. George	November 25	St. Catherine
May 17	The Ascension of Jesus Christ	November 30	St. Andrew the Apostle, Founder of the Church of Constantinople
May 21	SS. Constantine and Helen	December 4	St. Barbara
May 27	Sunday of Pentecost	December 5	St. Savas the Sanctified
June 3	All Saints Sunday	December 6	St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
June 11	St. Bartholomew	December 12	St. Spyridon
June 29	SS. Peter and Paul	December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
		December 27	St. Stephen the Protomartyr

