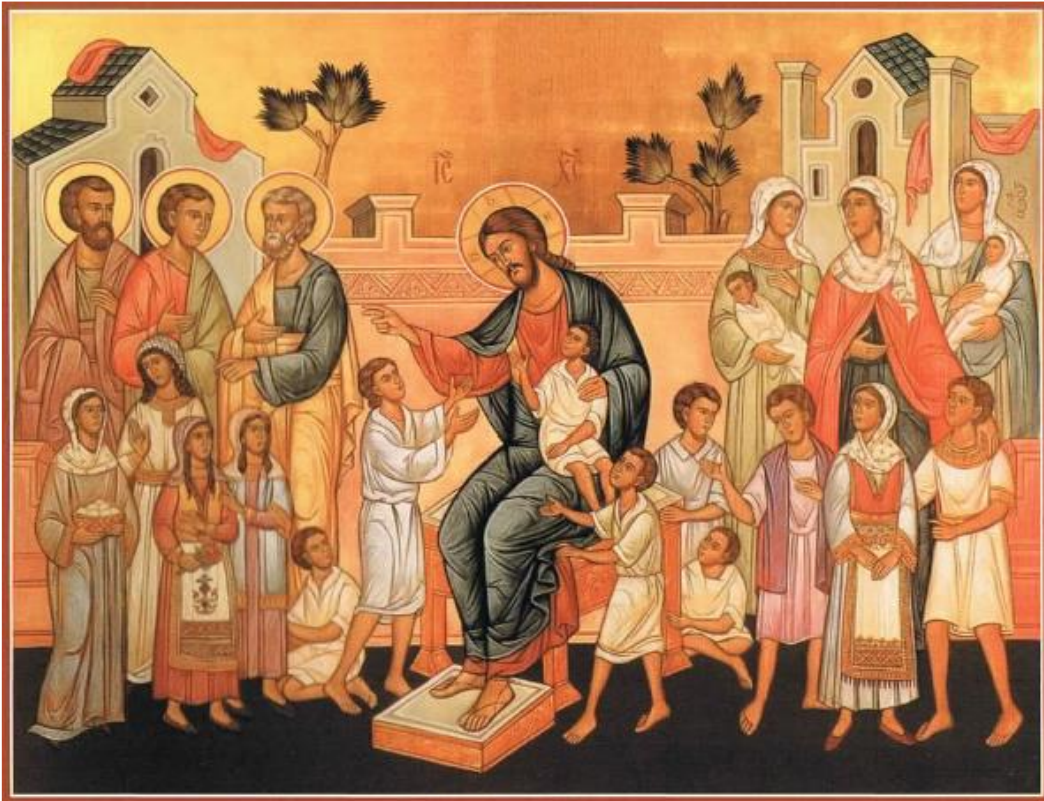




GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA



GREEK ORTHODOX SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM - 2020

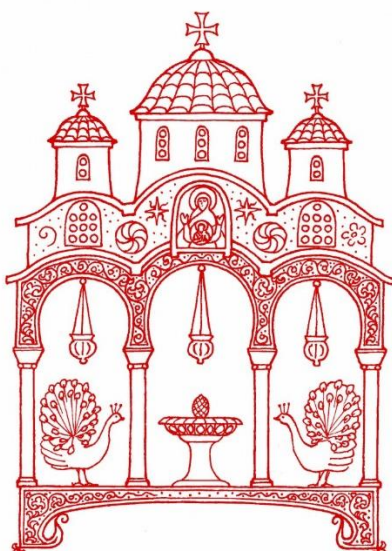
REVISED JANUARY 2020

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 2020 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 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 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

MY 2020 INFANTS STAGE 1 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		Agiasmos in our homes
2		Saint Philothea
3		Do not say lies
4		Sunday of Orthodoxy
5		All the Children of the World
6		On Sunday we go to Church
7		Our Hymn to Panagia
8		The Last Supper
9		Easter
10		O. My Name Day
11		Adam and Eve
12		Honour your Father and Mother
13		Moses
14		The Holy Liturgy
15		The Feast Day of our Parish
16		Do not Steal
17		The Holy Vestments
18		The Birth of St John the Baptist
19		St Peter and Paul
20		O. The Prosphoro
21		Saint Panteleimon
22		Do not be Jealous
23		Panagia
24		God Calls Samuel
25		Our Prayer Before a Meal
26		David and Goliath
27		Keep Sunday Holy
28		My Grandfather
29		The Holy Cross
30		The Monastery
31		Esther
32		The Forty-Day Blessing
33		Zacchaeus
34		The Holy Bible
35		St Nectarios
36		Saint Katherine
37		The Three Wise Men

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

MY 2020 PRIMARY SCHOOL STAGE 3 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		God Creates the World
2		Sunday of Meat-Fare
3		Great Lent
4		The Deacon's Vestments
5		Adam and Eve are Punished
6		Give us this Day our Daily Bread
7		The Holy Liturgy
8		Holy Week
9		The Resurrection
10		Sunday of the Apostle Thomas
11		Jacob and Esau
12		But Deliver us from Evil
13		The Weekly cycle
14		Joseph Sold by his Brothers
15		The Ascension
16		Thy Kingdom Come
17		Sunday of All Saints
18		The Holy Apostles
19		Saint Marina
20		The Parable of the Good Shepherd
21		The Story of Ruth
22		The Transfiguration
23		Panagia
24		Samuel
25		Saint John the Baptist
26		The Holy Liturgy
27		David and Goliath
28		David the King
29		The Holy Liturgy
30		Saint Gerasimos
31		Saint Demetrios
32		The Angels and the Devil
33		Solomon
34		Saint Katherine
35		The Holy Liturgy - The Holy Offering
36		The Prophet Isaiah
37		The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

MY 2020HIGH SCHOOL STAGE 1 SCRIPTURE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Topic/Event
1		God Creates Adam and Eve
2		Adam and Eve Disobey God
3		The Parable of the Prodigal Son
4		The Second Coming
5		The Daily Services
6		Daniel
7		The Last Supper
8		Joseph's Brothers in Egypt
9		Holy Week
10		Easter Sunday
11		St John Chrysostom
12		The Holy Liturgy
13		Our Lord Jesus Heals a Man who was Born Blind
14		The Great Flood
15		Jesus - The True Vine
16		Pentecost
17		The Feasts in our Church
18		The Holy Liturgy - The Service of Prothesis or Proskomidi
19		The Meaning of the Proskomidi
20		Joshua
21		Samson
22		The Holy Liturgy
23		The Prophet Elijah
24		The Parable of the Two House Builders
25		The Dormition of the Theotokos
26		St Kosmas Aitolos
27		The Parable of the Foolish Rich Man
28		The Birth of the Holy Mother of God
29		The Holy Liturgy
30		St John the Theologian
31		Esther
32		The Holy Liturgy - The Confession of our Faith
33		Gideon
34		St Arsenios
35		Job
36		The Holy Liturgy - Holy Communion
37		The Parable of the Talents
38		St Nicholas, St Spyridon

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 2020 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 2020

Triodion begins	February 9	Holy (Good) Friday	April 17
Meat Fare Sunday	February 23	Orthodox Pascha	April 19
First Monday of Lent	March 2	Ascension	May 28
Sunday of Orthodoxy	March 8	Pentecost	June 7
Saturday of Lazarus	April 11	All Saints	June 14
Palm Sunday	April 12	Fast of Holy Apostles	June 15

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

