

7TH & 8TH GRADE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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The curriculum of the 7th & 8th grade class needs to be interactive and hands on. By the end of the 2-year period, the students will have reviewed and shown a certain degree of mastery of the basic information and concepts presented in Fr. Thomas Hopko's THE ORTHODOX FAITH: AN ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH – Doctrine, Worship, Bible & Church History, Spirituality. This class is a preparation for the High School class that will focus on moral and daily application of the Orthodox Faith.

Each unit needs to include various levels of understanding:

- Level I: Rote facts*
- Level II: Concepts*
- Level III: Comparisons & Inferences*
- Level IV: Independent Study/Projects*

ORTHODOX SOURCES FOR DOCTRINE & INFORMATION

1. Scripture
2. Church Fathers
3. Service Books [Prayer book/Euchologion, Menaion, Triodion, Pentecostarion]
4. Concordance
5. Hopko 4-volume series
6. Internet resources

VOCABULARY: As listed from Preschool through Grade 6. Attached.

WORSHIP: Divine Liturgy

1. Identify the divisions of the Liturgy.
2. Identify the major hymns & prayers of the Liturgy.
3. Identify what each particle of bread of the Proskomidia, as well as the water & wine, represent.
4. Explain the major hymns.
5. Compare & contrast the three Liturgies used by the Orthodox Church.
6. List the comparisons between OT worship & the Liturgy.
7. Identify the roots of the Liturgy found in the New Testament.
8. Come to understand that when we worship during the Liturgy or at other times, we are “out of time,”

that time stands still. We enter “-God’s time.”

WORSHIP:

Mysteries/sacraments

1. Name the 7 Mysteries/sacraments of the Orthodox Church.
2. Locate the Scripture references for each mystery/sacrament.
3. List the visible & invisible signs of each mystery/sacrament.
4. Explain the origins and meaning/purpose of each mystery/sacrament.
5. Explain the preparation needed for each mystery/sacrament.
6. Compare the mysteries/sacraments of the Orthodox with Roman Catholic and Protestant churches.
7. Give the historical development of each mystery/sacrament.
8. What makes a mystery/sacrament a mystery/sacrament?

WORSHIP: Other Divine Services (Akolothies)

1. Name the other services of the Orthodox Church [Paraklesis/Supplication, Akathist Hymn, and Blessing of Water, Funeral].
2. Give the purpose of each of these services.
3. Compare and contrast these services.

WORSHIP: Cycle of Services

1. Name the 6 services that make up the daily cycle [Hours, Matins, Liturgy,

Vespers, Compline, and Midnight Office].

2. Identify the time each is celebrated.
3. Give a basic definition of each.
4. Identify the purpose of each service.

PRAYER

1. Recite the Lord's Prayer.
2. Recite the Nicene Creed.
3. Recite the Prayer of St. Ephraim.
4. Recite a Pre-Communion & Post-Communion Prayer.
5. Recite the Jesus Prayer.
6. Write out the Nicene Creed.
7. List what the Creed professes about God the Father.
8. List what the Creed professes about Jesus Christ.
9. List what the Creed professes about the Holy Spirit.
10. List what the Creed professes about the Church.
11. Compare and contrast how Orthodox Christians, Jews and Moslems view God.

HYMNS

1. Sing/recite "Gladsome Light".
2. Sing/recite "Christ is Risen".
3. Sing/recite the parish's troparion.

SCRIPTURE

1. List the two main divisions of the Bible.
2. List the major divisions or type of literature of the Old Testament [Law, History, Wisdom, Psalms, and Prophets].

3. List the major divisions of the New Testament [Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Letters, and Revelations].
4. List the 4 Gospel writers.
5. List the books of the New Testament.
6. List the 10 Commandments.
7. Identify the key stories that make up Jesus' life.
8. Identify the key stories of the Old Testament [Creation, Expulsion from Eden, Moses, the Exodus, the 10 commandments, Jonah, Three Holy Youths, David, Joseph...].
9. List the Beatitudes.
10. Discuss the meaning of key Parables [list].
11. Explain how the OT prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
12. Explain each of the 10 Commandments.
13. Give an example from Scripture for each of the 10 Commandments.
14. Apply the 10 Commandments to daily life.
15. Explain how the books of the NT were selected.
16. Compare and contrast the Orthodox & Protestant OT.
17. Compare and contrast that the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, & Protestant churches' approaches to the Scripture.
18. Explain how the 2 Commandments given by Christ fulfill the 10 Commandments.

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Identify when the Church or ecclesiastical calendar begins.
2. List, give the dates, and identify the icon of each of the 12 Major Feasts.
3. List & give the dates of the 4 Lenten Periods.

4. Identify what occurs or is remembered on each day of Holy Week.
5. Name 6 major saints and his/her feast day.
6. List the 3 special services offered during the Paschal Lent [Compline, Presanctified Liturgy, and Compline] and name the purpose of each.
7. List the feast days of the Lord.
8. List the feast days of the Theotokos.
9. Identify the parish's patron saint or feast day, icon and hymn.
10. Connect the hymns & icons of each of the 12 Major Feasts.
11. Explain the purpose and preparation for each of the Lenten seasons.
12. Explain how the date of Pascha is calculated.
13. Compare & contrast the OT Passover and the NT Pascha.

CHURCH HISTORY

1. Distinguish between BC and AD.
2. List the dates/centuries of the 7 Ecumenical Councils.
3. When did the schism/split between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches occur?
4. When did the Protestant Reformation occur?
5. Identify the countries where Orthodox Missionaries first traveled.
6. Great moments of Church History centered on key figures and events. (St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Anthony the Great, St. Athanasios, SS. Constantine & Helen, St. Photios, St. Kosmas Aitolos, St. Nektarios, & others.)

DOCTRINE [overlaps with the section on the Creed]

1. List the 3 persons of the Holy Trinity.
2. List the 2 natures of Jesus Christ.
3. List the components of Holy Tradition.
4. Define Sin.
5. Define Salvation.
6. Define Theosis.
7. Explain the Incarnation.
8. Explain why Jesus had to die.
9. Explain how Jesus' resurrection affects us.
10. Explain how Pentecost relates to us.
11. Compare and contrast the Old and New Adams.
12. Compare and contrast Eve and the Virgin Mary.
13. Apply Mary's example to your life.
14. Explain Sonship.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE & RELIGIOUS ITEMS

[Resource: *Focus on You, Program 4*]

1. List the 3 divisions of the Church building.
2. Identify the furnishings of the Altar area. [List]
3. Identify the furnishings of the Nave. [List]
4. Identify the furnishings of the Narthex. [List]
5. List the order of the icons on the icon screen/iconostasion.
6. List each vestment worn by the Bishop, Priest & Deacon.
7. Explain each of the following symbols: fish (ΙΧΘΥΣ), triangle, grapes & vines, wine & bread...
8. Explain the symbolism of each vestment worn by the Bishop, Priest & Deacon.
9. Explain the symbolism of each piece of the church's architecture & furnishings. [List]

Vocabulary: Preschool-6th

Abess/Abbot	Council	Lamb
Absolution	Creator	Lamentations of Christ
Acolyte	Creed	Lance
Advent	Cross	Liturgy
Agape Service	Crucifixion	Lord
Akathist Hymn	Crucify	Magi
Alms	Cuffs	Marriage
Almsgiving	Cupolas/Domes	Martyr
Altar	Deacon	Mary
Altar Server	Deaconess	Memorial Service
Amen	Dikiri & Trikiri	Mercenary
Angel	Diocese	Mercy
Antidoron /Holy Bread	Disciples	Messiah
Apostles	Dishonesty	Metropolitan
Apostolos / Epistle	Dormition	Miracle
Archbishop	Eagle	Missionary
Ark	Epigonation	Monastery
Ark of the Covenant	Epiphany / Theophany	Monastics
Ascetic	Epistle	Monk
Asterisk	Epitaphios	Moslems
Atheist	Eternal	Myrrh
Axios	Ethics	Nameday
Banners	Eucharist	Narthex
Baptismal Font	Evil spirit	Nativity
Baptize	Exaltation of the Cross	Nave
Beatitude	Faith	North Door
Beelzebub	Fasting	Obedience
Betrayal	Forerunner	Ordain
Bible	Forgive	Orthodox
Bishop	Forgiveness	Palm
Bishop's throne	Guardian Angel	Panagia
Blessing Cross	Godparent	Pantocrator
Candle	Golgotha	Parable
Catholic (Roman)	Gospel	Pascha / Easter
Censer	Gospel Book	Passover
Covenant	Great Entrance	Patriarch
Creation	Great Lent	Pascha/Easter
Chalice	Great Vespers	Pentecost
Chalice Veil	Heaven	Petition
Chant / Chanter	Hebrews	Pew
Church Father	Holy	Pharisee
Chrism	Holy Myron	Pity
Chrismation	Holy Water	Pray / Prayer
Christ	Holy Spirit	Prayer Book
Christian	Honest	Preach
Church	Humility	Presanctified Liturgy
Church Father	Hymns	Priest
Churching	Icon	Prophet
Clean Monday	Iconostasion	Proskomidia
Commandment	Image	Prosforo
Communion	Incarnation	Prostration
Compassion	Incense	Protestant
Confession	Integrity	Proverbs
Confessor	Israelites	Psalms
Congregation	Jesus	Psalter
Consecrate	Jesus Prayer	Publican
Convent	Judges	Rabbi
	Kingdom	Reconcile

Reconciliation
Redeemer
Religion
Repent
Repentance
Restoration
Resurrection
Righteous
Sacrament/Mystery
Sacrifice
Saint
Salutations
Salvation
Sanctuary
Satan
Savior
Scribe

Seminary
Sermon
Sin
Soul
South Door
Sponge
Spoon
Steward
Stewardship
Subdeacon
Symbol
Synagogue
Synod
Tabernacle
Talent
Tempt
Temptation

Ten Commandments
Trust
Theologian
Theotokos
Torah
Tradition
Trespass
Trisagion
Unction
Universe
Unmercenaries
Venerate
Virgin Mary
Witness
Worship
Zeon
Zone / Belt

GRADES 9-12 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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Many parishes combine 9th through 12th grade classes into a High School Class. This may be done, in part, because of the number of available students. Another reason for this grouping is that by now they have completed eight years of catechetical training and the emphasis should shift to a practical application of the faith in one's life and the significance of the faith in the world. This does not mean that there will no longer be didactic presentations. The vastness of Orthodox theology and Tradition requires us to present additional material to the high school student as needed

For this to happen, a high school program needs to:

1. Introduce our students to the issues and situations of the world.
2. Identify the unique Orthodox characteristics (monasticism, theology, worship, and role in the world, social issues).
3. Brings together the totality of Tradition that entails Scriptural ability and the skill of finding Patristic commentaries [Integrate Scripture, Church Fathers, Doctrine, Hymns, Icons, Church Services].
4. Present the Orthodox teaching and maintain the Orthodox Ethos.

High schoolers should:

1. Take an active participatory role in the liturgical year, becoming knowledgeable of its details and conversant with such events as the Triodion, the Pentecostarion and the balance of the ecclesiastical cycle. They could sing in the choir, be readers, and be actively a part of the charitable activities (collect, deliver things, etc.), and assume a stewardship role in the life of the parish.
2. Know and understand the unique Orthodox aspects of a religious life.
3. Be able to apply the teachings of the faith to everyday life and situations (drugs, sex, abortion, creation, worship, etc.).
4. Know the meanings of the words listed on the Vocabulary List.

*The following 6 Units for discussion can be rotated over the course of four years, and even returned to for another level of understanding. **Comparative Religions, Eschatology, Marriage & Family Life, Modern Ethical Issues, Service & Mission, Spiritual Life.***

I. COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

OTHER CHRISTIANS: Protestant, Roman Catholic, Episcopal

- Compare and contrast various teachings.
- Refer to Scriptographic booklets.
- Visit other churches (possible via video: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist, Evangelical)

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

II. ESCHATOLOGY

CULTS & NEW AGE RELIGIONS [Refer to Southwest Institute for Orthodox Studies website for materials to download. www.orthodoxstudies.org; Seraphim Rose's *Orthodoxy & the Religions of the Future*.]

THE SPIRIT WORLD: angels, demons, spirits [Resource: Mother Alexandra's *The Holy Angels*, /St. Basil's *Hexameron* or St. Gregory of Nyssa's continuation of the *Hexameron*.]

- New age angels
- The influence of Satan on each of us and the limits God places. Demonic influence as a reality.
- What does the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed say about it?
- Feast of the Archangels on November 8

THE END TIMES

- ❑ The Book of Revelation: Why was it written? For whom was it written? [Refer to *Orthodox Study Bible*.]
- ❑ The Second Coming of Christ. What does the Orthodox Church teach about it?
- ❑ What is the Rapture? Do we believe in it?
- ❑ What does the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed say about it?

HEAVEN & HELL

- ❑ Are they real places?
- ❑ What does the Orthodox Church teach about these?

AN ORTHODOX UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH: Soul, Body, Mind [Resources: the Gospel readings to be used at Orthodox Funerals; Funeral epistle reading from I Thessalonians.]

- ❑ Examine the hymns of the funeral service. [Prepare handouts for students to use.]
- ❑ The Orthodox funeral includes the singing of hymns and asking for God's mercy vs. eulogizing. It is also a time of self-reflection for those present.
- ❑ What is the function of Memorial Services?
- ❑ The psychological benefit of the way the Orthodox Church deals with the dead.

III. MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE [Resources: Greek Archdiocese's Interfaith Marriage website, Meyendorff's *Marriage: An Orthodox Perspective*, St. Paul on marriage, John Chryssavgis' *Love, Sexuality and the Sacrament of Marriage*, John Mack's *Preserve Them, O Lord*, St. John Chrysostom; the video of the Clergy-Laity Interfaith Marriage Committee.]

- ❑ Dating: Orthodox, Christians, and non-Christians.
- ❑ Choosing a mate.
- ❑ The Orthodox understanding of marriage. If I love him/her enough, can I change him/her?
- ❑ Interfaith marriages: Christian and non-Christian. What are the consequences?
- ❑ Orthodox sponsors [Need to keep up friendships with Orthodox.]
- ❑ Children – do we have to have them?
- ❑ What is the Orthodox understanding of the role of godparents?
- ❑ Choosing children's names & celebrating Namedays.
- ❑ Restrictions in participating in non-Orthodox sacrament, ex. Godparent.

DIVORCE & BLENDED FAMILIES

- ❑ What does the Orthodox Church teach about divorce?
- ❑ What does the Orthodox Church teach about remarriage?
- ❑ Parental issues of discipline and parenting styles.

DUTIES OF AN ORTHODOX PARENT [Refer to St. John Chrysostom & St. Theophan the Recluse' *Raising Them Right*, Sr. Magdalen's *Children in the Church Today: An Orthodox Perspective*.]

- ❑ What is expected?
- ❑ How does interfaith marriage affect this?

THE MANY FACES OF LOVE

- ❑ Erotic love, filial love, storge love, agape.
- ❑ Can we choose to fall in love? Can we choose not to fall in love?

IV. MODERN ETHICAL ISSUES [Resource: Harakas' *Toward a Transfigured Life*, especially chapter 2, & *Contemporary Moral Issues*.]

CREATION & EVOLUTION

- ❑ Refer to St. Basil's *Hexameron*.
- ❑ Refer to *Creationism Versus Evolution* by Fr. George Nicozisin (out of print)
- ❑ Refer to *The Orthodox Idea of Creation* by John Booramra, Ph.D., *The Word*, June 1999, pp.31-34, available on <http://home.neo.rr.com/pmonest> under Spring 2000 Packet.
- ❑ What does the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed say about it?
- ❑ Did it really occur in 6 days?
- ❑ What does the Orthodox Church teach about it?

WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN? END?

[Resources: *Sacred Gift of Life* by John Breck, *Garment of Skin* by Mantzarides]

- Abortion
- Euthanasia

GENETIC ENGINEERING

- Cloning
- Souls
- Fertility issues

ECOLOGY [Resource: Chrissavgis' *Beyond the Shattered Image*]

- Abuse of the Environment

ADDICTION [Resource: *Videos that Teach*, "When A Man Loves A Woman"

- Virtues vs. vices
- Materialism & possessions [Resource: *Videos that Teach*, "Death Becomes Her", St. John Chrysostom]

SEXUALITY/HOMOSEXUALITY/ABSTINENCE

[Resources: Family Research Council, MISH: Medical Institute for Sexual Health, Orthodox Christian Publication Center]

- Value systems & lifestyles
- Peer pressure

V. SERVICE & MISSION

STEWARDSHIP

- What does God expect from us?
- What does it take to become a merciful person?
- Getting out of our "comfort zone."
- Volunteering at a Soup Kitchen, Tutoring disadvantaged youth, IOCC, OCMC, Habitat for Humanity.

MISSIONS

- Domestic
- Foreign
- Historical overview

CAREERS & COLLEGE

- The importance of the Church in the life of the young adult.
- Should we choose a school that has no Orthodox presence in the vicinity?
- Should we choose a job that has no Orthodox presence in the vicinity?
- Today's choices may have a greater consequence than we realize.
- Dealing with the responsibilities of part time jobs.

VI. SPIRITUAL LIFE

- THEOSIS
- Becoming Christ-like
- Define
- How does living in the secular world affect this?
- A different outlook on life.
- Analysis of choice of music, TV, videos, magazines, entertainment & Internet as sources of spiritual growth or temptation and sin.
- Power of the Media.
- Can we choose whether what we see and hear will influence us? [An Orthodox understanding includes guarding against exposure to certain things.]
- Monastics struggle against what we expose ourselves to.
- Making the Orthodox Christian life one's not Mom or Dad's
- Image & Likeness, Personhood
- Free Will/Determinism/Pre-Destination/Synergia – cooperating with God

PRAYER LIFE [Resource: Coniaris' *Introduction to Orthodoxy*]

- From the Scriptures: ex. Psalm 50/51.
- Jesus Prayer.
- Lord's Prayer.
- Study of the Doxology.

SIN IN TODAY'S WORLD

- How is it manifested?
- How does it affect you and me?
- The seduction of the world
- Today's idols (Check out Balaam)
- Body piercing, tattoos, provocative clothing, excessive make-up

THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE

- How does this help us in our journey?
- Where does Fasting fit in?

PAIN, SUFFERING & LOSS

- The Book of Job [Refer to *Wisdom Let Us Attend: Job, the Holy Fathers and the Old Testament* by Johanna Manley.]
- Death: an Orthodox understanding
- Suicide [Video: Hot Talk Starters, Suicide]
- Broken relationships
- Forgiveness

ASCETICISM & MONASTICISM

- We are all called to lead an ascetical life. How can we do this "in the world"?
- Visit a monastery.
- Mt. Athos/ Mt. Sinai

REPENTANCE & CONFESSION

- What does the Lord's Prayer say about it?

MIRACLES

- Define
- Stories of miracles
- Within our families

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE UNDER PERSECUTION - THE PAST & TODAY

- Life in the Church until the Emperor Constantine.
- Compare the early persecution and martyrs with what occurred in the former Soviet block countries in the 1900's.
- What is happening now in Indonesia, Ethiopia, elsewhere?
- Refer to the lives of Fr. Arseny and Mother Maria

THEOTOKOS & THE SAINTS [Refer to the *Prologue of Ochrid*.]

- Could she have said, "No"?
- How many are there?
- Compare and contrast the Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic understandings.
- The Church Fathers today. Are they relevant? (ex. Theophan the Recluse wrote *Raising Them Right*.)
- St. Seraphim of Sarov
- Relics of saints
- Church Militant and Triumphant.
- Identify and relate the life of one's patron saint.