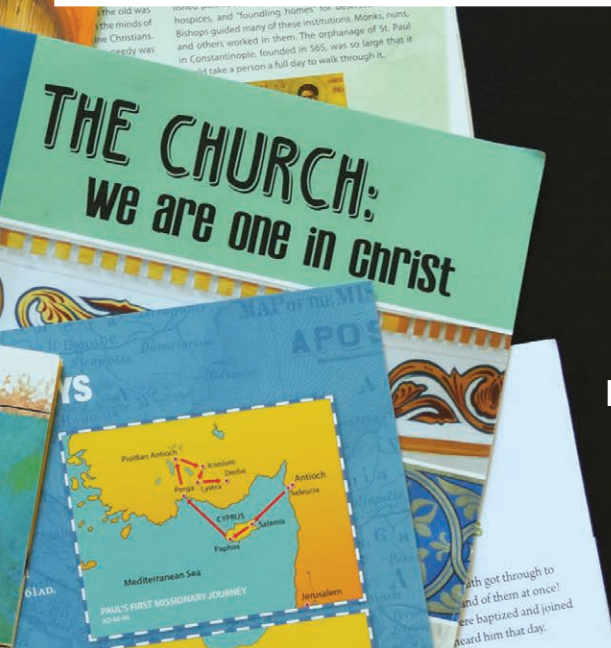


Sunday Church School CURRICULUM

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of America
Department of Religious Education

2016

LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH: ORIGINAL SERIES FOR PRESCHOOL TO GRADE 4



Complete

Each grade level has a student text and a teacher guide. The last unit in each book is comprised of several feast day lessons, which are to be taught at the appropriate time during the year. Music and lyrics are included as noted, either in the teacher guide or in a separate song book. A single CD contains all of the songs for all grade levels.

Holistic & comprehensive

During their time with the “Living Our Orthodox Faith” curriculum, children encounter the saints, scriptures, sacraments, doctrines and traditions of Orthodox Christianity.

Each year is organized around an age-relevant theme, rather than a school-like subject, such as History, Music or Art. Topics at the center of the life of the Church—such as sacraments and major feasts—are presented multiple times, from different perspectives and in age-appropriate levels of detail.

Engaging

Every lesson is divided into three parts:

PART 1 is a story or activity pulled from everyday **LIFE** designed to help students think and talk about their lives at home, church or school. These experiences are then related to the theme of the lesson.

PART 2 teaches our Orthodox **FAITH** and beliefs relating to the lesson, using a Bible story, the life of a saint or a descriptive narrative. Here, the Church is “telling its story.”

PART 3 of each lesson is application, connecting the theme to the **LIFE** of the child.





Living Our Orthodox Faith CD

A single CD contains all of the hymns and songs for kindergarten to fourth grade.

K26 \$19.95

Additional features:

Memory verses

Hymns, songs and prayers

Maps, timelines and icons

Active learning through songs, crafts, games, fingerplays, puzzles, etc.

► PRESCHOOL



God Loves Us

Preschool Teacher's Binder

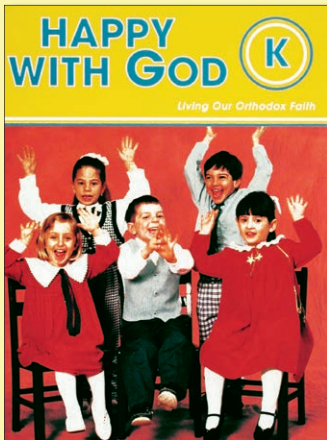
Love, which children so freely give and so naturally expect, is the basis for this year-long program. This is a teacher's guide with reproducible handouts for students. Here are the materials a teacher needs to build an effective, customized program for this age group.

Teacher's Edition

N10

\$27.00

► KINDERGARTEN



Happy with God

Sophia Annas

God's love is the source of joy, the main theme of this program designed for kindergartners. Aspects of worship and stories from scripture highlight specific examples of and reasons for joy centered on Christ.

Student Book

K16

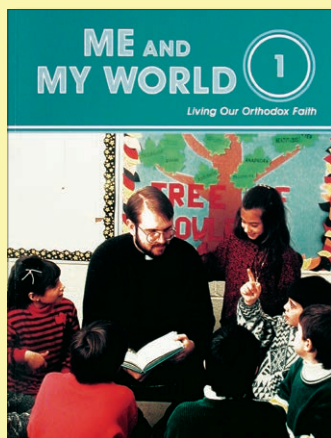
\$15.00

Teacher's Edition

K20

\$15.00

▶ **GRADE 1**



Me and My World

Theodore Kaltsounis

The focus of this program is on Creation as God's gift. In discovering the world, the child understands that the family, friends, church school—all come from God. Through depictions of the daily experiences of God's world, the child comes to realize that God is real, loving and caring.

Student Book	110	\$15.00
Teacher's Edition <i>by Mary Hallick</i>	115	\$17.50
Activity Book	126	\$5.00
Song Book <i>by Konstantine Mendrinos</i>	120	\$5.00
Each additional Song Book		\$3.00

BIBLE STORIES: FAMILIES

Adam & Eve, Noah, Joseph & his brothers, Jesus & His family, the Prodigal Son

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

Baptism, 40-day Blessings, Communion

HOLY DAYS

Annunciation, Christmas, Theophany, Palm Sunday, Easter



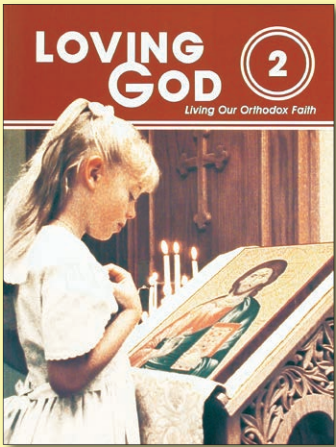


Loving God

Theodore Kaltsounis

This program concentrates on the theme of “Loving God.” Through the example of men and women of the Bible, and of our saints, children begin to understand right, wrong and forgiveness in the light of God’s love. They also learn the importance not only of loving God unconditionally, but also of respecting other people, of taking care of the environment, of doing good in His Name.

Student Book	211	\$15.00
Teacher’s Edition by Mary Hallick	215	\$15.00
Song Book by Konstantine Mendrinos	220	\$5.00
Each additional Song Book		\$3.00



BIBLE STORIES: SHOWING LOVE

The Ten Commandments, the Last Supper, Peter’s Denials, the Good Samaritan

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

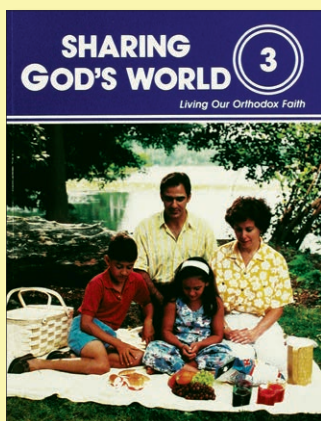
Marriage, Communion, Confession, Clergy, Vespers, Liturgy

SAINTS

Demetrios, John the Beloved Disciple, Basil, Helen

HOLY DAYS

Holy Cross, Presentation of the Theotokos, Presentation of the Lord, Resurrection



Sharing God's World

Elizabeth White

Children learn about sharing through the example of Jesus and are inspired to observe these same examples in the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, and other services of the Church. From there they become caring, sharing individuals. Contains words to hymns and songs. Teacher's Guide contains words and music for hymns and songs.

Student Book 320 \$15.00

Teacher's Edition 325 \$15.00

The student book contains the words to hymns and songs, and the teacher guide includes both words and music.

BIBLE STORIES: GOD'S BLESSINGS

Cain & Abel; Abraham; Jacob & Esau; the Feeding of the 5,000; the Sermon on the Mount

SAINTS

Stephen the First Martyr, Paul, Polycarp, Cosmas & Damian, Nicholas

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

Artoclasia, Memorials, Unction, Communion, Blessing of the Waters, the Liturgy

HOLY DAYS

Christmas, Sunday of Orthodoxy, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost





► GRADE 4

Growing with God

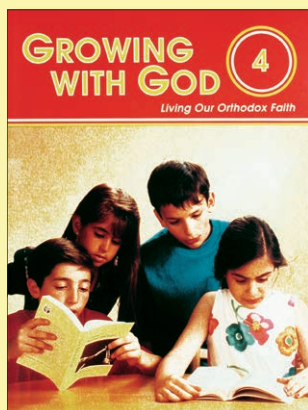
Sophia Annas

A program devoted to helping children learn how to use and appreciate the Bible. Also introduces examples of living the sacramental life—attending services, fasting, praying, observing feast days, helping others, learning about the saints and the Church of Christ. After this program, children love the Bible and know how to refer to it in times of doubt and fear. Contains words to hymns and songs.

Student Book 410 \$15.00

Teacher's Edition by Elizabeth White 415 \$15.00

The student book contains the words to hymns and songs, and the teacher guide includes both words and music.



Good News Bible

This is Today's English Version translation and it includes Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical books located in a separate section between the Old and the New Testaments. Illustrated with line drawings.

Hard cover BIB003 \$14.00

BIBLE: HOLY SCRIPTURE
Practice-oriented unit on the Bible itself lays the foundation for future study

SAINTS

Ephraim the Syrian, Timothy, Romanos, Katherine, Andrew, Ignatios, John the Merciful, Cyril & Methodios, Innocent

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

Marriage, Baptism, Chrismation, Presanctified Liturgy, Salutations to the Theotokos

HOLY DAYS

Nativity of the Theotokos, Dormition, Sts. Peter & Paul, Transfiguration



LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH: NEW SERIES FOR GRADE 5

New format, maximum flexibility



Building within the same curriculum structure and using the LIFE to FAITH to LIFE educational design, we have completely renovated Grade 5, the first in a new series of student zines and teacher guides.

Unlike the grade-level textbooks of the Original Series, the New Series is presented unit-by-unit in the form of zines (short “magazines”). Teacher guides for each unit are stored in the binder.

Directors and teachers can adjust their order quantities for various units according to class size fluctuations. Order only the units you need for your ministries... Maybe your Vacation Church School theme was “Old Testament Heroes”? Sounds a bit like Unit 1—you might choose to start the year off with Unit 2. Planning to spend a few Sunday mornings focused on a special project, such as an All Saints Fair or an arts festival? Perhaps you’ll choose to convert Unit 3 into a series of Wednesday evening sessions during Great Lent.

Hands-on...

Building from the Bible skills they learned from *Growing with God* (Grade 4), students are ready to go right to the source—with support! For many lessons, students will read one or more brief passages in their Bibles, directed by focus questions and summaries in the zine.

...but there’s still time for stories

Supplement, recap, or modify your Bible reading time with Re-Tales. Let Joseph’s brothers tell you their side of the story. Follow the Exodus in the journal entries of a young girl. Hear from each of the Evangelists, in their own style.

God Calls Us

Stephania Gianulis with Anton Vrame, Aimee Cox, Angeliki Constantine & Ted Theodorou

Concentrates on the stories of those heroes of the Faith who have responded to God's call. Through these examples of faith, loyalty, self-sacrifice, obedience, love, justice and social responsibility, students of this age learn to respond to God in terms of personal faith and the basics of Christian morality.

1. God Calls Us to Faith (5 lessons)

Student 550-1 \$2.95 Teacher 555-1 \$3.50

2. God Calls Us to Holiness (7 lessons)

Student 550-2 \$2.95 Teacher 555-2 \$3.50

3. God Calls Us to His Kingdom (6 lessons)

Student 550-3 \$2.95 Teacher 555-3 \$3.50

4. God Calls Us to His Church (5 lessons)

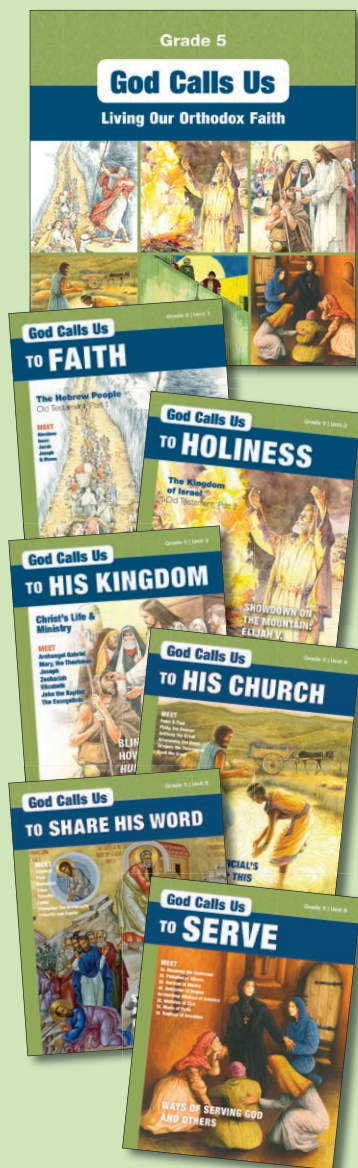
Student 550-4 \$2.95 Teacher 555-4 \$3.50

5. God Calls Us to Share His Word (6 lessons)

NEW UNIT!
Student 550-5 \$2.95 Teacher 555-5 \$3.50

6. God Calls Us to Serve (5 lessons)

Student 550-6 \$2.95 Teacher 555-6 \$3.50
Binder 550-0 \$5.00



Good News Bible

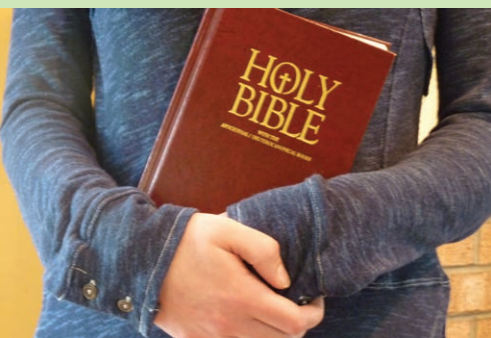
This is Today's English Version translation, and it includes Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical books located in a separate section between the Old and the New Testaments. Illustrated with line drawings.

Hard cover BIB003 \$14.00

NRSV Bible

The New Revised Standard Version Bible includes section headings, footnotes and cross-references for further study. Set in paragraph format text for easy reading. Hard cover.

BIB005 \$14.00



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERIES & ZINES FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH



About the zines & teacher guides



Each of the Department of Religious Education's zines (from "magazine") explores one topic of the Orthodox Christian Faith, with easy-to-read bites of information, vibrant images, and interactive elements, such as questions for reflection or Bible passages to look up.

Although the zines may be excellent sources of information when read independently, they are carefully designed classroom texts. The teacher guides are comprehensive units of 4–6 thematic lessons that lead students to a deeper understanding and active application of the short texts in the zine. The lessons follow the six-step "shared Christian praxis" format, which is described in each teacher guide.

Mixed-age groups

Do you combine several grades in a single class? For ideas about using the zines in a multi-year cycle with mixed-age classes, see <http://tinyurl.com/dre-curriculum>.

A la carte planning

The Department's materials for grades 6–12 come from several textbook series. Religious education directors can select several units to comprise each year's course of study. These textbooks can be used for a range of ages at the middle and high school levels, allowing teachers to adjust the discussion and activities to suit their particular situations.

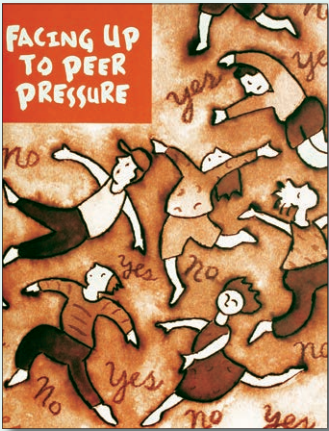
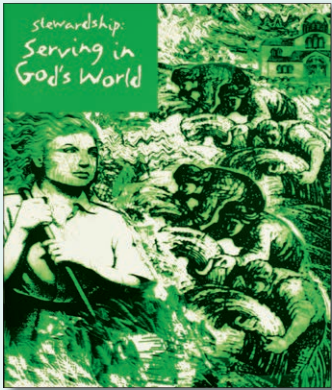
Stewardship: Serving in God's World

All too often stewardship is equated with money, which is far too limited for a Christian perspective. The five lessons in this unit expand the vision of stewardship from the environment to our role of responsibility to each other, and focuses on the broad concepts of stewardship that will contribute to spiritual growth.

Student Book by Elaine Michaels & Mary Hallick

29 pages **M03** **\$7.50**

Teacher's Guide 1 unit (5 lessons) **M04** **\$10.00**



Facing Up to Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is a nagging challenge faced by our youth, but it also has a favorable side: positive peer pressure.

Student Book by Sophronia Tomaras

25 pages **M01** **\$7.50**

Teacher's Guide 1 unit (4 lessons) **M02** **\$10.00**



Honesty

Honesty is a broad topic, but knowing the consequences of lying, cheating, and distinguishing right from wrong are essential for our youth and their spiritual welfare. The Bible and the teaching of Christ constitute a strong moral compass for such guidance and direction. In the vignette of each lesson Andre's good friends, Constance and Anna, pose some real-life problems for Andre.

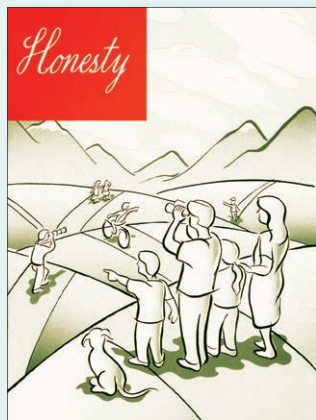
Student Book by Elaine Michaels & Mary Hallick

33 pages

M07 \$7.50

Teacher's Guide 1 unit (5 lessons)

M08 \$12.00



Knowing Christ

The teachings, miracles and parables of Christ are amply represented in the lessons and supplemental discussions concerning the Bible, prayer, Church, etc.

Student Book by Theodore Stylianopoulos

49 pages

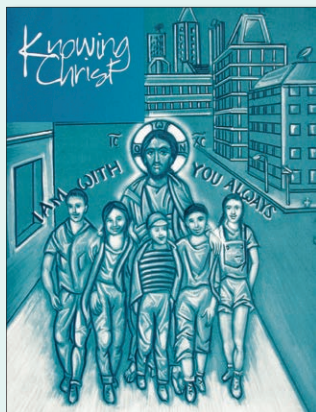
M05

\$7.50

Teacher's Guide 1 unit (6 lessons)

M06

\$10.00



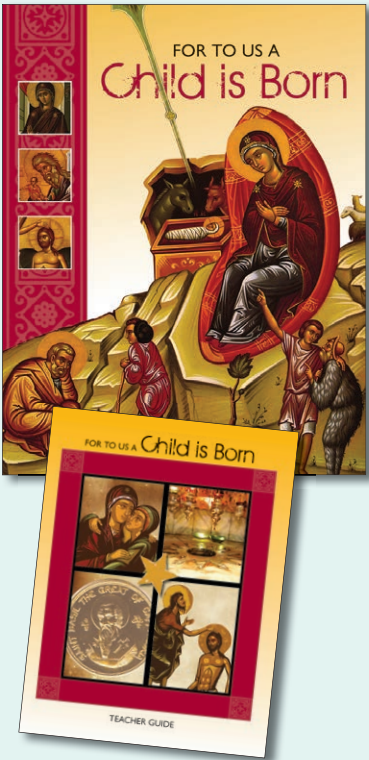
For to Us a Child Is Born

Unwrap the story of Christ's birth to reveal the fullness of the Incarnation, beginning with the Annunciation and then the Nativity, Theophany and the Presentation of the Lord. The text unpacks the meaning of the celebration through iconography, Scripture, hymns, saints and traditions (such as the Vasilopita and home blessings).

The Teacher Guide can be used flexibly during the entire holiday season: its lessons cover many aspects of the Incarnation. Lessons 1 and 2 can be taught as time permits anytime from the beginning of the Nativity fast (November 15). Lesson 3, on St. Basil, is appropriate through early January. Lesson 4, on Theophany and the Presentation, can be used anytime in January. Age 10+.

Student Zine by Anton Vrame **L184** **\$3.95**
18 pages **50+** **\$2.95**

Teacher Guide by Stephania Gianulis
1 unit of 4 lesson plans **L184-1** **\$9.95**





Journey through Holy Week

Follow Christ and the Church from the Saturday of Lazarus to the Agape Vespers service. The zine pinpoints the relevance and meanings of the services, hymns, Scripture, icons, traditions and history. In addition to the classroom, the zine can be used during retreats, in the church or at home.

Each lesson in the Teacher Guide focuses on a theme: surprise and hope (Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday); living in preparation for meeting Christ (Bridegroom Services); and healing and wholeness (Holy Wednesday). Age 10+.

Student Zine by Stephania Gianulis **L183** **\$2.95**
18 pages **50+** **\$2.50**

Teacher Guide by Stephania Gianulis
1 unit of 5 lessons **L183-1** **\$9.95**

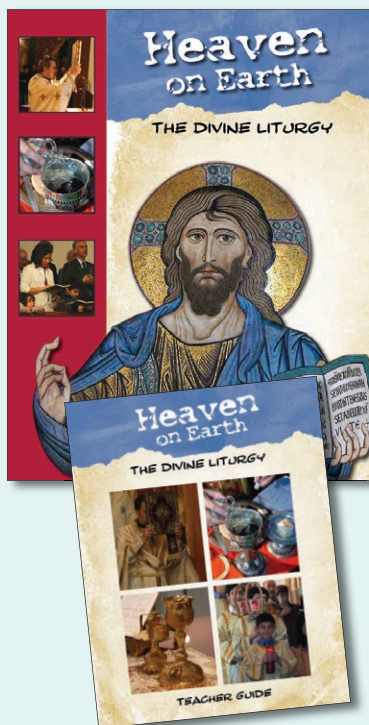
Journey through Great Lent

This nine-week unit spans the Great Fast with clear, vivid introductions to the season's scriptures, traditions, saints, and services. The brief readings in the zines are a focal point in classroom lessons that include not only personal reflection and thoughtful discussion, but also interactive activities and projects to help students refuel. Journal assignments keep students focused all week long on the disciplines of the Great Fast: fasting, prayer, giving and learning. Includes an in-depth lesson on the Sacrament of Confession. Age 12+.

Student Zine by Stephania Gianulis **M15** **\$3.95**
14 pages **50+** **\$2.95**

Teacher Guide by Aimee Cox **M16** **\$14.95**
1 unit of 9 lessons





Heaven on Earth: The Divine Liturgy

"We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth . . . We know only that God dwells there among men." As St. Vladimir's emissaries found, heaven and earth meet in the Church through the Divine Liturgy. The zine begins with a brief history of worship in the Orthodox Church and then details each section of the service. Special features include a "visual dictionary" of liturgical items, a look at Church architecture, and an exploration of the Creed's scriptural foundations.

Each lesson in the Teacher Guide helps students understand and engage with one aspect of the Divine Liturgy: worship, unity, prayer, Scripture, forgiveness and the "liturgy after the liturgy." Age 10+.

Student Zine by Tom Papagiannis **M09 \$3.95**
22 pages **50+ \$2.95**

Teacher Guide by Tom Papagiannis & Aimee Cox
1 unit of 6 lesson plans **M10 \$9.95**

First among Equals The Ecumenical Patriarchate

While exploring the history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the current work of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, students will encounter many wider topics, including Church leadership, global Orthodoxy, Christian unity, religious freedom and caring for God's creation. 26 pages. Age 13+.

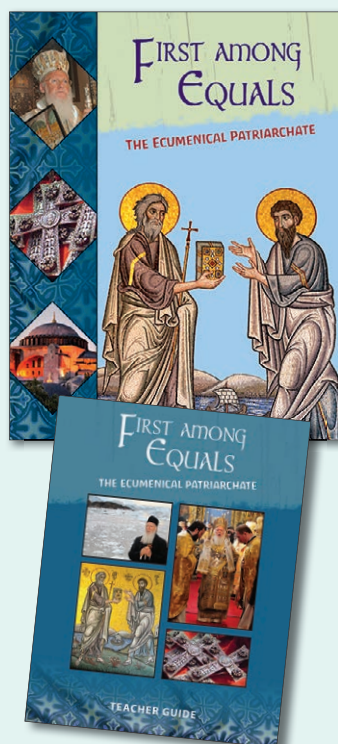
Student Zine by Stephania Gianulis **M19 \$3.95**
50+ \$2.25

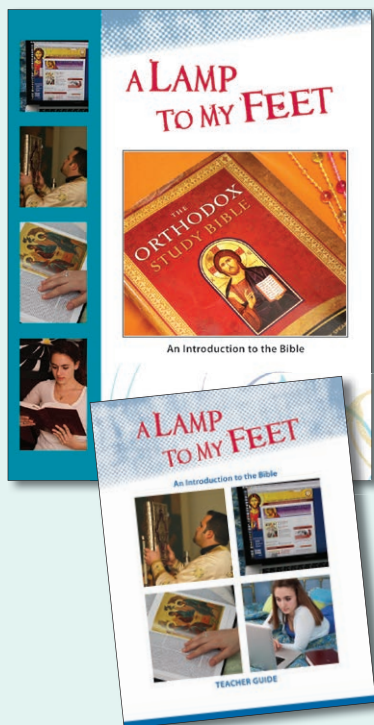
Teacher Guide by Mark C. Elliott & Aimee Cox
1 unit (5 lessons) **M20 \$9.95**

Teacher Pack

This bundle includes the Teacher Guide and three valuable resources for classroom use and background reading: *The Ecumenical Patriarchate: A Brief Guide*, "60 Minutes: The Patriarchate" DVD and "The Green Patriarch" DVD.

M18 SPECIAL VALUE \$21.95





A Lamp to My Feet: Introduction to the Bible

With this zine, students develop the attitudes and confidence needed to light their path with the lamp of Scripture. Students learn to access God's message to the world by asking how each reading relates to them: "What does this text say about Christ, and how does it apply to my life?" The zine explores goals of Bible study; study habits and methods; and Bible formats and translations. It introduces the Old and New Testaments, the kinds of books in them, and how the books came to be there. The Teacher Guide provides interactive lessons and practice tangling with difficult passages. Age 12+.

Student Zine by Shannon Sakellariou **M13** **\$3.95**
22 pages **50+** **\$2.95**

Teacher Guide by Shannon Sakellariou & Aimee Cox
1 unit of 5 lesson plans **M14** **\$9.95**

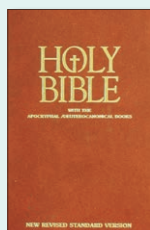
Choose a
BIBLE
that meets
your class's
needs.



Good News Bible

This is Today's English Version translation, and includes Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical books located in a separate section between the Old and the New Testaments. Illustrated with line drawings.

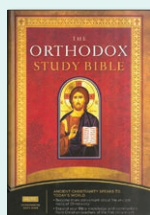
Hard cover **BIB003** **\$14.00**



NRSV Bible

The New Revised Standard Version Bible includes section headings, footnotes and cross-references for further study. Set in paragraph format text for easy reading. Hard cover.

BIB005 **\$14.00**



The Orthodox Study Bible

Old and New Testaments

This long-awaited single volume brings together an original translation of the Old Testament from the Septuagint with the New King James Version of the New Testament.

Hard cover **BIB007** **\$49.95**
25% discount on orders of 12 or more



The Church: We Are One in Christ

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. – 1 Peter 2:9

How exactly do we go about being God's people? This zine opens with a bit of Church history—from its Old Testament roots, to its ignition at Pentecost, to its development in North America—but it is in truth a practical manual for living as the Body of Christ. In unity and diversity, we are a community of faith, worship, service and witness. The zine concludes by describing how the Church works through the synergy of lay people, parish clergy and hierarchs. Age 13+.

Student Zine by Anton C. Vrame

28 pages

M21 \$3.95

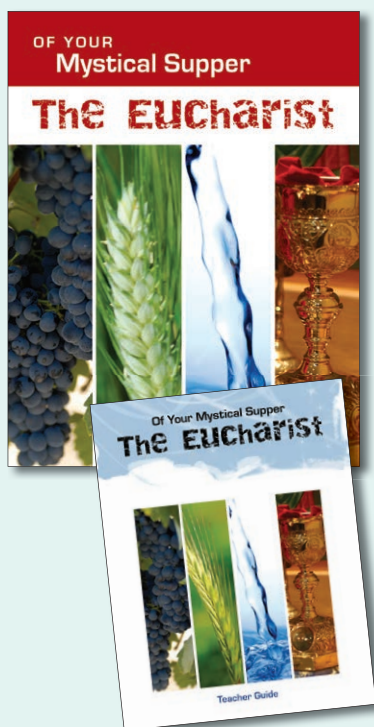
50+ \$2.95

Teacher Guide by Aimee Cox

1 unit of 5 lesson plans

M22 \$9.95





Of Your Mystical Supper: The Eucharist

Through the themes of remembrance, thanksgiving, forgiveness and community, this zine explores the mystery of the Eucharist. The text introduces the fullness of the Church's teachings with Scripture and excerpts from the Fathers, such as St. Nicholas Cabasilas and St. Justin Martyr. *Of Your Mystical Supper* helps readers develop a more mature understanding through engagement with the tough questions—including “Why is the Eucharist closed?” The zine also describes liturgical practices and traditions, such as the making of prosphoro.

The Teacher Guide completes and supports the zine's text with activities and discussion guides. Lessons 1–4 explore universal topics, and lesson 5 covers the specifics of preparing for the Eucharist (as guided by the parish priest). Age 13+.

Student Zine by Michael Haldas

14 pages

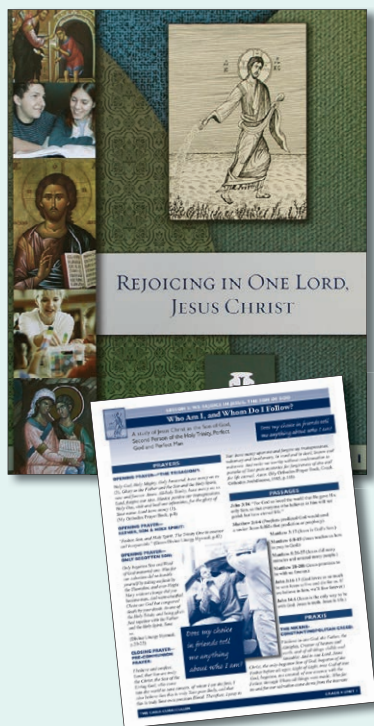
M11 \$3.95

50+ \$2.95

Teacher Guide by Michael Haldas,
George Papayannis & Aimee Cox

1 unit of 5 lesson plans

M12 \$9.95



Rejoicing in One Lord, Jesus Christ

The CANA curriculum engages teenagers by showing them how Orthodoxy is applicable to their lives through a variety of contemporary issues. This unit contains 12 lessons for the teacher, outlined in a step-by-step process of how to prepare, present and evaluate each lesson. Each lesson may be taught during one class period or over several periods.

Each lesson is preceded by in-depth background information for the teacher, including liturgical, theological, scriptural, patristic and ethical considerations. The comprehensive lessons include closing prayers, discussion guides, faith application and critical reflection. 172 pages. Age 13+.

Each lesson has a printable student sheet available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/dre-cana>.

Teacher Guide by Frank Marangos &
Vasiliki Fotinis

1 unit of 12 lessons

901 \$17.95

ALSO FROM THE DEPARTMENT



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival begins at the parish level and is divided into three age divisions. National finalists receive prizes such as iPads and college scholarships.



PRAXIS Magazine – 3 issues per year

Each issue of PRAXIS includes several articles exploring a theme, such as the recent topic of “Speaking to Secular America.” The magazine also includes general historical and theological articles, classroom lessons and book reviews for Orthodox Christians of all ages. Bulk subscriptions are available—equip all of your parish’s Sunday Church school teachers!



The Planner

Keep a daily focus on Christ with Scriptural readings, fast days, prayers, saints of the day and inspiration from the Fathers. The Planner follows the Ecclesiastical (Church) year beginning in September and ending in August. Purchase a spiral-bound copy or download the free digital version, which is easy to sync with all your devices.



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Department of Religious Education
ReligiousEd.goarch.org | facebook.com/goadre
(800) 566-1088 | OrthodoxMarketplace.com

Director: Anton C. Vrame, PhD

Curriculum Editor: Aimee Cox

Design: Dionne Katinas

Photos: Nicolaos Tzetzis, Maria Mironidis and Carrie Coman

Special thanks to the children and parents of St. Gregory the Theologian in Mansfield, MA; Sts. Constantine and Helen in Webster, MA; and Holy Mother Queen of All in Lexington, KY.



**GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
50 GODDARD AVENUE, BROOKLINE, MA 02445

To order, please visit
www.OrthodoxMarketplace.com
or call (800) 566-1088



YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. (MATTHEW 5:14)

The aim of education in the Orthodox Church is to nurture, instruct and direct each member of the community of faith—the Church—so that each person grows “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) and in turn offers light to the world (Matthew 5:14). That is to say, the goal of catechesis is for

each person to become a living icon, reflecting the Christ-like way of knowing and being in the world.

This vision of education involves not only acquiring information but also living according to it. The core curriculum for learning the Orthodox Faith is the life of the Church as experienced in a dynamic, faith-filled parish. Our education in faith is a lifelong journey—no single textbook or series can teach everything. The Department offers these classroom materials for the first step of learning.

– Anton C. Vrame, PhD, Director