

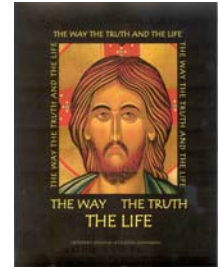
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
Carole Buleza, Curriculum Department Chairperson

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Dear Parents,

The Orthodox Christian Education Commission has embarked on a revision of the series of texts used in the Church School. One goal of the revision is to produce engaging and attractive texts that will reflect the beauty and depth of our faith. A second goal is to offer students an understanding of spiritual maturity, and personal growth in faith. A third, and very important goal, is to offer our students firm knowledge of the faith by the time they graduate from high school. We live in a culture that offers many expressions of Christianity. We believe that it is important for our students to be able to articulate their faith, as well as to live it. We have determined 100 questions, icons, and prayers that we wish the students to master at the conclusion of high school.

The new text for high school, *The Way, The Truth, and The Life*, contains the educational standards for the series, and offers an optional award program for mastery of these standards. While each new book that is published will contain a portion of the educational standards, teachers have asked how they can prepare their students for *The Way, The Truth, and The Life* as they await new books. Most of the educational standards for the series do appear in the current texts, and for that reason, a listing of questions (educational standards) has been prepared for the current texts.



We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children. By your attendance at Divine Liturgy, and your giving of time, talent and treasure, you form your child's love of Orthodox Christianity. Now we can provide you with a list of questions, prayers, and icons that your child should know by the end of the year. Attached please find these educational standards for your child's text. After each question is the lesson number in which the standard appears. Please review this page regularly with your child. We ask that you also make every effort to have your child in Church School. We believe that with the co-operation of parents and teachers, our students will make progress in knowledge of our faith, and in spiritual maturity. May God bless your every effort.

In Christ Our Lord,

Carole A. Buleza
Chairperson

Educational Standards for Grade 2

New Life in Jesus; Making Things Right

1. What happens during the Mystery of Baptism?
(NLJ 2)

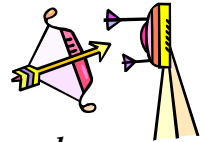
We are immersed in water three times. It is like dying. When we come up, it is like being born to new life as a Christian.



5. What does the word, “sin,” mean? (MTR 5)

How do you “sin?”

Sin means “missing the mark.” I miss the mark when I choose to act selfishly, and when I don’t live united with God.



2. Who made you and loves you? Why did God make you?
(NLJ 6)

God made me and loves me. God made me to live united with Him now and forever.

(Icon of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sit in a circle of love and cooperation.)

3. You are made in God’s image. What does that mean?
(NLJ 7)

I share something with God. God is love, and I know how to love.

4. What are four ways you live united with God? (NLJ 9, 10, 11) (MTR 1, 2)

I live united with God through being kind and helpful, praying, listening to the Gospel, and by receiving Holy Communion.



6. Jesus taught us that God will forgive our sins. What parable did he use to teach us that lesson? (MTR 7)

The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches me that God will forgive me.

7. What do we do when we’ve sinned? (MTR 10)
We go to the Mystery of Confession to ask God to forgive us.



8. What happens in the Mystery of Confession?

In the Mystery of Confession, we explain how we “missed the mark,” or sinned. God forgives us

when the priest places the epitrachelion on our shoulders. We are made new again, like in baptism.

Prayer: Holy God (the Trisagion)

Icons:

Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8/21)

Presentation of the Theotokos

(November 21/December 4)

Nativity of Our Lord (December 25/January 7)

Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple (February 2/15)

Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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