



Level 3 Catechism
OLD TESTAMENT
Rotation A

Year Long Class
Target Grades 3-5

2021-2022

Welcome!

Class Dates:

Q1: September 7 – October 29, 2021

Q2: November 1, 2021 – January 21, 2022

Q3: January 24 – March 25, 2022

Q4: March 28 – May 27, 2022

Breaks: Thanksgiving (Nov. 22-26), Christmas Break (Dec. 20-Jan. 7),
Winter Break (Feb. 14-18), Holy Week and Bright (April 18-25)

Class Times:

Thursday

Section 1 10:05-11:00 a.m. EST (9:05-10:00 a.m. CST)

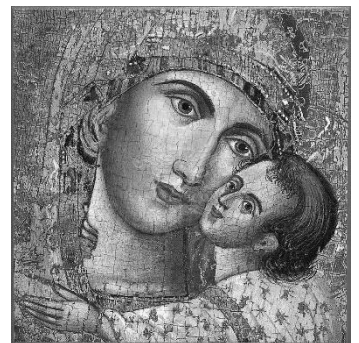
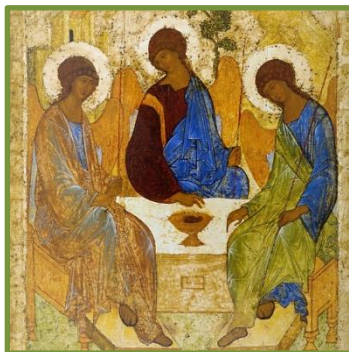
Section 2 1:15-2:10 p.m. EST (12:15-1:10 a.m. CST)

Instructor: Presbytera Maria Koulianos, B.S.Ed., M.Div., Th.M.

Email: mkoulianos.raphaelschool@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 260.797.1226 (text available)

Office Hours: Upon Request



Class Description:

The purpose of the lessons in this course is to help each student grow in their love for God and the Church cultivating a deeper understanding of living as Orthodox Christians in the world. Students and families will be invited to spend time during the week praying, reading Scripture, meeting the saints, learning the hymns of the Church, and reinforcing the foundational teachings of the Faith.

The Bible tells us God's story. It has many parts, but from beginning to end it is one story with a promise throughout: "I will be your God, and you will be My people." Through this story, we learn who God is, who mankind is, how the world came to be, and how God worked through history to bring redemption to His people. *Level 3 Catechism Old Testament* will focus on telling this story from the beginning at Genesis. This is the first year in a two-year rotation on the Bible with the second rotation being *Level 3 Catechism New Testament*.

The first semester we will discuss and learn about the biblical narrative from Genesis to Ruth, starting at the beginning when sin came into the world. The first book presents the overarching Old Testament themes of the promises and power of God, recounted in simple, weekly stories. Students will follow along with God's people, see how He leads them and keeps His promises, and learn how the stories of God's people begin to point us to the coming Savior, Jesus Christ.

The second semester we will continue to follow the journey of God's people as they become the nation of Israel. By chronologically studying the second half of the Old Testament from Samuel to Malachi, students will see how the God of Israel keeps and renews His covenant with His people. Students will also learn the ways in which the Old Testament forecasts the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. We will study various prophets in their contexts so their lives and words can be understood in relation to our own times as well as times to come.

Each chapter in our book series *God's Great Covenant* includes the story of that week's Bible verses, presented at a clear, elementary reading level, and a memory page with a Bible verse, key facts chart, and vocabulary. A thought-provoking "Who is God?" question encourages students to consider how to relate to God in their own lives.

Course Map:

Fall 2021

God's Great Covenant: Old Testament 1

- Genesis to Ruth

Unit I: In the Beginning—God's Power. God, the mighty *Elohim*, demonstrated His power by speaking creation into existence. He barred sinful man from the garden and judged the wicked world with a catastrophic flood. At the same time, the power of His mercy and His redemptive plan secured man's future existence.

Unit II: By the Patriarchs—God's Promises. The Lord God plucked Abram out of the city of Ur and sent him on a journey. Through the covenant, the Lord gave Abram (later called Abraham) three promises: to give him a land, to make him the father of many nations, and to bless

the world through him. These promises—and God’s faithfulness to keep them—form the foundation for the rest of God’s story.

Unit III: Out of Egypt—God’s Redemption. In God’s mind, rescuing Israel from Egypt was more than saving the Israelites from slavery. The Lord God was redeeming Israel from sin and renewing the covenant He had made with Abraham. Despite their sin, the Lord desired to dwell with His people and bless them.

Unit IV: Through the Wilderness—God’s Provision. In the harshness of the Sinai wilderness, the Lord God showed His people that His care for them was perfect. Even though they grumbled, complained, and refused to trust Him, God was completely trustworthy.

Unit V: In the Promised Land—God’s Faithfulness. After the glorious conquest of Canaan, Israel entered into the dark years when everyone did “what was right in his own eyes.” Even though Israel repeatedly turned from the Lord, He always heard their cries for mercy and delivered them from the oppression of their enemies.

Spring 2022

God’s Great Covenant: Old Testament 2

- Samuel to Malachi

Unit I: The Early Kingdom—The God Who Anoints. In 100 years, the scattered tribes of Israel would become a mighty kingdom with a powerful army, a magnificent palace, and a world-renowned king. God made this happen through three men, Samuel, Saul, and David, each of whom was specially chosen and anointed by God to serve Him.

Unit II: The Glorious Kingdom—The God Who Blesses. For years, David waited and trusted in the Lord, believing God’s promises. David became king and through his reign, God’s covenant with him and his kingship were linked—this was the Lord’s plan for His people.

Unit III: The Divided Kingdom—The God Who Reigns. King Solomon’s reign came with wealth, fame, wisdom, and many blessings from the Lord. The tragedy began when Solomon forgot the Lord and His greatness. In the next eighty years, the northern kingdom of Israel would have eight kings, none of whom served the Lord. But in the darkness, some light shone—and even in a divided kingdom, the Lord reigned supreme.

Unit IV: The Remnant Kingdom—The God Who Judges. The glorious kingdom that became the divided kingdom became the remnant kingdom. All of Israel’s kings did evil in God’s sight, resulting in His righteous judgement. Behind the suffering, God still showed mercy. The nation would one day be restored, and the promised Messiah would someday come. God was still King, and He would not forget His covenant with His people.

Unit V: The Exiled Kingdom—The God Who Restores. Israel and Judah turned down a path of rejection of God, resulting in the fall of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon. During those long years of exile, the Lord purged idolatry from His people, and they started to yearn for the coming of the Messiah. The Old Testament may conclude here, but it does not end the story—the King who has been keeping His kingdom safe will come in person.

Source: *A Bible Course for Children God’s Great Covenant Old Testament 1 & 2*

Assignments and Evaluation:

Through Schoology, our student learning management system, students will submit their assignments and will be evaluated. All assignments must be submitted by the given due date; if an extension is needed, each student is responsible for contacting the instructor.

While pursuing the *Level 3 Catechism Old Testament*, although “restful” learning, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It’s a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery. The following grades will be assigned to your student’s level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Traditional percentage grades will also be provided and will be readily accessible on the *Level 3 Catechism Old Testament* Schoology page. Additionally, a transcript of that grade or an evaluation narrative can be provided to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

Ultimately, at the end of the course, parents are the final authority in awarding credit and are responsible to determine a letter grade. Teachers are available for consulting in these decisions and will offer their input upon request.

- **Teacher Feedback**

All work will be graded and returned via Schoology in a timely manner. Please allow a while longer for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and sometimes be asked to reflect or resubmit their work. These are opportunities for students to grow academically, and in the end, create a portfolio for the year.

- **Projects**

Projects will be assigned at various times throughout the year. An evaluation rubric will be given for each of these projects. Each one will require planning and/or research. Other requirements may be given when the project is assigned.

- **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy’s Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of *Student-Virtues* described in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

Additionally, please be mindful regarding plagiarism. Any copying of someone’s work, online sources, or traditional sources without citing where said information came from is plagiarism. Students should consult their chosen manual of style to cite sources. If found, students who have plagiarized will be asked to resubmit their work and consequently will be given a lower point value for that particular assignment.

Required Materials:

Composition Book or Notebook for *Daily Devotionals* at Start of Class

Texts | Click Links for Further Information

A Bible Course for Children:

- [God's Great Covenant Old Testament 1](#) by Claire A. Larsen
- [God's Great Covenant Old Testament 2](#) by Claire A. Larsen

Student Conduct and Expectations:

All students are to strive for the *Two Greatest Commandments*; to love God and to love their neighbor as themselves.

Students should endeavor for, develop, and hone five *Executive Function Skills* during this course:

- 1. Being an Engaged Student:** Stepping into the arena of class discussion, asking questions, supplying answers, generating the internal dialogue necessary to determine if what's being discussed is important and necessary.
- 2. Note Taking:** Using journals and workbooks during and after class engaging content material important and relevant in an organized fashion. These notes would then be consulted, independently, for application in assignments and assessments.
- 3. Attention to Detail & Preparedness:** Consistently adhering to deadlines, submission requirements, adhering to style guides and codes, confirming technology is working prior to the start of class, being responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, being responsible for consulting the course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.
- 4. Employing Critiques:** After receiving feedback to their submissions, this feedback is applied to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. Information is gleaned from the live class critiques of fellow students and after taking note, through learning from others, these mistakes are avoided as well.
- 5. Initiative/Maturity:** Throughout the course, when necessary, questions, comments, and concerns will be addressed by taking initiative and meeting with the instructor during office hours or contacting the instructor via email.

The Virtual Classroom:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required

technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook. Please note, students should have their cameras on during class.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *Level 3 Catechism Old Testament* Schoology assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

About the Instructor:



Presbytera Maria Koulianos has been an educator for over 20 years, loving every minute, with vast experiences in both public and private schools as a classroom teacher, developing and implementing learning programs for students, and as an area administrator. She earned her Bachelor of Science in education from Indiana University with certifications in elementary education, 7/8 non-departmental, language arts 1-9, and computer education K-12. She holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, where she wrote her thesis, *The Annunciation of the Theotokos from a Liturgical Perspective*. Presbytera Maria and her husband, Father Dionysios, live in the greater Springfield area where he is the Dean of Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Springfield, MA. She hopes to inspire her students to love literature and become lifelong learners.