



## Greek 3

### Academic Year: 2023-2024

Welcome!

**Class Dates:**

See [Academic Calendar](#) for detailed holidays.

Q1: September 5 – October 27, 2023

Q2: October 30, 2023 – January 19, 2024

Q3: January 22 – March 22, 2024

Q4: March 25 – May 24, 2024

**Breaks:** Thanksgiving (Nov. 20-24), Christmas Break (Dec. 18 - Jan. 5),  
Winter Break (Feb. 19-23), Holy Week/Pascha and Bright Monday (April 29-May 6)

**Class Times:**

Tuesday and Thursday

11:45-1:00 p.m. EST (10:45-12:00 p.m. CST)

**Instructor:** Dustin Finch, B.A., M.Div

**Email:** [dustinfinch82@gmail.com](mailto:dustinfinch82@gmail.com) (Stay tuned for a new St. Raphael e-mail address!)

**Cell Phone:** 870-897-4237 (text available)

**Office Hours:** Upon Request

**Eligible Students:**

This course is intended to be an enthusiastic continuation to the Greek language, specifically Koine (New Testament Greek, also called Biblical Greek), grammar, and fluency. It is taught in the received pronunciation (modern pronunciation) which is a living language within the Greek Orthodox Church worldwide.

Eligible Students must either,

- have successfully completed Greek 2 or,
- through a placement assessment given by the instructor or Presbytera Maria Koulianos, principal of SRS.
  - NOTE: It is strongly recommended to successfully complete the Greek 2 course before entering Greek 3.

In addition,

- students should be developmentally prepared to be engaged and interactive.
- students should be comfortable reading and writing independently as well as writing legibly by hand.
- although it is not a requirement for students, they should have a preliminary understanding of the basics of English grammar. This entails knowing how to recognize parts of speech: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, and preposition.

### **Course Description:**

In Greek 3, students will continue their study of the alphabet forms, sounds, grammar, and vocabulary of Koine Greek (see note on Koine Greek below) with the **received (modern) pronunciation.**

### **Topics covered will include:**

- a review of concepts learned in Greek 2: first and second declension nouns and adjectives; the case system; present, imperfect, and future tense verbs; the verb of being; sentence patterns; and prepositions;
- the remaining tenses (aorist, perfect, pluperfect);
- moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative; optative) and modes (infinitive, participle);
- contract and liquid verbs;
- personal and relative pronouns;
- third declension nouns;
- ‘μι’ verbs;
- and Greek cultural and historical backgrounds.

**Koine Greek** was the language of Jesus and the Apostles and is part of the Orthodox Christian inheritance. By the end of the course, the young learners will have a basic understanding of Greek grammar and a solid foundation for further study of the Gospel, Evangelion, *The Good News*.

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word.”**

John 1:1

Saint Raphael’s School teaches what is often called “Koine Greek.” It is the dialect of Greek which was spoken throughout the Eastern Mediterranean following the conquests of Alexander

the Great in the late 4th century BC and persisted throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods and eventually evolved into the Modern Greek language which is currently spoken in Greece today. Koine Greek is the dialect of Greek with which the New Testament was written (which is why Koine Greek is often called “New Testament Greek”).

Along with the New Testament, the various services of The Eastern Church, hymns, prayers, and saints lives were also composed in Koine Greek. At Saint Raphael’s School, Koine Greek is taught using the “Modern” or “Received” pronunciation. This pronunciation is identical to that used by speakers of the Modern Greek language today, and it is also the pronunciation currently used for the liturgies and services of the Orthodox Church of Greece, and most of the Orthodox Churches under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch, including The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOARCH).

**The Greek 3 course aims to best develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through topic-based instruction and discussions. By the end of the course, students will gain the following skills and the course learning objectives:**

- Review Alphabet forms including blends, recognize, pronounce, and write both the sound and name of each Greek letter (both lowercase and uppercase).
- Learn to read, pronounce, and write New Testament Greek (Koine) text.
- Expand their understanding of English grammar through the study of Greek grammar.
- Practice parsing, classifying, and diagramming Greek and English sentences.
- Learn Basic Greek Grammar.
  - Memorize paradigms of Greek nouns, verbs, adjectives, articles, and pronouns.
- Pursue derivative word study.
- Develop Biblical Greek vocabulary and comprehension which is the foundational to the English vocabulary of many academic disciplines, such as medicine, medicine, theology, etc.
- Learn hymns and prayers of the Church in the original language to,
  - inscribe in their hearts, these prayers and hymns.
  - read scriptures in Greek of the Septuagint (Old Testament, which was originally first translated in Koine) and the Gospel (New Testament).
- Learn to translate Greek sentences.
- Learn and memorize the Trisagion hymn, which invokes God as the thrice holy, and the Lord’s Prayer both in Greek and English.
- Study of Church Feast Days
- Study of Greek history, culture, and landmarks.

**Classes will begin with prayer, usually the Trisagion or Lord's Prayer in Greek, and then incorporate hymns, psalms, vocabulary, reading, comprehension, and grammar.**

Parents should expect to work with their students during the week, unless the student is very mature and self-motivated for this age group. The purpose of the class meeting is to provide responsive instruction from an instructor experienced in Greek, to model and coach students in correct pronunciation, and to provide a fun, communal Orthodox learning environment. It is recommended that parents look over each week's material and decide how to incorporate songs, copy work, and stories into their own family's learning rhythms. Students should be prepared to study at least 2-3 times a week outside of the classroom.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Through \*Canvas, 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 excellence in *Greek 3*, we prioritize "restful" learning; however, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It is 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 *Greek 3* Canvas 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, 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 Canvas in a timely manner. 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 assignment.

### **Required Materials:**

- Composition book, Binder, and Colored pencils at the start of class.
- *Beginning with New Testament Greek: An Introductory Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the New Testament* by Benjamin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer
  - [https://www.amazon.com/Beginning-New-Testament-Greek-Introductory/dp/1433650568/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=1UBJYDKW8HRCR&keywords=Beginning+with+New+Testament+Greek&qid=1680913981&srefix=beginning+with+new+testament+greek%2Caps%2C376&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Beginning-New-Testament-Greek-Introductory/dp/1433650568/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1UBJYDKW8HRCR&keywords=Beginning+with+New+Testament+Greek&qid=1680913981&srefix=beginning+with+new+testament+greek%2Caps%2C376&sr=8-1) (ISBN: 978-1433650567)
- *The Curious Historian Level 2A: Greece and the Classical World (Student Edition)*
  - [https://classicalacademicpress.com/products/the-curious-historian-level-2a-greece-and-the-classical-world-student-edition?\\_pos=4&\\_sid=4f8e7a4e9&\\_ss=r](https://classicalacademicpress.com/products/the-curious-historian-level-2a-greece-and-the-classical-world-student-edition?_pos=4&_sid=4f8e7a4e9&_ss=r) (ISBN: 9781600514319)
- Hymns, Prayers, and Other Supplementals will be given by the instructor (families will be responsible to print hardcopies if needed).

### **Optional Materials:**

- Charts for Beginning Greek Grammar and Syntax: A Quick Reference Guide to *Beginning with New Testament Greek*
  - [https://www.amazon.com/Charts-Beginning-Greek-Grammar-Syntax/dp/1087758211/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_img\\_sccl\\_2/140-9533273-3638720?pd\\_rd\\_w=xapOJ&content-id=amzn1.sym.6ab4eb52-6252-4ca2-a1b9-ad120350253c&pf\\_rd\\_p=6ab4eb52-6252-4ca2-a1b9-ad120350253c&pf\\_rd\\_r=Q0K5SB4TDKPPTMYZP3ME&pd\\_rd\\_wg=Uv7mU&pd\\_rd\\_r=23902e06-969a-4d96-9bc0-8221c6b87074&pd\\_rd\\_i=1087758211&pssc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Charts-Beginning-Greek-Grammar-Syntax/dp/1087758211/ref=pd_bxgy_img_sccl_2/140-9533273-3638720?pd_rd_w=xapOJ&content-id=amzn1.sym.6ab4eb52-6252-4ca2-a1b9-ad120350253c&pf_rd_p=6ab4eb52-6252-4ca2-a1b9-ad120350253c&pf_rd_r=Q0K5SB4TDKPPTMYZP3ME&pd_rd_wg=Uv7mU&pd_rd_r=23902e06-969a-4d96-9bc0-8221c6b87074&pd_rd_i=1087758211&pssc=1) (ISBN: 978-1087758213)
- Biblingo Flashcards (digital resource)
  - Desktop: <https://biblingo.org/flashcards/>
  - Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/biblingo/id6444049831>

### Optional Materials Continued:

- Google Play:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.biblingo.biblingo.mobile>
- ParseGreek: Greek Quizzing (app)
  - Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/parsegreek-greek-quizzing/id513370441>
  - Google Play:  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.danzac.ParseGreek&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.danzac.ParseGreek&hl=en_US&gl=US)

### 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 important and relevant content material 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 *Greek 3 Canvas assignment* page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

## Meet Your Instructor:



**Dustin Finch**’s love for Greek began in the Fall of 2008 at Williams Baptist College (Walnut Ridge, AR), where he was later honored with the Zondervan Biblical Languages Award for Greek in 2009 and for both Greek and Hebrew in 2010. He graduated with an M.Div from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, IN) and was honored with the Gertrude Roten Excellence in Greek Exegesis award in 2019. Since becoming Orthodox, his love for Greek has only grown as he has read the Greek text of

icons, hymns, liturgical services, the Symbol of Faith, lives of the saints, and the Fathers. Moreover, he has been learning to pray in Greek—using the Psalms and the prayers of the Church. He lives in Jonesboro, AR with his wife, Angela, his sons, Owen (14) and Wilkes (10), and his dog, Maggie. He is a member of St. John Orthodox Church in Memphis, TN.