

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS 2026

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church Sunday School, Sharjah

Last Date for Registration: 10-April-2026

a. COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Date	Timing	Competition Event	Group
19-Apr-2026	1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Colouring Drawing & Colouring Memory Verse writing	Sub-Juniors Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors
26-Apr-2026	1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Action Song Story Telling Bible Reading	Sub-Juniors, Juniors Juniors Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors
10-May-2026	11:00 am onwards	English Elocution Malayalam Elocution Extempore Speech	All Groups Intermediate, Seniors Intermediate & Seniors together
14-Jun-2026	11:00 am onwards	English Solo English Solo – Girls English Solo – Boys Malayalam Solo Malayalam Solo – Girls Malayalam Solo – Boys Group Song	Sub-Juniors, Juniors Intermediate, Seniors Intermediate, Seniors Sub-Juniors, Juniors Intermediate, Seniors Intermediate, Seniors All Groups
28-Jun-2026	1:30 pm onwards	Bible Quiz Quiz on Bible, Faith & History	Juniors Intermediate & Seniors together

b. COMPETITION AGE GROUPING

Group	Qualifying Age (as on 30-09-2026)	Ready Reckoner
SUB JUNIORS	Below 8	Born after 1st October 2018
JUNIORS	8 to 11	Born between 1st October 2015 and 30th September 2018
INTERMEDIATES	11 to 14	Born between 1st October 2012 and 30th September 2015
SENIORS	14 to 18	Born between 1st October 2008 and 30th September 2012

c. COMPETITION SYLLABUS

1. Elocution Competition (English)

Sub-Juniors	Forgiveness
Juniors	“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven”– Mt.18:4
Intermediates	”Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger”- Eph. 4:26
Seniors	“It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”- Gal. 2: 20

2. Elocution Competition (Malayalam)

Intermediates	“എന്തൊന്നാൽ ദൈവത്തിന് ഒന്നും അസാധ്യമല്ലല്ലോ.” – Luke 1:37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
Seniors	“ഉയരത്തിലുള്ളതിനെ ചിന്തിപ്പിൻ, ഭൗമികമായവയെയല്ല”- Colossians 3:2 “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth”

3. Story Telling

Juniors	The Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9)
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4. Group Song Competition (Malayalam)

Sub-Juniors	Any Song from the ‘Holy Qurbana’ (No Special Songs) (From <i>Visudha Qurbaanakramam</i> – MOC Publications)
Juniors	Any Song used for the ‘Kaimuthu’ (From <i>Visudha Qurbaanakramam</i> – MOC Publications)
Intermediates	Any Song from the Baptismal Service (From <i>Koodasakramangal</i> – MOC Publications)
Seniors	Any Song from Mid-Lent Service (From <i>Andu Thaksa</i> – MOC Publications) OR Any song of the Maundy Thursday: Evening Vespers to Ninth Hour (excluding Special Songs of Maundy Thursday Holy Qurbana and Feet Washing Service) (From <i>Kashtanubhava Azhchayile Namkarakramam</i> – MOC Publications)

5. Quiz Competition

Juniors		
Category	Portions	Reference Material
Old Testament	Books of Leviticus, Job, Ezekiel	The Holy Bible (NRSV Catholic Edition)
New Testament	Books of Luke, Galatians, Ephesians	

Intermediate and Seniors		
Category	Portions	Reference Material
Old Testament	Books of Leviticus, Job, Ezekiel	The Holy Bible (NRSV Catholic Edition)
New Testament	Books of Luke, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians	The Holy Bible (NRSV Catholic Edition)
Church History	AD 1654 to AD 1816 (Both years inclusive)	'The Orthodox Church of India' by David Daniel
Worship & Sacraments	Sacraments of 'Anointing of the Sick' and 'Qandilo'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 'Koodaasa Kramangal' (MOC Publications) ii. 'Order of the Sacraments' (MOC Publications) iii. 'Kanthela Susroosha kramam' (MOC Publications) iv. 'Order of the Anointing of the sick known as the service of Qandilo' (MOC Publications) v. 'Susroosha samvidhaana sahaayi' (MOC Publications) vi. Sunday School Textbook (OSSAE) Class XII ND Chapter 5
Feasts / Church Calendar	Epiphany (Denaha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 'Aandu Thaksa' – Perunnal Susroosha kramam (MOC Publications) ii. Order of the Prayers of the Major Feasts' (MOC Publications) iii. 'Susroosha samvidhaana sahaayi' (MOC Publications) iv. Sunday School Textbook (OSSAE) Class XII ND Chapter 9

Note: Please refer to the Handbook for information regarding other Competitions (viz. Malayalam Solo, English Solo, Extempore Speech, Drawing & Colouring, Memory Verse Writing, Action Song, Bible Reading etc.).

d. COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. General Instructions:

- a) Participants to register for the Unit level Competitions through the online form which will be shared on Class WhatsApp groups and also made available on Church Website – Sunday School page.
- b) Participants should enter only those events in which he or she is intending to take part and is eligible. Please do not submit multiple entries for the same participant & same event.
- c) Please review the accuracy of the details before final submission. Inaccurate data may lead to disqualification of the participant.
- d) In case of a tie among the candidates to qualify for UAE level competition, selection will be made by a lot system which will be conducted immediately after announcing the results, in presence of the Judges, SS Officials & Vicar / Co-Vicar.
- e) Those who qualify for UAE level competitions should have a minimum of 60% Sunday School attendance as on 28-06-26, to become eligible for the same. In the event of any qualified candidate losing eligibility, the next position holder will be chosen from the winners list, to represent Sharjah Unit at UAE level competition.
- f) There would be no disqualification for exceeding the time limit. However, it will invite negative marking which will be proportional to the excess time taken after the final bell.

2. Detailed Instructions:

English Solo & Malayalam Solo (All Groups)

- a) Only Christian songs will be permitted. Classical songs must be avoided, however semi-classical songs are allowed.
- b) Time limit will be strictly 3 minutes. A warning double stroke bell will be rung at 2 minutes and 50 seconds. A final continuous bell will be rung at 3 minutes and 1 second. Final continuous bell indicates the beginning of negative marking.
- c) For English and Malayalam Solo, Intermediates and Seniors will have separate competition for male and female participants.
- d) The first two position winners will qualify to participate in the UAE Zonal Competitions (October 2026).

Malayalam Group Song (All Groups)

- a) Participation in this event is restricted to groups of four.
- b) At the time of registration, names of all the group members must be enrolled together by the group leader. Individual registration will not be permitted.
- c) Only liturgical songs as per the syllabus provided will be permitted.
- d) Time limit and other rules are same as that of Malayalam solo.
- e) Uniform for Malayalam group song is mandatory and must be either black and white or full white.

- f) If there are at least 3 teams participating in a category, then the Group that secures first prize in the Unit Level Group Song Competition from each category will qualify for the UAE level competition.
- g) If the no. of teams competing is below 3 in any category, then the first four position winners (irrespective of gender) in Malayalam Solo will represent our unit in the Group Song Competition at UAE level.
- h) Selection of song & training for UAE Level competitions will be under the guidance of the assigned Sunday School Teachers.

English Elocution (All Groups)

- a) The time limit for *Sub-juniors and Juniors* will be 4 minutes. A warning double stroke bell will be rung at 3 minutes and a final continuous bell at 4 minutes and 1 second.
- b) For *Intermediates and Seniors*, the time limit will be 5 minutes. A warning double stroke bell will be rung at 4 minutes and a final continuous bell at the end of 5 minutes & 1 second.
- c) Final continuous bell indicates the beginning of negative marking.
- d) Participants referring to any material during speaking will invite disqualification.
- e) The first two position winners will qualify to participate in the UAE Zonal Competitions (October 2026).
- f) The topic for Elocution competition at the UAE zonal level competition will be the same as that of in the unit level.

Malayalam Elocution (For Intermediates & Seniors)

- a) Rules and time limits are same as in the case of English Elocution.
- b) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Extempore Speech (Intermediates & Seniors only)

- a) Extempore competition for Intermediates and Seniors will be conducted together. The first two position winners will qualify to participate in the UAE Zonal Competitions (October 2026).
- b) The topic will be conveyed to each participant separately, 10 minutes before the actual performance.
- c) Time limit will be 5 minutes. A warning, double stroke bell will be rung at 4 minutes and a final continuous bell at the end of 5 minutes & 1 second. Final continuous bell indicates the beginning of negative marking.
- d) Participants will be permitted to refer only the Holy Bible provided by the officials during the 10 minutes preparation time.
- e) Participants need to speak at least for 1 minute on the given topic to qualify for the prize.

Quiz (Intermediates and Seniors only)

- a) Quiz competition for Intermediates and Seniors will be conducted together, and the first 4 position holders will qualify for the UAE level competition (October 2026).
- b) Please refer to Syllabus above for information about allowed Reference materials.

Quiz (Juniors only)

- a) Quiz competition for the Juniors is conducted only at the Unit level.
- b) Rules, regulations and resources to be used are same as that for the Seniors & Intermediates.

Colouring Competition (For Sub-Juniors only)

- a) Picture will be provided. Colouring materials are to be brought by the participants.
- b) Time limit is 1 hour.
- c) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Drawing & Colouring (For Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors)

- a) A theme from the Bible will be provided. Students should draw and shade/colour.
- b) Drawing and colouring materials are to be brought by the participants. Drawing sheets will be provided.
- c) Time limit will be 1½ hours.
- d) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Memory Verse Writing Competition (For Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors)

- a) Participants should primarily choose verses from the provided list of 500 memory verses, which is available on the Church's website https://www.gulfparumala.com/cultural_competitions/Ry .
- b) Participants can use memory verses outside of this list, but they are limited to writing a maximum of 3 verses from any one chapter for the competition. If more than 3 verses are taken from one chapter, only the first 3 will be counted.
- c) Time limit for the competition is 1 hour for Juniors and 1½ hours for Intermediates & Seniors.
- d) Verses should be numbered and written legibly with Bible reference.
- e) Repetition of verses will invite negative marks.
- f) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Action Song (For Sub-Juniors and Juniors)

- a) Action Song can be sung in English or Malayalam. Only Christian Action songs will be permitted.
- b) Time limit will be strictly 3 minutes.
- c) Movements should not exceed and overwhelm the articulation of the Song. Presentation should be confined to the stage (or stage area).
- d) Props may be used if required but should be minimal.
- e) Participants can wear appropriate costumes befitting the characters they portray but should not lead to a fancy-dress competition. Only one microphone will be provided.
- f) Evaluation will be based on the language proficiency, delivery, and presentation (well-coordinated and creative actions / movements, rhythm, timing and tempo of the song, confident presentation, voice quality) and effectiveness of the theme chosen.
- g) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Story Telling (For Juniors only)

- a) Only Biblical stories as per the given topic will be permitted. The biblical content can be edited / condensed to fit within the time limit.
- b) The story must be memorized and not read.
- c) The performer **shall not** use any props and shall remain in one location.
- d) Time limit will be strictly 4 minutes.
- e) Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Content - How well the story adheres to the Biblical passages it is taken from and application of the story to the world or our lives.
- Clarity - Annunciation and pronunciation of words and voice strength
- Delivery & Presentation - Appearance, poise, self-confidence, style, voice modulation, facial expression, memorization, audience contact, body language and gestures, enthusiasm, and overall effectiveness.

f) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.

Bible Reading Competition (For Juniors, Intermediates & Seniors)

- a) Reference for the portion to be read will be taken by the participant through a lot system.
- b) The Holy Bible used will NRSV (Catholic Edition). Bible will be provided at the venue. Portion can be either from Old Testament or New Testament.
- c) Evaluation will be based on the speed of finding the given portion, clarity of reading, effectiveness in conveying the message, presentation, etc.
- d) This competition is conducted at Unit Level only.