

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

2017-2018

(Wednesdays, 7-9PM)

SEPTEMBER

20th Introduction: a tour of St. Paul's. Art, history, theology and Jesus.

“What the walls of an Orthodox Church teach us”

from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 111-118

“The Theotokos with Child in the Apse” and “Christ *Pantokrator*”

from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp. 125-155

27th Liturgy: Why do we worship the way that we do?

“Symbols: What are they?” and “Incense” and “Candles”

from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp. 1-46

Videos: *What is the Orthodox Church?* by Father Andrew Damick
5 Misconceptions about the Orthodox Church by Father Andrew Damick
Introduction to Orthodox Worship Space by Frederica Mathewes Green

OCTOBER

4th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation 1.

“The Divine Liturgy: Reality not Symbol”

from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp. 155-193

Video: *An Overview of the Divine Liturgy* by Frederica Mathewes Green

11th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation 2.

“What we believe about the Divine Liturgy”

from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 44-61

Video: *What do you mean “Pray to the Saints?”* by Frederica Mathewes Green

18th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation 3.

The “Worship” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

25th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation 4.

Catch up on your reading.

NOVEMBER

1st The Liturgical Year: seasons of feasting and fasting.

“What we believe about the Church Year”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 93-110

8th Preparing the bread and wine for worship: the *Proskomide*

The “Worship” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

15th Living a sacramental life.

“What we believe about the sacraments”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 163-196

“The Meaning of Baptism” – a letter of St. Cyprian of Carthage

22nd Thanksgiving eve celebration of the Liturgy!

Give thanks to God! Come to Liturgy! No class tonight.

29th Advent: Preparing for the Christmas/New Year/Epiphany Season.

“The Winter Pascha” and a collection of brief articles about the
Christmas fast by Father Thomas Hopko in the *OC 101 Notebook*

“Epiphany and the blessing of water”
from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp. 195-217

Videos – *The Wonder of Christmas* (#14) and *Christmas Gift-Giving* (#13)
with Steve Christoforou

DECEMBER

6th Icons: Jesus is the icon of the invisible God (*Colossians 1:15*).

“What we believe about icons”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 225-240

Videos – an excerpt from *The Face: Jesus in Art*
FOCUS and *All Human Beings are created in the image of God*

13th Living icons, being holy: the saints and their witness to Jesus.

“What we believe about the saints and the *Theotokos*”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 119-138

Video – *Mother Teresa: A Documentary*

20th No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

27th No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

JANUARY

3rd The Church: the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the household of God.

“The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church” and
“We are the Church of the early fathers”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 4-18 and 74-93

Videos – *A History of Orthodox Christianity: The Beginnings* by GOA
Orthodox Epiphany by Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

10th The history of the early Church.

“Which came first: the Church or the New Testament?”
a pamphlet by Father James Bernstein

Video – *A History of Orthodox Christianity: Byzantium* by GOA

17th Where did all these churches come from? The history of the Church from the Middle Ages thru modern times.

The “Teaching” section in the *OC 101 Notebook* about the Church and her history

Video – *A History of Orthodox Christianity: A Hidden Treasure* by GOA

24th The Church of the 7 ecumenical councils and the Nicene Creed.

“What we believe about the Nicene Creed” and “What we believe about Jesus” and “What we believe about the Holy Trinity” and “What we believe about salvation”
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 19-43 and 62-73

31st Reading the Scriptures: the Bible as sacrament.

“What we believe about the Bible”

from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 197-224

Video: *3 Things you need to know about the Bible* w/Steve Christoforou (#45)

FEBRUARY

7th Studying the Bible: being a disciple of Jesus and doing the Truth.

The “Scripture” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

All those who wish to be made catechumens on Sunday, February 11th and begin the process of entering the Church through baptism and/or chrismation must have made their decision and informed Father Steve by tonight!

14th Reading the Old Testament: getting our feet wet.

The Book of Psalms and the Wisdom of Sirach

Video: *The Old Testament in the Church* with Father Harry Pappas

19th Pure Monday: Great Lent begins! Lenten mini-retreat 10AM-1PM

21st Reading the New Testament: getting our feet wet.

The Gospel of Luke and the First Letter of John

28th Life after death, praying for the dead and the end of the world.

“What we believe about eschatology or life after death” and

“What we believe about prayers for the dead”

from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp.139-162 and 241-247

“Prayer and the Departed Saints” a pamphlet by Professor David Ford

Videos: *Heaven and Hell* (#67) and *Memory Eternal* (#75)

with Steve Christoforou

MARCH

7th Being a disciple of Jesus: the spiritual disciplines of Great Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Videos: *What is the Jesus Prayer?*

The Discipline of Fasting (#26) and *Fasting from more than Food* (#25)
with Steve Christophorou

14th The monastic witness to the Gospel.

“Monasticism: the Biblical Call” from *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos – *60 Minutes: Mt. Athos*

21st Christianity as personal encounter and personal discipline.

Read all of *God and You: Person to Person*

Developing a Personal Relationship with Jesus pp. 1-133

Video – *Icons from Sinai*

28th The spiritual ascent: silence, solitude and prayer.

“What we believe about Prayer” from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 248-274

“The Ladder to Heaven” and “Hesychasm: the Practice of Silence”
from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp. 61-92

In preparation for the services of Holy Week, read “Palms: symbols of victory, surrender and allegiance” and “Good Friday: the tomb of Jesus” from *Sacred Symbols that Speak* pp.93-122.

Video: *Greek Orthodox Holy Week and Easter* with Rick Steves in Greece

APRIL

4th Great and Holy Wednesday. No class tonight.

Come to the anointing service!

11th Stewardship, service, missions and evangelism. Potluck celebration!

“In view of all this: what, therefore, is expected of us?”

from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 275-28

REQUIRED READING

The Bible

Introducing the Orthodox Church by Father Anthony Coniaris

Sacred Symbols that Speak by Father Anthony Coniaris

God and You: developing a daily personal relationship with Jesus
by Father Anthony Coniaris

The Orthodox Christianity 101 Notebook

Suggested Reading

The Orthodox Church by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

The Orthodox Way by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

Beginning to Pray by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

Living Prayer by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

The Ladder of the Beatitudes by Jim Forest

For the Life of the World by Father Alexander Schmemmann

Becoming Orthodox by Father Peter Gillquist