

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

2018 – 2019

(Wednesdays, 7-9PM)

## SEPTEMBER

### **19th Introduction: a tour of St. Paul's. Art, history, theology and Jesus.**

Read: "What the walls of an Orthodox Church teach us"

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 111-118

Read: "The *Theotokos* with Child in the Apse" and "Christ *Pantokrator*"  
from Section 6 of *The Orthodox Christianity 101 Notebook*

### **26th Liturgy: Why do we worship the way that we do?**

Read: "Symbols: What are they?" and "Incense" and "Candles"  
from Section 6 of *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *What is the Orthodox Church?* by Father Andrew Damick

*What is Orthodox Christianity?* by Steve Christoforou

*5 Misconceptions about the Orthodox Church* by Father Andrew Damick

## OCTOBER

### **3rd Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #1.**

Read: "What we believe about the Divine Liturgy"

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 44-61

Read: "The Divine Liturgy: Reality not Symbol"  
from Section 6 of *The OC 101 Notebook*

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

*Introduction to Orthodox Worship Space* by Frederica Mathewes-Green

### **10th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #2.**

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

*Why do we repeat: Lord, have mercy?* by Frederica Mathewes-Green

**17th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #3.**

Read Section 1 - the “Worship” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

**24th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #4.**

Continue reading Section 1 - the “Worship” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

**31st Preparing the bread and wine for worship: the *Proskomide***

Catch up on your reading.

**NOVEMBER**

**7th The Liturgical Year: seasons of feasting and fasting.**

“What we believe about the Church Year”

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 93-110

Videos: *Orthodox Worship* by Father Barnabas Powell

**14th Living a sacramental life.**

Read: “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

Videos: *What is a Sacrament? (#119)* by Steve Christoforou

*Confession (#36)* by Steve Christoforou

*The Sacrament of Confession* by Frederica Matthewes-Green

**21st Thanksgiving eve celebration of the Liturgy!**

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

**28th Advent: Preparing for the Christmas/New Year/Epiphany Season.**

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

Read: “Epiphany and the blessing of water”

from Section 6 of *The OC 101 Notebook*

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

## **DECEMBER**

### **5th What are Icons and why do we have them in our Churches?**

**Jesus is the icon of the invisible God (*Colossians 1:15*)**

Read: "What we believe about icons"

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 225-240

Videos – Excerpts from: *The Face: Jesus in Art*

*The Icons of St. Catherine's Monastery at Mt. Sinai, Egypt* by the Getty

*FOCUS* and *All Human Beings are created in the image of God*

*Resurrection: Icon Exhibition in Moscow*

### **12th Living icons, being holy: the saints and their witness to Jesus.**

Read: "What we believe about the saints and the *Theotokos*"

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 119-138

Video – *Mother Teresa: A Documentary*

**19th** No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

**26th** No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

## **JANUARY**

**2nd** No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

### **9th The Church: the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ and Household of God.**

Read: "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

### **16th The history of the early Church.**

Read: "Which came first: the Church or the New Testament?"

by Father James Bernstein

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

**23rd** Where did all these churches come from? The history of the Church from the Middle Ages thru modern times.

Read Section 2 – “The Church: Place of Encounter with Jesus” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

Videos – *A History of Orthodox Christianity: A Hidden Treasure* by GOA  
*Division in Christendom: The Great Schism and Reformation* by Frederica Mathewes-Green

**30th** The Church of the 7 ecumenical councils and the Nicene Creed.

Read: “What we believe about the Nicene Creed”  
“What we believe about Jesus”  
“What we believe about the Holy Trinity”  
“What we believe about salvation”

from: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 19-43 and 62-73

Read Section 4 – “The Teaching and Doctrine” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

**FEBRUARY**

**6th** Reading the Scriptures: the Bible as sacrament.

Read: “What we believe about the Bible”

From: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 197-224

Videos: *3 Things you need to know about the Bible (#45)* by Steve Christoforou  
*How to Read the Bible (#128)* by Steve Christoforou

**13th** Studying the Bible: being a disciple of Jesus and doing the Truth.

Read Section 3 – “The Scriptures” section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *Where did the Bible come from?* by Father Andrew Stephen Damick  
*The Bible Explored: Can I trust the Bible?* by the Canadian Bible Society

**20th** Reading the Old Testament: getting our feet wet.

The Book of Psalms and the Wisdom of Sirach

Videos: *The Old Testament in the Church* with Father Harry Pappas  
*The Psalms* by The Bible Project

**27th Reading the New Testament: getting our feet wet.**

The Gospel of Luke and the First Letter of John

Videos: *Introduction to the Gospel of Luke* by Steve Christoforou

***All those who wish to be made catechumens on Sunday, March 3rd and begin the process of entering the Church through baptism and/or chrismation must have made their decision and informed Father Steve by tonight!***

**MARCH**

**6th Life after death, praying for the dead and the end of the world.**

Read: “What we believe about eschatology or life after death”

“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) by Steve Christoforou

**11th Pure Monday: Great Lent begins! Lenten mini-retreat 10AM-1PM**

**13th Being a disciple of Jesus: the spiritual disciplines of Great Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving (concrete acts of love & mercy)**

Videos: *What is the Jesus Prayer?*

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

**20th The monastic witness to the Gospel.**

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

Videos – *60 Minutes: Mt. Athos*

*Athos: The Holy Mountain*

**27th 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 – *What if God is Real?* by Steve Christoforou

## APRIL

### **3rd The spiritual ascent: silence, solitude and prayer.**

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

Read: "The Ladder to Heaven" and "Hesychasm: the Practice of Silence"  
from Section 6 of *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *Why Prayer Matters* (#95) and *Is it Possible to Pray Always?* (#104)  
by Steve Christoforou

### **10th Orthodoxy around the World**

Videos: *The Last Anchorite*  
*Greek Orthodox Holy Week and Easter* with Rick Steves in Greece  
*The Novospassky Monastery: Persecution of Christians in Russia under Communism*

### **17th Stewardship, service, missions and evangelism.**

Read Section 5 – "The Faith and Practice" section in the *OC 101 Notebook*

"In view of all this: what, therefore, is expected of us?"  
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 275-28

In preparation for the services of Holy Week, read "Palms: symbols of victory, surrender and allegiance" and "Good Friday: the tomb of Jesus" from Section 6 of *The OC 101 Notebook*

### **24th Great and Holy Wednesday. No class tonight.** Come to the anointing service!

## MAY

### **1st End of Class Potluck celebration! The Beginning!**



## **REQUIRED READING**

*The Bible*

*Introducing the Orthodox Church* 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

*Welcome to the Orthodox Church* by Frederica Mathewes-Green

