

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

2019 - 2020

(Wednesdays, 7-9PM)

SEPTEMBER

18th 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*"

Two handouts for *The Orthodox Christianity 101 Notebook*

25th Liturgy: Why do we worship the way that we do?

Read: "Symbols: What are they?" and "Incense" and "Candles"

Three handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *What is Orthodox Christianity?* by Steve Christoforou

What is the Orthodox Church? by Father Andrew Damick

5 Misconceptions about the Orthodox Church by Father Andrew Damick

OCTOBER

2nd 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

Videos: *Orthodox Worship* by Father Barnabas Powell

An Overview of the Divine Liturgy by Frederica Mathewes-Green

9th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #2.

Read: "The Divine Liturgy: Reality not Symbol"

A handout for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *The Orthodox Worship Space* by Frederica Mathewes-Green

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

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

16th Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #3.

Read: The Divine Liturgy with commentary by Father Steve
A handout for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *The Choir and Chanters* by Frederica Mathewes-Green
The Sign of the Cross, Icons and Tradition by Frederica Mathewes-Green

23rd Looking at the Divine Liturgy: A commentary and explanation #4.

Continue reading: The Divine Liturgy with commentary by Father Steve
A handout for *The OC 101 Notebook*

30th Preparing the bread and wine for worship: the *Proskomide*

Catch up on your reading.

NOVEMBER

6th Living a sacramental life.

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

Read: “Christened: Newborn in Christ”
“Confession in an Age of Self-Esteem” by Jim Forest
“The Orthodox Experience of Confession” by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware
Three handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

“The Meaning of Baptism” – a letter of St. Cyprian of Carthage (*handout*)

Videos: *What is a Sacrament? (#119)* by Steve Christoforou
Confession (#36) by Steve Christoforou
The Sacrament of Confession by Frederica Mathewes-Green

13th 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

Read: “The Way of the Saint” by Father Thomas Hopko
“Everything is like an Ocean” by Father John Oliver
Two handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Video – *Mother Teresa: A Documentary*

20th The Liturgical Year: seasons of feasting and fasting.

“What we believe about the Church Year”

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

27th Thanksgiving eve celebration of the Liturgy!

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

DECEMBER

4th 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

11th Advent: Preparing for the Christmas/New Year/Epiphany Season.

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

by Steve Christoforou

Orthodox Epiphany by Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

Read: “Epiphany and the Blessing of Water”

A handout for *The OC 101 Notebook*

18th No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

25th CHRISTMAS No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

JANUARY

1st New Year’s Day. No class tonight. Christmas/New Year break.

8th 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
A History of Orthodox Christianity: Byzantium by GOA

15th The history of the early Church.

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

“What is the Orthodox Church? A brief overview of history
by Father Marc Dunaway

Two handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Video: *The Orthodox Christian Church’s Patriarch Bartholomew* 60 Minutes

22nd Where did all these churches come from? The history of the Church from the Middle Ages thru modern times.

Videos: *5 Differences between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches*
5 Differences between Orthodox and Evangelical Christians
by Father Andrew Damick

Division in Christendom: The Great Schism and Reformation
by Frederica Mathewes-Green

29th 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

Videos: *What if God is real?* (#109) and *Belief in God* (#62) and *Salvation in Christ*(#68) and *The Holy Trinity* (#63) by Steve Christoforou

FEBRUARY

5th Reading the Scriptures: the Bible as sacrament.

Read: "What we believe about the Bible"

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

Videos: *What is the Bible?* by The Bible Project

3 Things you need to know about the Bible (#45) by Steve Christoforou

How to Read the Bible (#128) by Steve Christoforou

12th Studying the Bible: being a disciple of Jesus and doing the Truth.

Read: "The Bible in the Orthodox Church" by Father Steve

"Bread for Life: reading the Bible" by Father Theodore Stylianopoulos

"Practicing Christianity, Living the Faith: Excerpts from the Letters of St. Paul"
by Father Steve

"Faith Alone and Faith and Works: An Orthodox Christian Approach"
by Father Steve

Four handouts for *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

***All those who wish to be made catechumens on Sunday, February 23rd
and begin the process of entering the Church through baptism and/or
chrismation must have made their decision and informed Father Steve
by tonight!***

19th Reading the Old Testament: getting our feet wet.

Read: 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

26th Reading the New Testament: getting our feet wet.

Read: The Gospel of Luke and the First Letter of John

Videos: *How we got the New Testament* Rose Publishing

Introduction to the Gospel of Luke by Steve Christoforou

The Gospel of Luke 1-9 and 10-24 by The Bible Project

Who is Jesus? By Coldwater Media

MARCH

2nd Pure Monday: Great Lent begins! Lenten mini-retreat 10AM-1PM

4th Being a disciple of Jesus: the spiritual disciplines of Great Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving (concrete acts of love & mercy)

Read: “Lent – Preparing for Joy” by Norman Wirzba

“5 Reasons Christians Practice the Discipline of Fasting” by Father Steve

“The Jesus Prayer” by Father Steve

Three handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos: *What is the Jesus Prayer?*

The Jesus Prayer by Frederica Matthewes Green

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

11th 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

The Orthodox Christian Funeral Service: a liturgical text

Two handouts for *The OC 101 Notebook*

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

18th The monastic witness to the Gospel.

Read: “Seek first the Kingdom: Orthodox Monasticism” by Kallistos Ware

A handout for *The OC 101 Notebook*

Videos – *Mt. Athos: The Holy Mountain* by 60 Minutes

A Mountain Home for Monks for 12 Centuries by Great Big Story

Elizabeth Feodorovna: Revealing the depths of a noble heart by Sophie Law

25th 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

God is not in books by Father Roman Braga

Christianity is not a doctrine by Father Roman Braga

APRIL

1st 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*"

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

8th 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: "In view of all this: what, therefore, is expected of us?"
from *Introducing the Orthodox Church* pp. 275-282

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

15th 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

