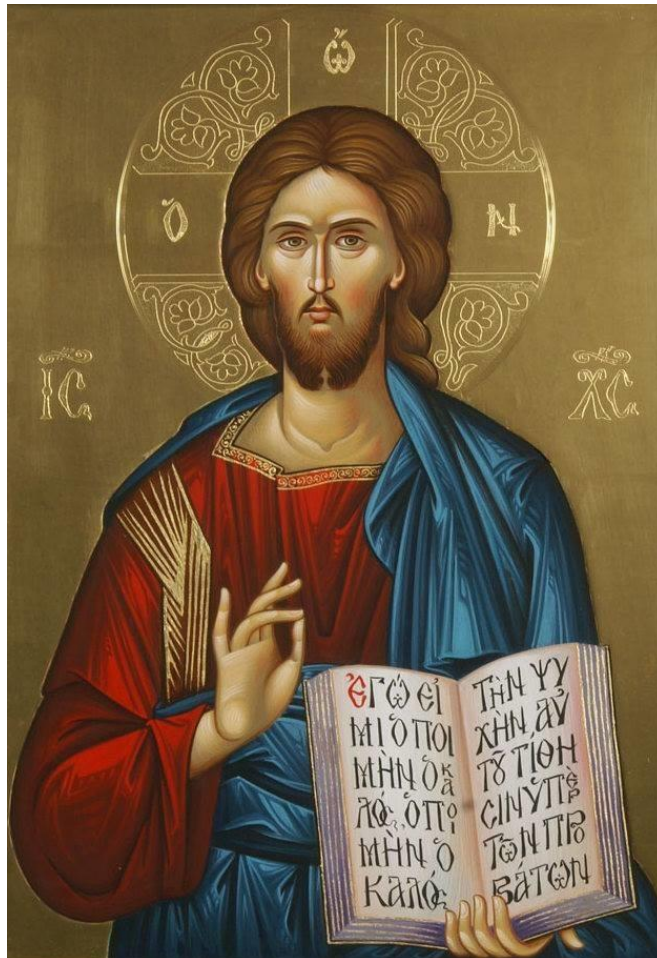


# STUDIES IN THE FAITH

Presented by  
Rev. Father Dean W. Kouldukis



## Studies in the Faith

Intended to be a survey course, "Studies in the Faith" will give the participant a foundational understanding of the Orthodox Christian Faith, its belief, worship, and practices. The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm via ZOOM and will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup> . The parish office will forward the ZOOM invitation to all participants.

**This class is mandatory for those individuals who wish to become Orthodox Christians.**

For those who are already Orthodox, this course will provide you with an enriched understanding of your faith.

And to our guests, we welcome you. Please feel free to attend whichever class, or combination of classes interests you most.

All participants will be asked to purchase the textbooks used. Confidential scholarships are available for the purchase of the textbooks through the parish office as well. Please contact the parish office for further information.

What follows is a list of the texts to be used and schedule for the class. The reading assignments from the texts below and from various articles will be distributed in class. The texts may be purchased from either the Assumption bookstore, Light and Life Publishing or Amazon.

### Texts to be used in class:

1. The Holy Bible, including the Old Testament and deuterocanonical books (Apocrypha). The Orthodox Study Bible is recommended.
2. The Orthodox Church, by Bishop Kallistos Ware
3. The Divine Liturgy Service Book to be distributed Sunday after Liturgy.

### Other recommended texts:

1. Introducing the Orthodox Church by Fr. Anthony Coniaris (Alternative to The Orthodox Church, by Bishop Kallistos Ware)
2. Contemporary Moral Issues, by Fr. Stanley Harakas
3. Making God Real In The Orthodox Christian Home, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris
4. Beginning to Pray, by Archbishop Anthony Bloom
5. The Orthodox Way, by Bishop Kallistos Ware
6. The Inner Kingdom, by Bishop Kallistos Ware, Volume one of the Collected Work
7. Whose Bible Is It: A Short History of the Scriptures, by Jarslov Pelikan

For those wishing to become Orthodox Christians, Baptism and/or Chrismation will be celebrated before the feast of Pascha.

For those thinking of becoming Orthodox Christians, please remember, regular Church attendance is mandatory (either in person or via our web stream) as worship is central in the life of the Orthodox Faith. In addition, connecting to the community is important as you will need to choose a Godparent for your Baptism and/or Chrismation. Godparents are usually chosen from within the parish you are attending.

### **Registration Information**

To register for this class, please state your intent to participate via email to Fr. Dean at [frdean@assumptionseattle.org](mailto:frdean@assumptionseattle.org). Please feel free to contact the parish office with any questions at (206) 323-8557.

### **Internet Self-Study**

In this age of modern technology, quite often the question is asked regarding self-study using Orthodox educational videos posted on the internet. Although this is an option, it is not recommended. Fellowship and connection with others in the class is an important part of integrating yourself into our faith community. In addition, questions and dialogue in class is encouraged. A question offered in class often invites the participants to have discussions leading to a deeper understanding of Orthodoxy in a way not possible in a home study environment. Educational videos posted on the internet will be utilized as part of our class structure however it is important to note that all web-based data contained in the class will have been thoroughly vetted. Web addresses for these websites will be provided in class so the material may be reviewed at any time.

## **Syllabus**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Session October 1<sup>st</sup>**

History of the Church (Part 1)

From 33 AD – 325 AD

- The Beginnings: The spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to the nations
- The Early Martyrs, the Administrative Structure of the Church, the Development of the Administrative Structure of the Church, the Development of the Liturgical Life of the Church.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session October 8<sup>th</sup>**

History of the Church (Part 2)

Byzantium, 325 AD – 850 AD

The Ecumenical Councils, The Nicene Creed, The Fathers of the Church

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Session October 15<sup>th</sup>**

History of the Church (Part 3)

The Church in Captivity, Moscow: The Third Rome, The Ancient Patriarchates Today

**4<sup>th</sup> Session October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Trinity, The Person of Jesus  
The Biblical foundation  
The Church Fathers

*Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Feast Day of St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streaming*

**5<sup>th</sup> Session October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Tradition and the Bible

**6<sup>th</sup> Session November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Theosis (Part 1)  
An Orthodox Perspective on Spiritual Growth

**7<sup>th</sup> Session November 12<sup>th</sup>**

Theosis (Part 2)  
Salvation  
Life After Death

*Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: The Christmas Fast Begins*

**8<sup>th</sup> Session November 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Sacramental Life of the Church (Part 1)  
Prayer as an expression of Sacrament  
An Orthodox perspective on Sacrament

*Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>: Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*

*Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Day Holiday*

**9<sup>th</sup> Session December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Sacramental life of the Church (Part 2)  
A survey (from a Biblical and theological foundation) of the Sacraments of Baptism,  
Chrismation, and Confession

**10<sup>th</sup> Session December 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Sacramental life of the Church (Part 3)  
A survey (from a Biblical and theological foundation) of the Sacraments of Ordination,  
Marriage, and Holy Unction

*(December 17<sup>th</sup>- January 7<sup>th</sup>: Break for Christmas and Epiphany)*

*Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> is a fast-free period*

*Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ  
(Christmas)*

*Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>: Feast of Epiphany (Theophany)*

**11<sup>th</sup> Session January 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Divine Liturgy (Part 1)  
The Liturgy of the Catechumens  
The Liturgy of the Eucharist

**12<sup>th</sup> Session January 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Divine Liturgy (Part 2)  
The Historical Development of the Liturgy

**13<sup>th</sup> Session January 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Saints of the Church

***Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Feast of the Entrance of Christ into the Temple***

**14<sup>th</sup> Session February 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Interior of the Church  
Orthodox theology in Church architecture and structure

**15<sup>th</sup> Session February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Iconography  
The Church Triumphant vs. the Church Militant

**16<sup>th</sup> Session February 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Calendar (Part 1)  
The measurement of time in the Orthodox Church  
The daily and weekly calendars of the Church  
The twelve major feasts in the Orthodox Church

**17<sup>th</sup> Session February 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Calendar (Part 2)  
The moveable calendar of the Church  
The fasting calendar of the Church  
The calculation of the day of Pascha (Easter in Orthodoxy)  
The New vs. the Old Calendar

**18<sup>th</sup> Session March 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Calendar (Part 3)  
Holy Week and the Journey to Pascha (Easter)

**19<sup>th</sup> Session March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Contemporary Moral Issues  
The Orthodox position on contemporary moral issues such as contraception, abortion, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, homosexuality, capital punishment, euthanasia, and more. A brief discussion on each.

***Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>: Great and Holy Lent begins - Beginning of the strict Lenten Fast***

***Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: First Thursday of Great Lent – No Class***

***Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>: Sunday of Orthodoxy***

**20<sup>th</sup> Session March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Living an Orthodox Lifestyle (Part 1)  
Beginning to Pray  
On fasting, prayer, and almsgiving

**21<sup>st</sup> Session April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Living an Orthodox Lifestyle (Part 2)  
Living the Liturgical life of the Church

*Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Mid-point of Great Lent with the Procession of the Holy Cross*

**22<sup>nd</sup> Session April 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Problem of Orthodox Fundamentalism

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session April 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Role of Monasticism in the Orthodox Church

**24<sup>th</sup> Session April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Eastern and Western Churches  
The differences between Eastern Orthodoxy and Western Catholicism and Protestantism  
The relationship of the Orthodox Church with the churches of the West  
The Orthodox Church and the World Council of Churches

*Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday*

*Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Great and Holy Pascha*

*Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>: Feast of the Ascension*

*Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>: Feast of Pentecost*

We welcome all visitors who may wish to come and experience an Orthodox Christian Liturgy. For those who wish to become Orthodox Christians, **it is important for you to regularly attend Church on Sundays while taking this class.** The schedule of worship services is as follows:

**Saturday: Great Vespers – 4:00 pm**

**Sunday: Orthros - 8:45 am followed by Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am**

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you must sign up in advance when you wish to attend Liturgy in person at the church. Please use this link for SignUpGenius to make your reservation: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44a8a922a3fd0-assumption>

Please also note the preceding schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen events, such as funerals, etc. We will do our best to keep you informed if any change should occur.