



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FAITH AND LEARNING CATECHISM PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

WINTER/SPRING 2026

Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
January 12	Introduction	Fr. Richard Andrews
January 19	God- Holy Trinity	Fr. Sotirios Malamis
January 26	Mankind- Creation, the Fall, Messiah	Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos
February 2	Christ I- Incarnation, Theotokos & Saints	Mr. John Anton, MDiv
February 9	Christ II- His Work & Teachings	Fr. Thomas Alatzakis
February 16	Church I- Birth, Mission, Structure	Fr Patrick O'Rourke
February 23	Church II- Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition	Fr. Dimitri Tobias
March 2	Sacraments I- Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction	Fr Peter Sarolas
March 9	Sacraments II- Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer	Fr. Sotirios Malamis
March 16	Sacraments III- Marriage & Monasticism	Fr. Thomas Alatzakis
March 23	The Goal- Second Coming & Living the Christian Life	Fr. Richard Andrews
March 30	Conclusion- Orthodoxy in America, Jurisdictions, Q&A	Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos
April 12	GREAT & HOLY PASCHA – RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	

Texts: *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Anthony Coniaris (1982); *The Orthodox Church* by Kallistos Ware (5th ed., 2015); *The Orthodox Way* by Ware (rev. ed., 1995); *Welcome to the Orthodox Church: An Introduction to Eastern Christianity* by Frederica Mathewes-Green (2nd printing, 2016); *Becoming Orthodox* by Peter Gilquist (3rd ed., 2009); *The Faith* by Clark Carlton (1997, 2023). Texts can be obtained in church bookstore, Amazon.com or other supplier.

Location: Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, IL 60025, 847-729-2235,
www.sppglenview.org

REGISTER ONLINE: www.sppglenview.org OR <https://forms.gle/RVsJdMs4eynZUbWSA>

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ARE YOU ORTHODOX: YES NO (circle one)

IF NO, WHAT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: _____

PARISH: _____

WHAT BEST DESCRIBES WHY YOU ARE ATTENDING THIS CLASS:

1. Just interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith.
2. Seeking to prepare to join the Orthodox Christian Faith.
3. Not sure yet.

REGISTRATION FEE: FREE

PREFERRED BOOK: _____



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INSTRUCTORS

Fr. Richard Andrews is a pastor/priest of Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Christian Church in Glenview, IL (since 2019). He is a graduate of Argosy University (Doctorate Marriage & Family Therapy, 2019), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Master of Divinity 1994) in Boston, MA and the University of Minnesota (BS Business Admin & Marketing 1988) in Minneapolis, MN. Fr. Rick previously served St. George Church in St Paul, MN (1999-2019), St. Paul Police Department volunteer chaplain (2006-2019). He is president of Chicago Clergy Syndesmos (2022-2026) and Vicar of Clergy Care (since 2020). He and Presvytera Jane have one adult son and daughter-in-law.



Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos is a lifelong member of Saints Peter & Paul Church. She received a Master Degree in Theological Studies from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (1981), and both an M.A. in Theology (1978) and a Ph.D. in Theology (1995) from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is currently adjunct professor of theology at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School of Theology in Libertyville, IL. She was a Lecturer (in the Department of Spiritual Theology) at the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary (Roman Catholic) in Mundelein IL. She and her husband Evan are parents of three, and grandparents of two.

Fr. Sotirios Malamis is the Parish Priest at Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, IL since 2014. He is a graduate of DePaul University Chicago (Bachelor of Arts Psychology) and Holy Cross School of Theology Boston (Master of Divinity with Distinction 2001). He continued his theological studies at the University of Athens in the field of Pastoral Theology and Religious Education. He currently serves on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Council and served on the Metropolis of Chicago Council. Fr. Sotirios and Presvytera Stefanie have three children, Maria, Niko, and Aimilianos.



John L. Anton is the Pastoral Assistant at Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church (Lincolnshire, IL). He earned a BA in Religious Studies from Hellenic College (2018) and a MDiv Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He also earned a Certificate in Byzantine Music while at HCHC. John has served the Chicago Metropolis and numerous parishes including chanting and teaching Byzantine Music, coordinating Youth and Young Adult events like the YAL Chicago Conference; and Staff Director at the Fanari Camp Ministries.

Fr. Thomas Alatzakis is parish priest of St. Demetrios Church in Libertyville, IL. He earned a BA in Religious Studies (2007) from Hellenic College and an MDiv (2011) from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He was ordained to the diaconate in February 2012 and the priesthood in June 2012. Before moving back to Chicagoland, he served the communities of St Mary's in Minneapolis, MN (2012-2014) and Assumption in East Moline, IL (2014-2020). Fr. Thomas is married to Presbytera Angela and have a young son, Paul.



Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias is a graduate of Hellenic College (B.A. in Religious Studies, 2004) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Masters Divinity, 2007). He currently serves as the associate priest at St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines (since Nov. 2023). He previously served the Metropolis of Chicago (2007-09), parishes of St Nectarios (2009-12), Sts Peter & Paul (2012-13), Holy Trinity in Souix City IA (2013-17), St Basil (2017-21), St Andrew (2021-23) and the Metropolis Council (2017-2025). Fr. Dimitri and Pres. Mary have one son—Vasilios.

Father Patrick O'Rourke is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. He graduated from Ohio State University (Bachelor of Arts, 2009) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (M.Div., Magna Cum Laude, 2016). Ordained to the priesthood in 2016, he has served parishes in New York, Utah, and Illinois, and has also held leadership roles at Hellenic College Holy Cross Seminary. Fr. Patrick currently serves the community St. Nectarios in Palatine as its Associate Pastor since August 2025.



Fr. Peter Sarolas is the associate priest of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Glenview, IL (since 2025). He graduated from a Hellenic College (BA Religious Studies, 1991) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MDiv, 1994). Fr. Peter previously worked for St Basil Academy in NY (1995-1998), Metropolis of Chicago (Registrar 1998-2007), as Youth Director at Holy Trinity Church (1997-1999), St. Nicholas Church (2001-2004), and St Andrew Church (2004-2007). As priest at St Demetrios Church, Chicago (2007-2014), Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Rockford IL (2014-2018), and St. George Church, Chicago (2019-2025). Fr. Peter is the vp of the Clergy Syndesmos and is married to Presvytera Maria and they have three sons.



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Reading Assignments

Introduction

Coniaris, pp.1-12, 85-90, 171-182
Ware – Way, pp.7-10 (Signposts on the Way),
11-26 (God as Mystery)
Ware-Church, pp. 189-193, 239-248
Carlton, Intro, pp.13-52 / pp.22-54
Mathewes-Green, see intro

God- Holy Trinity

Coniaris, pp.23-32
Ware – Way, pp. 27-42 (God as Trinity)
Ware-Church, pp.202-211
Carlton, pp.53-64 / 55-66
Mathewes-Green, pp.38-46

Mankind- Creation, the Fall, Messiah

Ware – Way, pp.43-66 (God as Creator)
Ware-Church, pp.212-218
Carlton, pp. 65-102 / 67-104
Mathewes-Green, pp.137-146

Christ I- Incarnation, Theotokos & Saints

Coniaris, pp.17-22, 91-104
Ware – Way, pp.67-88 (God as Man)
Ware-Church, pp. 218-222, 247-253
Carlton, pp. 103-126 / pp.105-128
Mathewes-Green, pp.3-10,21-37,68-84,112-124
Gilquist, pp.97-110.

Christ II- His Work & Teachings

Coniaris, pp.17-23
Ware-Church, pp.225-229
Carlton, pp. 127-150 / pp.129-154
Mathewes-Green, pp.85-97, 147-156

Church I- Birth, Mission, Structure

Coniaris, pp.1-12
Ware-Way, pp.89-104 (God as Spirit)
Ware-Church, pp.11-16, 41-67, 70-83, 213-214,
283-286
Carlton, pp. 153-178 / pp.155-180
Mathewes-Green, pp.3-10,11-20,125-136

Church II- Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition

Coniaris, pp.13-17, 57-70, 149-170
Ware-Church, pp.17-40, 195-201
Carlton, pp.165-178 / pp.167-180
Mathewes-Green, pp.38-46, pp.98-112

Sacraments I- Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction

Coniaris, pp.123-148
Ware-Church, pp.267-272, 281-283, 289-290
Carlton, pp. 179-202 / pp.181-204
Mathewes-Green, pp.157-173,174-190,288-306

Sacraments II- Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer

Coniaris, pp.33-46, 71-84, 134-138, 189-208
Ware-Church, pp.257-266, 273-280, 291-299
Carlton, pp. 203-226 / pp.205-228
Mathewes-Green, pp.137-270, 271-282

Sacraments III- Marriage & Monasticism

Coniaris, pp.138-141
Ware-Church, pp.287-289
Carlton, pp.227-250 / pp.229-252
Mathewes-Green, pp.307-318

The Goal- Second Coming & Living the Christian Life

Coniaris, pp.47-56, 183-187, 105-122, 209-214.
Ware-Way, pp.105-138 (God as Prayer; God as
Eternity)
Ware-Church: 225-231 (Partakers of Divine
Nature), 253-256 (The Last Things),
Carlton: pp.251-277 / pp.253-279
Mathewes-Green: pp.330-345

Conclusion- Orthodoxy in America, Jurisdictions, Q&A

Ware-Church: pp. 84-98 (Islam), 99-121
(Russia), 122-139 (Greeks & Arabs), 140-166
(Atheists), 167-188 (Diaspora & Mission), 300-
319 (Reunion of Christians)
Mathewes-Green: n/a