Saying Goodbye to the Old and Hello to the New: St. George Iconostasis Project

Since the beginning of Christianity, temples of worship have incorporated what we call an Iconostasis, or Iconostas in the Slavic tradition. The iconostasis serves to mark the boundary between the nave, where the worshippers sit or stand, and the altar/sanctuary that contains the Holy Table, where the clergy serve and lead the worshippers. Since the sanctuary (iero) represents the Garden of Eden or Paradise, the icons on the iconostasis depict the main figures who already live there and are welcoming us and showing us how to approach in order to enter into communion with God. We know these people well: Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, St. George, the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.

For over sixty years, this iconostasis has served well our parish community. the capacity I’ve just described. It is one of the few remaining pieces from the old church which existed before 1968. With the building of the new facility at that time, a dramatic move towards the emerging Byzantine Renaissance was made. Starting with the Pantokrator and the Platytera icons, continuing with the ornate Byzantine wood carvings of the Bishop’s Throne and Pulpit, the vision towards an eventual complete transformation of the worship space was established.

Nearly twenty years ago and Iconostasis Fund was set-up to begin receiving donations for a new Byzantine iconostasis at some in the future. Almost two years ago our parish approved this project. We are ready to install the new iconostasis. To make way for the new, we must say goodbye to the old iconostasis. Before we do that, we must recognize and thank the founders of our parish community and the builders of our temple, including the iconostasis, that helped us have a home and a house for worshipping Jesus Christ our Lord over the past 68 years. To those who have reposed in the Lord- may their memory be eternal! To those who are still with us – may God grant you many years in good health! We pray that our God will see their efforts and say, “Well done good and faithful servants!”

With all of the above in the forefront of our hearts and minds, we present, with thankfulness to God, the old iconostasis to the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in St. Paul. The old iconostasis was built to aid the liturgical worship of faithful Orthodox Christians. In its new home, it will continue to be used for the same venerable purpose.

In our weekly parish life, we may think that not much changes. Things always seem to be or sound the same. Well today, this is not the case. We have a big, dramatic change in our parish today. I am of course referring to our new Iconostasis, the icon wall between the altar and the nave. We did not change the iconostasis just for the sake of change. Rather, we did this to beautify our temple of worship for the glory of God. Our goal as an Orthodox Christian community is to give our best to God. Like the ancient Israelites we give the first fruits of our crop and we give an animal without blemish for sacrifice. This should be the ideal for each of us personally, individually.

Hopefully, this iconostasis represents our best offering, our best sacrifice to God. I believe I can say that it certainly looks like our best offering with its beautiful wood carving and iconography.

Implicit in what I’m saying is that we are not here to worship the iconostasis. Rather, we are here to be led into the Kingdom of Heaven and the iconostasis will help us to do that. We cannot help but notice the intricate carving of vines and fruit with assorted wildlife. These remind us, that what lies beyond in the altar is the Garden of Eden, Paradise, where God lives in communion with His creation. The Byzantine style icons depict, in their supernatural form, the most important people in our life: Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary Theotokos, John the Baptist, St. George and the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, as they show us where the Garden is, and welcome and lead us in.

Many memorial donations helped it to grow along with special donations of parishioners and friends. The iconostasis committee was formed approximately three years ago and with your approval commissioned Doug Trail-Johnson and Mother Theodore Balbani to begin the carving and iconography. We want to thank everyone for working together to help this project come to completion. I pray that God will bless our offering to Him and protect it so generations to come will benefit from its sacred purpose and presence. Amen!

Fr. Rick
From the Desk of the President

In September 2007, a fellow by the name of Randy Pausch, then a professor of Computer Science, caused quite a stir at Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Mellon University and across the entire United States when he gave a lecture to his students entitled “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams.” His lecture was no ordinary lecture. Rather, it followed a tradition at Carnegie Mellon where an instructor is tasked with giving a hypothetical “last lecture.” The instructor’s assignment is to act as if he has only one, final lecture to give and to determine what wisdom he would try to impart upon his students as the most important advice derived from his life experiences. Prof. Pausch’s lecture had a different spin to it than the multitude of other “Last Lectures” given before because, in fact, it really was his last lecture. He had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was terminal. Prof. Pausch died in July 2008.

Many of you may have seen Prof. Pausch’s “Last Lecture.” For the internet savvy, it can be viewed on YouTube. Others might have seen the abbreviated version on Oprah or had it emailed to them. The full version lasts for about an hour and fifteen minutes. And in his Last Lecture, Prof. Pausch provides his words of wisdom including such gems as “focus on others, not yourself” and try to “find the best in everybody.” At the end, as he choked back tears, he asked whether the audience had realized the two “head fakes” in his lecture. He then went on to explain that the lecture (1) wasn’t about how to achieve dreams but was about how to live one’s life and (2) it wasn’t given to the audience, but to his three children who would grow up without him. If you haven’t viewed Prof. Pausch’s lecture, it is worth a view.

Prof. Pausch’s story was celebrated in the media as something to be admired. No doubt his lecture is very moving and he makes numerous good points. In fact, much of his advice seems to be grounded in a Christian view of the world (although he confessed to believing in karma, he also mentioned that his father was the most Christian man he ever knew). And regardless of any real or perceived deficiencies in his lecture (some have criticized him for not specifically mentioning God), we would all do well to take the positives from his message and apply them on a daily basis through our Christian faith.

While there are many things to take away from Prof. Pausch’s story, perhaps the most important is that we shouldn’t wait for our own “last lecture” to start doing the things we know we should. In other words, as difficult as it might be, we ought to be striving to do the work of the Lord on a daily basis. Of course, this is a lot easier to say than to do, especially in a world that provides us with so many distractions. But as Orthodox Christians, it is what we are called to do and we need to remember to encourage one another to do these things. Sometimes we succeed. Sometimes we fail. But always we should strive.

In the “physical” realm, I suppose we do a pretty decent job of it at St. George. Our recent land development, Social Hall remodel and new iconostasis projects provide good examples. It wasn’t easy to get these things done. And they certainly didn’t happen overnight. Nonetheless, together, we achieved them. But what of our efforts in the “spiritual” realm? Certainly, the call to do what needs to be done applies equally to those works that we won’t necessarily see on a Sunday morning?

As we look forward to renewing our stewardship pledges in the coming months, it is important that each of us take some time to consider our involvement at St. George in spiritual endeavors. Pick anything you like, from attending services, to visiting the shut-ins, to feeding the hungry to any other number of needful things. There is something for everyone, be they young or old, new to St. George or long-standing parishioners, Greek or non-Greek. And as you contemplate where you may be able to help, remember to count each of your blessings as you think back to the words of our Lord…

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

God bless, Eric
Parish Announcements

Philoxenia House Fundraiser
Join us for lunch Sun., Oct 19th as we raise money for the Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN. The Philoxenia House is comprised of three homes that have been purchased by the Rochester Greek Orthodox Parish. They provide housing for Orthodox patients and/or families, free of charge from all over the world who are getting medical help from the Mayo Hospital.

These homes are funded solely by donations and the Holy Anargyroi parish maintains the facilities and its visitors through volunteering. Our goal is to raise $2,000 this year. Our lunch is sponsored by the Philoptochos with a generous food donation from the Pitsavas family. Please make every effort to attend this delicious Gyro lunch with a generous heart!

Philoptochos News Update
The Annual Philoptochos Bake Sale and Boutique will be held the Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 22 and 23, 2008 featuring homemade pastries, holiday breads, and unique, handcrafted boutique items.

Philoptochos has formed a committee to serve at funerals. Evelyn Boosalis, 651-429-7859, has volunteered as coordinator. If you are interested in helping with funeral/makaria luncheons, please speak to Evelyn.

An Elegant Evening With Art and Appetizer
Tickets are available for purchase to the 7th Annual Art Auction Saturday, October 4. Bring your family, friends, and colleagues for a fun evening out! Admission is $20 per person. The Art Auction benefits for St George Youth Ministries and the Jeremiah Program, "Transforming Families From Poverty To Prosperity." For tickets, contact Dawn Lampros, 651-644-3924, Denise Smith, 952-929-1019, or purchase online at www.stgeorgegoc.org.

Still Available: Roselawn Cemetery Lots - Greek Section
There are only four (4) monument lots but many flat lots yet available for purchase, being sold at a significantly discounted price. The discounted price for this year until December 31, 2008, is: Monument lot (2 graves) $3,220; Flat Lot (2 graves) $1,760; Flat Lot (1 grave) $970. Note that the price of the lots will increase January 1, 2009. If you are interested and prepared to purchase a lot, please contact Dimitri Dokos, 651-699-0373, or the office at 651-222-6220.

Loaves & Fishes Coordinator Needed
A coordinator for St. George is being sought to act as the liaison with the Loaves and Fishes site coordinator. Responsibilities include recruiting volunteers to serve dinner to 120-150 guests 6 Mondays a year in the months of: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec and arrange to have 12-18 St. George parishioners or other volunteers as cooks, setup crew, serving and cleanup crew. Please contact Naomi Tsantir or Fr. Rick if interested.

Bring Canned Goods For Trinity Missions
With the holidays coming up we have an opportunity to feed the hungry by bringing canned food items for Trinity Missions. Please remember those less fortunate throughout the year.

Chair Opportunity for the Missions and Benevolence Committee in 2009
A new chair will be needed for the committee in 2009. Please contact Diane Anastos if interested asia819@dcemail.com or 763-227-0365.

Opportunity to Contribute to the Creation of the Glad Tidings.
More volunteers are needed to help with the Glad Tidings. If you have desktop publishing skills, interested in co-editing and like to be creative, please contact Diane Anastos asia819@dcemail.com or 763-227-0354. This is not a huge time commitment, but limited volunteer time means for help is needed. Please consider this a contribution of your time and talents!
Church Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours
Mondays 10:00AM-12:30PM, 1:30PM-4:30PM
Tue.—Thurs. 8:00AM-12:30PM, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews, Presbyter
(651) 222-6220
Email: FatherRick@usa.com

Fiona Eustathiades, Administrative Assistant
(651) 222-6220
Email: fionamaria_1@netzero.com

Eric Chadwick, Parish Council President
(507) 665-8053
Email: chadwick@ptslaw.com

Reva Adkins, Philoptochos President
(651) 738-1630
Email: rradkins@comcast.net

Andrea Faches, Sunday School Director
(507) 665-8053
Email: afaches@msn.com

Diane Anastos, Glad Tidings - Editor
Email: StGeorgeGladTidings@excite.com

Registry

40 Day Churchings
Taci Zahl & Athan

Baptisms
Leo Johnson
Athan Panagiotis Zahl

Weddings
Sandra Anderson & Gordon Thole

Memorials
Yiannis Pitsavas

Births
Dimitra Osterman
Sophia Paraschou

Funerals
Mary Weiser
John Eckholdt

Festal Icons Needed

Please donate a Festal Icon (11" x 14") in memory of a loved one. The cost is $50.00 per icon. The icons are displayed in the church nave and are put out for veneration on the Feast Day of the Saint or event they represent. To donate an icon, fill out a form (found on the bulletin board by the kitchen) and return it to the office.

- Theotokos—Tree of Jesse
- Flight into Egypt
- Archangel Gabriel

See insert for MEOCCA

Class Schedules!
YOUTH NEWS

Junior GOYA

With the growth of our youth program, it is time for us to initiate a new group for our middle school students. Students (and their parents) in 6th-8th grades are invited to a brief organizational meeting on October 26th where you will set our upcoming events and business meetings.

Exaltation of the Cross—September 14th

Sunday School—A Terrific Start!

Sunday School got off to a terrific start on September 7th. Enrollment is up including three young adults attending the first class of the newly reinitiated Senior High School program. It’s not too late to register your child(ren) for Sunday School. If you have any questions, please drop into your child’s classroom. We welcome and appreciate your input.

Junior Choir News

Junior Choir gets its second year underway. We will start with the hymns of the Divine Liturgy. We will meet on the first and third Sundays after Sunday School. Please plan to stay until 122:45 p.m. Parents are requested to attend the first meeting.

Christmas Program

The Christmas program is schedule for December 212st. We need parents to coordinate, organize and direct the program. We need someone to sort though the costumes and props and coordinate replacements. Please contact Andrea Faches to assist in this effort.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Family Camp
Camp Wapo
Amery, Wisconsin
October 10-12th
Dr. Philip Mamalakis, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Seminary is returning to offer his workshops on families and parenting. Contact Cindy Karos ckaros@visi.com or Father Rick for more details.

Junior GOYA
Sunday, October 26th
12:00 noon
In the classroom area.

GOYA
Saturday, October 25th
Valley Fair
5:00—10:00 p.m.
Meet at St. George at 4:00 p.m.
$20 each (If cost is a concern, contact Father Rick)
RSVP to Presvytera Jane at (651) 290-0431.

SAVE THE DATES
Need families to host:
• Friday, Nov. 21st at St. George
• Friday Dec. 12th
Carol for homebound
Contact Eric Chadwick or Andrea Faches regarding scheduling people the carolers should visit.

Youth & Family Ministry
Monday, October 13th
6:30 p.m.
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Monthly planning meeting. All Sunday School Staff and Youth Workers are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Youth & Family Ministry meetings will be on:
November 10th
December 8th
January 12th
Have Questions about the Church, then check out

**The Orthodox Church A to Z by Father George Grube**

This book is a practical handbook of Orthodox beliefs. It includes chapters on the liturgy, sacraments, customs, theology, history, practice and beliefs in the Orthodox Church.

Included are prayers and pertinent facts about the theology, history, practice and beliefs in the Orthodox Church. He outlines sources of Orthodox doctrine, information on the God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, prayers, Gift of the Holy Spirit, worship, the Holy Mysteries, and the church teachings on mortality, the calendar of the church, Bible readings for the Church Year, God's Kingdom on Earth, the Church, the Saints and much more.

**From the Bookstore to you**

Fr. Richard Andrews and local clergy welcome Archbishop Demetrios to the Twin Cities as he prepares to give the invocation at the Republican National Convention.
Around Town

Fall icon Class Sessions...
will be held at St. Maron Maronite Church, winter class session will be held at Westminster Presbyterian. Please call Deb to register at 651-439-4850. Your deposit will be your registration. Tuition and material fee $290.00. Class schedule is as follows:

**Thursdays** from 6:30-9 p.m. on Oct. 9,16,23,30,Nov. 6 and 13 at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, 602 University Ave. NE., Mpls. 612-379-2758

**Tuesdays** from 6:30-9 p.m. on Feb. 17,24,March 10,17,24,31 at Westminster Presbyterian Church,1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls. 612-332-3421 These classes will be offered in conjunction with a series of adult education classes for the parish and an icon exhibition in the Westminster Gallery.

A Special Thank You to everyone who helped make the 2008 Greek Festival a success. The weather was beautiful and many people enjoyed the food, dancing, and the hospitality that St. George is known for.

Thank You!

Metropolis & Archdiocesan News

Archbishop Demetrios offers invocation at the Democratic & Republican National Conventions

Archbishop Demetrios, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, offered the Prayer of Invocation at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado and the Republican in St. Paul, MN. See picture left, as he is welcomed.

Saint Philothea Project

will still afford parishes and people to participate in a gift program during the Nativity Fast. We will have more details about our **Nativity 2008** program soon.

We have opportunities for people who would like to help with the work in Romania during the next trip. St **Missions and Monasteries 2009**. Every trip presents immediate needs at children's home an the past Saint Philothea Project has been a blessing to children homes and indigent feeding programs will car loads of food purchased at local markets and large stores. Saint Philothea Project has given bicycles to orphans. A bicycle for some that age is akin to giving a car to a teenager in America. It gives them mobility with which they can begin to find work to support themselves as they transition out of an orphanage to independent living. With our cash on hand we bought material for a retaining wall to keep an orphanage standing, warm coats for children housed in a mountainous area, and piles of disposable diapers for newborn orphans at Church operated

College Students – Orthodox Christian Fellowship: Whether off to college or back to school, a great resource for guidance and fellowship are the OCF chapters throughout the country. Find out more about OCF, locate a chapter, and learn about service opportunities at http://www.ocf.net.
ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1111 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Phone: 651-222-6220
Fax: 651-225-9276
Web Site: www.stgeorgeoc.org

Weekday Worship Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Eau Claire, WI
Saturday, 9:30am

Regular Weekly Services

Holy Confession: By Appointment

Vespers: Saturday 5 pm
(September—May)

Orthros: Sunday 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:45 am

Sunday School: (September through May) starts after administration of Holy Communion
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St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105
+ Rev. Father Richard Demetrius Andrews -- Phone: (651) 222-6220 -- www.stgeorgegoc.org +
Family Camp 2008

Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Ph.D., LMFT, Family Therapist and Professor at Holy Cross Seminary will be back!! If you missed him last year, you will be sure to want to join us as he shares more practical parenting strategies within a Christian context. Dr. Mamalakis, a delightful speaker (and father of seven!), combines years of day-to-day experience as a therapist and father with solid Orthodox understanding. He is truly a speaker not to be missed!

When: October 10, 11, 12, 2008
Where: Camp Wapogasset, the beautiful site of St. Mary’s Summer Camp in Amery, Wisconsin.
Who: Twin Cities Orthodox Families

Enjoy this great chance to share parenting strategies while sharing a weekend of fun and spiritual growth with your family and other Twin Cities Orthodox friends at a beautiful retreat center only 1.5 hours away!

What a wonderful way to check out the summer camp facility or introduce it to a new camper! Activities are planned for children of all ages while parents attend discussion groups. Each room sleeps eight and has a private bathroom.

Space is limited!
Register early and spread the word to your family and friends.
Registration fees include two nights lodging, five meals, all programming and tons of fun!

Adults over 18......$89.00  Age 3-11.........$55.00
Age 11-18...............$68.00  Age 0-2............Free

Non Refundable after October 3, 2008

Questions? Contact Cindy Karos at ckaros@visi.com or at 952.929.6371
Registration forms available at all Orthodox Churches or at www.stmarysgoc.org.
St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612.825.9595
The Philoxenia House offers short and long term housing for Orthodox families whose loved ones are receiving medical care at the Mayo Clinic and other medical centers in Rochester, Minnesota. This house is operated by the Greek Orthodox parish of the Holy Anargyroi (Holy Unmercenary) and is located at 725 West Center Street, Rochester, MN.

Sunday, October 19th
Sponsored by the Ladies of Philoptochos

What:  Gyro, salad, chips, drink and dessert
Where:  Social Hall following Divine Liturgy

How you can help:  Please join us for a delicious lunch with the community and at the same time, raise money for a sister parish and Orthodox around the world.

Cost:  $10
Goal:  Our goal is to raise $2000.

A tray will be passed after Divine Liturgy, if you can’t join us for lunch.

Thank you to the Pitsavas family for donating

The Philoxenia House offers short and long term housing for Orthodox families whose loved ones are receiving medical care at the Mayo Clinic and other medical centers in Rochester, Minnesota. This house is operated by the Greek Orthodox parish of the Holy Anargyroi (Holy Unmercensaries) and is located at 725 West Center Street, Rochester, MN.

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www.stgeorgegoc.org
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008

Enjoy an evening of delicious Greek appetizers, wine and a variety of beautifully framed original and reproduction art sold in a spirited live auction! Art at all price points available!

Preview at 6 pm • Auction at 7 pm
Admission: $20 per person

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for tickets & information:
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OR purchase tickets online @www.stgeorgegoc.org

Auction held at St.George Greek Orthodox Church
1111 Summit Avenue • St. Paul

A Benefit for St. George Youth Ministries
& The Jeremiah Program*
*Transforming families from Poverty to Prosperity
# INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

**FALL 2008**  
**Tuesdays 7:00-9:00PM**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Fr. Richard Andrews</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>God- Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Wesche</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Mankind- Creation, the Fall, Messiah</td>
<td>Fr. Thomas Begley</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>Christ I- Incarnation, Theotokos &amp; Saints</td>
<td>Fr. Jonathan Proctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Christ II- His Work &amp; Teachings</td>
<td>Fr. Robert McMeekin</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Church I- Birth, Mission, Structure</td>
<td>Fr. Thomas Begley</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Church II- Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition</td>
<td>Fr. Thaddaeus Wojcik</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Sacraments I- Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Paris</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
<td>Sacraments II- Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Wesche</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Sacraments III- Marriage &amp; Monasticism</td>
<td>Fr. John Magram</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>The Goal- Second Coming &amp; Living the Christian Life</td>
<td>Fr. Richard Andrews</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Conclusion- Orthodoxy in America, Jurisdictions, Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Fr. Nathan Kroll</td>
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**Texts:** *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Anthony Coniaris, *The Orthodox Church* by Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way* by Ware, *The Faith* by Clark Carlton.

**Cost:** FREE  (Sponsored by Clergy Association)

**Location**
St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105  651-222-6220.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

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<td>EMAIL ADDRESS:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARE YOU ORTHODOX:</td>
<td>YES NO (circle one)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IF NO, WHAT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:</td>
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<td>PARISH:</td>
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**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:**  

Instructors

Fr. Richard Andrews is pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Christian Church in St. Paul, MN and a volunteer chaplain with the St. Paul Police Department. He is a graduate of University of Minnesota (BS 1988) Minneapolis, MN and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MDiv 1994) Boston, MA.

Fr. Thomas Begley is priest/pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in West St. Paul, MN and Dean of the Midwest Deanery of the Diocese of Toledo, of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese. He is a graduate of Hope College in Holland, MI, (BA 1974) and Oral Roberts Seminary, (MDiv. 1984). He attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, Crestwood, NY (1983-84).

Fr. Nathan Kroll is priest/pastor of the Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Christian Mission parish of St. Cloud, MN. He is a graduate of Augsburg College (BA) Minneapolis, MN and of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary (Masters of Divinity).

Fr John Magram is priest/pastor of Resurrection of Christ Russian Orthodox Church and Abbot of the men's monastic community in Minneapolis. He is a graduate of St. John's University (Secondary Education), St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY (BA, English) St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (M.Div.), St. Clare's Medical Center, NYC (R.N.)

Fr. Robert McMeekin- is priest/pastor Holy Cross Orthodox Mission Church currently located in Chisago City, MN. He is a graduate of State University of New York at Geneseo, (BA 1982); Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, (M.Div. 1986); Orthodox Church of America Late Vocations Program (1997). Fr. Robert served as a Chaplain (Captain) in the U.S. Army Reserve and completed two tours of Active Duty Deployment in Germany (1999-2000) and Afghanistan (2002).

Fr. Paul Paris is priest/pastor of St. Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. He is a graduate of Hellenic College 1988, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (M.Div. 1991) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MA Youth Ministry 1992) Boston, MA. Fr. Paul served as Youth Director of the Diocese of San Francisco (1992-95), associate priest of St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles CA (1995-2002) and priest/pastor of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Santa Barbara CA (2002-2006).

Fr. Jonathan Proctor is priest/pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Church in Saint Paul. He is a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand (BA) and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (MDiv 1990), New York, NY, and studied theology at the University of Athens, Greece.

Fr. Paul Wesche is priest/pastor of St. Herman’s Orthodox Christian Church in South Minneapolis. He is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity), Kansas City, MO and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary (Masters of Theology), Crestwood, NY, and Fordham University (Ph.D in Patristics 1986), New York, NY.

Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik is a retired priest who serves at various parishes including Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Lublin, WI, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Stanley, WI., and St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Cornucopia, WI. He is Dean Emeritus of the Minneapolis Deanery in the Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church of America. Currently, an Adjunct Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN (2005-2008). He is a graduate of University of Minnesota (BA, 1964) and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (M.Div. 1968).