Fall 2013 Catechetical Series:
An Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Fall 2013: *12 Sessions with Fr. Justin Patterson of St. Athanasius Orthodox Church*

When: Wednesday evenings 7:30-8:20pm, following Vespers (6:30pm).

Where: St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, 926 S. Main Street
South Nicholasville, across from Kroger in Lily Springs Center
www.athanasiusoca.org

Sept 4: Introductory Session: Foundations with Patriarch Bartholomew
-Experience not Theory: the Foundation of our Spiritual Search
-Person as Mystery, Person & Freedom, Persons in Relationship, Wholeness

Sept 11: Introducing an Orthodox Worldview—Formation in Christ, Part I
-How does an Orthodox worldview contrast with a pagan one?
-How does an Orthodox worldview contrast with other Christian ones?

Sept 18: Introducing an Orthodox Worldview—Formation in Christ, Part II
-Christ as New Creation: our Revealed Starting Point
-Paradox, Image, and Journey as Aspects of Christian Formation

Sept 25: Sin, the Passions, and Asceticism -Unpacking Sin, Death, and the Devil
-How do the Passions Relate to Sin? / Asceticism and the Struggle Against Sin

Oct 2: Christ: "The Revelation of the Eternal Mystery" -Christ as Authentic Image
-Introducing Holy Tradition as Fidelity to Authentic Jesus Christ

Oct 9: Scripture Alive in Holy Tradition -Are all the Books in the Bible "Created Equal?"
-What is the relationship between Scripture and Holy Tradition?

Oct 16: Images Alive in Holy Tradition -Iconography in Holy Tradition (Using film *The Face*)
-How can iconography and "church art" really be aspects of the Tradition?

Oct 23: Liturgy Alive in Holy Tradition -Orthodox Liturgy: Lex orandi est lex credendi

Oct 30: Council and Canons and Saints Alive in Holy Tradition -Are canons just "legalism?"
-Exploring the Classes of Saints and their Significance

Nov 6: The Church Confessing Christ—the Nicene Creed
-"One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church"—for real?

Nov 13: The Church and Her Sacramental Mysteries
-Baptism, Eucharist, Confession, & Unction as Communion with God

Nov 20: Conformed to the Image of God—Disciplines of Transformation
-Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, and the Spiritual Disciplines
-The Cross of Christ as Basis for all Being

Classic General Books on the Orthodox Faith:

The Orthodox Church by Timothy (Metropolitan Kallistos) Ware, Penguin Press
The Orthodox Study Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers
The Orthodox Way by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, St. Vladimir's Press
The Truth of our Faith by Elder Cleopa of Romania, Uncut Mountain Press
Bread & Water, Wine & Oil: An Orthodox Christian Experience of God by Archimandrite Meletios Webber, Conciliar Press
These Truths We Hold by a Monk of St. Tikhon's Monastery, St. Tikhon's Press (also online!)
For the Life of the World by Father Alexander Schmemann, St. Vladimir's Press

Classic Resources for Living the Orthodox Spiritual Life:

The Jordanville Prayerbook, Holy Trinity Monastery Press
The Way of a Pilgrim, Olga Slavin transl., Shambhala Press (other translations also good!)
Father Arseny 1893-1973 by "Alexander," St. Vladimir's Press
The Desert Fathers, Benedicta Ward transl., Cistercian Publications (other translations good!)
The Arena by St. Ignatius Brianchininov, Holy Trinity Monastery Press

Additional Books:

Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy (Comparative Religion) by Fr. S. A. Damick, Conciliar Press
Everywhere Present: Essays on Orthodox Faith by Fr. Stephen Freeman, Conciliar Press

Helpful Online Resources for the Inquirer into the Orthodox Faith:

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church Webiste (with worship calendar and local information)
www.athanasiusoca.org

The Orthodox Church in America (broader church body of which St. Athanasius is a part)
www.oca.org (for more specifically about "Orthodoxy" see www.oca.org/orthodoxy)

Ancient Faith Radio features quality online radio programming (both music and teaching)
www.ancientfaith.com

"Journey to Orthodoxy"features apologia for Orthodox Christianity and Personal Stories
www.journeytoorthodoxy.net

Monachos.net features an incredible treasury of ancient and contemporary Orthodox material
www.monachos.net

Pravmir is a Russian Orthodox site (in English) that features various articles of interest
www.pravmir.com

Road to Emmaus features articles on Orthodox culture
www.roadtoemmaus.net

Many of the books on this page can be purchased or checked out from St. Athanasius