



St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church

Wednesday Education Night at 6:30 pm
2017 Adult and Teen Curriculum Sessions
Learning to Live an Ancient Faith in a Modern World

September 6: “What on Earth is the Orthodox Church?” An Introduction

Fundamentally, our Orthodox spirituality should penetrate our daily life and our entire existence. For that to happen, we need to understand the basics of an Orthodox mindset, the structure of our Church, and our history. All of these topics are covered at a cursory level before going more in-depth in future classes.

September 20: “Smells and Bells:” The Liturgy and Cycle of Services

Why do we worship the way we do? Is it really “necessary” to keep all of our elaborate rituals? Where do these practices come from? Why did they develop? And most importantly, what do they mean? All of these questions are discussed in relation to our church services, and most especially, the Divine Liturgy we use on Sundays.

October 4: “Thine Own of Thine Own:” The Holy Sacraments

Understanding this phrase (“Thine Own of Thine Own”) from the Divine Liturgy is central to our formation as Orthodox Christians. Furthermore, its meaning informs our approach to all the Sacraments of the Church. During this session, we discuss how the Sacraments bring together the divine and the human, leading us to salvation

October 18: “Are You Saved?” Salvation and the Saints

Our neighbors and friends may ask us: “Are you saved?” How would we answer? “I heard you Orthodox worship the saints?” What is our response? This session covers the Orthodox understanding of salvation and the veneration of the saints, helping us answer these basic questions.

November 1: “Spiritual but Not Religious?” Theosis and Union with God

This is a phrase we often hear today: “I’m spiritual, but not religious.” Come to this session to learn about an Orthodox approach to that position and to hear how we may become like God, which is called “Theosis” in our tradition.

November 15: “An Integrated Orthodox Life:” Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

The purpose of all these sessions is NOT to cram our brain with more information. Rather, our hope is to absorb what we have learned in order to go forth and live our faith in a chaotic world. To that end, we discuss implementing the tools our Church gives us to center our lives around the Gospel teaching.