

2013 Orthodox Institute Course Descriptions

The courses are placed in interest tracks for your convenience: 1) Event Courses, 2) Church School Director Courses, and 3) Teacher Training Courses. You are not limited to courses in a single track; however, if you attend the first three course listings in a track, you will receive a Certificate of Participation. Further information is given under each track title below.

EVENT COURSES

Those who take the first three courses, marked with a (+) will receive a special certificate in “Culture. Morality. Spirituality.” The three courses are available both on Friday and Saturday.

+ The Early Church (Core Course 1)

Dr. Stefanie Yazge will bring us back to those early years of vibrant faith despite persecution, and give particular attention to the writings of St. Paul as she presents the diversity of the early Church, with its strengths and challenges. *(Dr. Stefanie Yazge)*

+ Living the Mystery (Core Course 2)

Fr. Stephen Freeman will explore how the church took shape highlighting the contributions of Sts. Irenaeus and Ignatius. These will be compared with the interpretations of contemporary writers on the Church in an attempt to answer the question “How do we live as the Orthodox Church?” *(Fr. Stephen Freeman)*

+ Early Issues and Key People (Core Course 3)

Fr. Thomas FitzGerald will present the work of the apologists, such as Justin the Martyr, and writings such as the Didache that significantly shaped early Christianity. Continuing into the fourth century, Fr. Thomas will explain the contributions of Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianus that placed Christianity’s distinctive beliefs—in the Trinity, and in the Incarnation—in the center of Orthodox faith. *(Fr. Thomas FitzGerald)*

Women in the Church

Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald will present both the historical and theological perspective on this topic of Women in the Church. Inspiring stories and discussion will amplify the presentation. *(Dr. Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald)*

FOCUS NA

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve, North America, is an organization with the mission to fulfill Christ’s mandate to serve the needy so the Kingdom of God in North America can be revealed and experienced “on earth as it is in heaven.” Mr. Nicholas Chakos, Executive Director, will share his personal experiences and engage in a discussion of how we can all make practical service to the poor part of our daily lives. *(Nicholas Chakos)*

Developing Ministries and Koinonia Groups

Sandra Anderson will describe the vision of their large parish, whose pastor emeritus is Fr. Anthony Coniaris, and how she develops new ministries in the church and greater community that develop meaningful relationships founded on similar values, scripture, shared prayer and applying the gospel to their daily lives. *(Sandra Anderson)*

How Temple Became Church

Which concepts of Judaism are now the basis of Christianity? What did “Kingdom of God” mean in the Jewish community, and did it translate easily for the early Church? Fr. James Bernstein, former co-founder of Jews for Jesus and an Orthodox priest for many years, will present the essential concepts of Christianity and how they evolved from Judaism. *(Fr. James Bernstein)*

Vibrant Parishes

Joseph Kormos will summarize the qualities of vibrant Orthodox parishes, offer insights into the transition obstacles faced by parishes during a renewal effort and suggest actions for stimulating renewal in the parish. *(Joseph Kormos)*

Challenges and Opportunities for the Ancient Faith Today

Kevin Allen has worked with Ancient Faith Radio to keep Orthodox faithful apprised of cultural currents and important voices in the Orthodox world and beyond. From this experience, Kevin will present the most pressing issues that Orthodoxy is faced with as we enter the 21st century. *(Kevin Allen)*

How to Love One Another

As much as we know and want to obey Christ’s command, Church is like family, and relationships can get strained. In this workshop Kh. Janet Shadid will offer ways to interact with difficult people so that we can truly love one another in our parishes. *(Kh. Janet Shadid)*

CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR TRACK

The courses with an asterisk () are required for the Church School Director (CSD) Certificate.*

*** *Introduction To Church School Ministry*** This course introduces the Church School Director Manual designed by experienced directors to facilitate the organization and management of church schools. The course is instructive as well as a platform for sharing. *(Kh. Betty Randolph)*

*** *Build Your Staff, Build Your Students*** This course will cover positive techniques for recruiting qualified teachers and staff as well as boosting enrollment and attendance in church school programs. *(Mat. Myra Kovalak)*

*** *Curriculum & Resources for the CSD*** Participants will receive information on grade-level standards and review resources that should be in the church school library. Online resources will also be presented. *(Nike Bach)*

Implementing The Creative Arts Festivals and Using A Theme Throughout the Year *(Note: The Creative Arts Festival is a program of the Antiochian Archdiocese).* Attend the workshop and learn new ways to implement the Creative Arts Festival in your parish and increase student participation. Lesson plans will be offered along with ideas on using the theme throughout the year. *(Kh. Leslee Abud and Kh. Gigi Shadid)*

YES and HUGS

YOUTH EQUIPPED TO SERVE provides opportunities for junior high and high school students to participate in formative weekends of service, with the ultimate purpose being to raise up a generation of Orthodox Christians who lead others in living out the true mission of the church-- to love and serve our most needy neighbors. Ms. Katrina Bitar, Program Director, will discuss the "E4 service-learning" process that the trip participants are guided through: EXPOSE, ENGAGE, EQUIP, ENTRUST. *(Katrina Bitar)*

HANDS USED for GOD'S SERVICE (HUGS) is a similar program designed for Sunday School children. The mission of the HUGS program is to engage our children in acts of service, both small and great, to those in need. We will explore how we can teach our children, in practical ways, to use their hands to serve God. Have you **hugged** someone today? *(Kh. Gigi Shadid)*

The Educating Community: The Parish as Curriculum

This presentation will explore the meaning of this statement: "The Church does not have an education program, *it is* an education program." Participants will be given tools to reflect on parish life in light of Acts of the Apostles 2:42 and contemporary curriculum theory to being to evaluate how the life of a parish is the curriculum of the Church and is educating the members of the community and building the Body of Christ. *(Dr. Anton Vrame)*

TEACHER TRAINING TRACK

*Because many teachers have already taken Basic Teacher Training (TT I) classes at local events, we offer only Advanced Teacher Training (TT II) courses at the Institute at Antiochian Village. Completion of TT I is **not** required for TT II classes. (If your parish wishes to host a workshop for Basic Teacher Training, contact Mat. Myra Kovalak: mekovalak@gmail.com.)*

*Advanced Teacher Training is offered for **two levels: Elementary**, or **MS/HS**. The Elementary classes are marked with **(!)** and scheduled on Saturday. The MS/HS courses are indicated with **(^)** and scheduled on Friday. Each consists of three courses. In order to receive an Advanced Teacher Training Certificate, you must take all three.*

! *Enriching the Classroom Experience* Teachers will be provided with the tools to instruct students in a variety of ways, based on multiple-intelligence theories. *(Mat. Myra Kovalak)*

! *Child Development and the Exceptional Learner* Child development theories will be presented and related to the child's ability to learn. The needs of the exceptional learner will be addressed. *(Gail Meena Malaniak)*

! *Creative Expression, Elementary* Our Orthodox faith is filled with beauty during the Divine Liturgy. It is time to claim our heritage and bring the arts into our teaching methods so that the children regularly mediate upon and internalize their faith. A variety of methods for both will be presented. *(Shelley Seifarth)*

^ *Adolescent Needs* It can be daunting to face a group of teens knowing that the Church's position on current issues often diverges from the views they have absorbed from our culture. What are the needs of adolescents, and what attitudes and techniques make confident and successful discussion leaders? *(Fr. Christopher Rigden-Briscall)*

^ *Moral Issues Overview* The Orthodox viewpoint on almost all moral issues, will be presented in a reference handout. A booklet dealing with teen issues will also be provided. Topics of concern to the participants will be discussed. *(Fr. Christopher Rigden-Briscall)*

^ *Creative Expression, MS/HS* Our Orthodox faith is filled with beauty, from icons to the poetry of our hymns. It's time to bring the arts to class. While writing or doing art students meditate on and internalize their faith. A variety of methods will be presented for both. *(Shelley Seifarth)*