

# Orthodox Institute 2014 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. The descriptions here are abridged. Full course descriptions are available at [www.antiochian.org/OI2014](http://www.antiochian.org/OI2014).

## EVENT COURSES

Those who take the first three courses, marked with a (+), will receive a special certificate in "Theosis: Your Life with God." The three courses are available on both Friday and Saturday.

### + FREEDOM & YOUR LIFE WITH GOD

Dr. Boosalis, Professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Tikhon's Seminary will discuss our use of freedom and its ultimate exercise—to find our life with God. (Dr. Harry Boosalis)

### + SPIRITUAL WARFARE & SUFFERING

Theosis impossible without spiritual warfare and suffering. Dr. Boosalis will raise the question of why pain and suffering exists, and explain how to focus our suffering on Christ so that it can lead to theosis. (Dr. Harry Boosalis)

### + LOVE & PRAYER

The first part of the course is about love—the challenges of loving one's enemies and indeed all mankind. The second part of the course, on prayer, will give special attention to the Jesus Prayer, and dealing with distractions. (Dr. Harry Boosalis)

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fr. John Oliver, author of *Giver of Life*, will discuss misconceptions about the Holy Spirit, and the role of, and acquiring of the Holy Spirit. (Fr. John Oliver)

### THE JESUS PRAYER & THEOSIS, PARTS I & II

In this two-session course, Fr. David will trace the history of this prayer beginning with the early monastic communities. Among the people and concepts included in the course are St. Evagrius, Pseudo-Makarios, "the mind in the heart," hesychasm, and God's essence and energies. (Fr. David Hester)

### LIFE IN A MONASTERY

Have you ever wondered what monastic life is like? Attend this presentation by Fr. John Oliver, AFR podcaster, and author of *Touching Heaven: Discovering Orthodox Christianity on the Island of Valaam*. (Fr. John Oliver)

### THEOSIS: A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Theosis is salvation, and offered to both men and women, yet most of the writings on theosis are by men. What "feminine characteristics" strengthen one's quest for theosis? (Mother Christophora)

### FASTING WELL?

If you sincerely desire to fast but lack of resolve or are just too hungry, you're not alone. Martha Condra, chef, blogger and AFR podcaster, will share ideas to help us improve our fasting. (Martha Condra)

### THEOSIS ACCORDING TO ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN: PRACTICAL ADVICE ON BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

St. Isaac of Syria developed a distinctive concept of theosis. Fr. Michael Gillis, AFR podcaster, will present St. Isaac's perspective. (Fr. Michael Gillis)

### THE RETURN TO WONDER

It has been said that religion begins with wonder. Elizabeth White, author of *Walking in Wonder* will help you renew your quest for theosis by learning ways to find wonder. Journaling will be discussed. (Elizabeth White)

### CONVERSING WITH A SEEKER

Ask questions, comment, and enjoy informal conversation with Dr. Markides about his quest to experience transcendent reality. (Dr. Kyriacos Markides)

## CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR TRACK

Courses marked 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, which was designed by experienced directors to facilitate the organization and management of Church schools. The

course is instructive as well as a platform for sharing. (Robert Snyder, Anna Hughes)

### \* 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. (Catherine Sullivan)

### \* CURRICULUM & RESOURCES FOR THE CSD

Participants will receive information on grade-level standards and review resources that should be in the Church school library. (Betty Randolph, Nike Bach)

### IMPLEMENTING THE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVALS & USING A THEME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

(Note: The Creative Arts Festival is a program of the Antiochian Archdiocese.)

Learn new ways to implement the Creative Arts Festival in your parish. Lesson plans and ideas for using the theme during the year will be offered. (Vasiliki Oldziej & Leslee Abud)

### HANDS USED FOR GOD'S SERVICE (HUGS)

HUGS is a resource designed for Sunday School classes. The mission of the HUGS program is to encourage a Christ-like "giving" and "serving" attitude in our children. (Leslee Abud)

## TEACHER TRAINING TRACK

Because many teachers complete 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 Basic Teacher Training workshop, please contact Mat. Myra Kovalak: [mekovalak@gmail.com](mailto:mekovalak@gmail.com))

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

## ! ENRICHING THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Teachers will be provided with the tools to instruct students in a variety of ways, based on multiple-intelligence theories. (Sandy Mitchell)

## ! CHILD DEVELOPMENT & 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, Myra Kovalak)

## ! 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 so that children regularly mediate on and internalize their faith. A variety of methods for both will be presented. (Helen Murray)

## ^ ADOLESCENT NEEDS

The Church's position on current issues often diverges current cultural views, and it needs to be discussed. 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. Participants can also bring up topics for discussion. (Fr. George Alberts)

## ^ CREATIVE EXPRESSION, MS/HS

It's time to bring the arts to class. While writing or creating art, students meditate on and internalize their faith. A variety of methods will be presented for both. (Helen Murray)

# Course Schedule

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

### Session I (Fri. 9:30 am – 11:20 am)

#### Track

Event Courses

Church School Director  
Teacher Training

#### Courses

- + Freedom & Your Life with God  
The Holy Spirit
- \* Introduction to Church School Ministry
- ^ Overview of Moral Issues

### Session II (Fri. 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm)

Event Courses

Church School Director  
Teacher Training

- + Spiritual Warfare & Suffering  
The Jesus Prayer (cont. during Session II)
- \* Build Your Staff, Build Your Students
- ^ Adolescent Needs

### Session III (Fri. 3:00 pm – 4:50 pm)

Event Courses

Church School Director  
Teacher Training

- + Love & Prayer  
Life in a Monastery  
The Jesus Prayer (cont. from Session II)
- \* Curriculum & Resources for the CSD
- ^ Creative Expression: MS/HS

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

### Session IV (Sat. 9:30 am – 11:20 am)

Event Courses

Church School Director  
Teacher Training

- + Freedom & Your Life with God  
Theosis: A Woman's Perspective
- \* Implementing the Creative Festivals
- ! Enriching the Classroom Experience

### Session V (Sat. 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm)

Event Courses

Church School Director  
Teacher Training

- + Spiritual Warfare & Suffering  
Fasting Well?  
Theosis according to St. Isaac
- \* HUGS
- ! Child Development & the Exceptional Learner

### Session VI (Sat. 3:30 pm – 5:20 pm)

Event Courses

Teacher Training

- + Love & Prayer  
Return to Wonder  
Conversing with a Seeker
- ! Creative Expression: Elementary