



Orthodox Pillars of Faith Course Overview

Course description

This course has been designed to give you a thorough knowledge/analysis of the orthodox fatherly literature pertaining to the Bible, dogma, and dogma in liturgical texts. This course will explore the main facets of Christian theology and the writings of early fathers and Christian theologians. Who are the Fathers? What role do they play in the orthodox Christian church? Is it something we simply can't live without? These are just some of the questions we'll be looking at in Orthodox Pillars of Faith (OPF).

REGISTRATION FOR THIS COURSE IS \$25, THE FULL COST IS COVERED BY THE DIOCESE.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 12th.

UPON RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATION, YOU WILL BE SENT THE PDF OF "THE ORTHODOX WAY", THE EXAMINATION WILL REQUIRE READING THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK.

EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD ONLINE MAY 16th.

Required Qualifications

1. **Applicants must be undergraduate students.**
2. Applicants must fill out and submit the form of application found on <https://www.mvwcopts.ca/opf> . The application form has 3 questions that all applicants must answer in +/- 200 words. They also have to sign the letter of recommendation on the website by their father of confession.
3. Applicants must submit forms to our email: opf.youth@gmail.com
4. All applicants must read the assigned book before the entry test. This test will be held online on May 16th.
5. A valid reason and notification will be required in case of absence.

Lectures

Lectures will be held over two weekends, June 7 - 9 and July 5 - 7. The location of the program will be announced closer to the start of the course, along with the detailed schedule. Lectures will be held on weekends (2-3 days) throughout the course, Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Required Materials

The book required for the assessment will be available on the diocese website. There will also be monthly assigned readings later on in the course pertaining to every unit. These readings will be provided to the students via PDF or hard copy, depending on the reading. The readings are a vital part of the course and all students are expected to read them and keep up with the material.

Assessment

Workshops and quizzes are a part of this course.

Attendance and active participation will be evaluated.

Course outline

Unit 01 - Gate to Patrology:

- Who are the fathers?
- Description of eldership in church.
- Discerning between dogma teaching fathers and church writers.
- Following the fathers' influence.
- The importance of the fathers' writings.
- The fathers and tradition.
- Achievements of the fathers.
- What is patrology and its history?
- The language of the fathers.
- Classification of the fathers.
- Versions of patristic texts.
- Translations.

Unit 02 - Fathers and the Holy Bible:

- The Word of God is the base of spiritual life with the fathers.
- The fathers' curriculum regarding scripture exegesis and explanation

- The meaning of exegesis
- The Holy Bible and tradition.
- How the fathers faced the problem of exegesis.
- The Bible's internal structure and its complementariness.
- The link between exegesis and the purpose of the book.
- The church and the exegesis of the book.
- The Holy Bible in church worship.
- Patristic guidelines concerning the Holy Bible.

Unit 03 - Fathers and Dogma:

- Meaning and history of the term "Dogma".
- The study of dogma.
- The contents of the study of dogma.
- Main dogmatic principles.
- Sources of dogmatic studies:
 - The revealed God.
 - Natural revelation.
 - Heavenly revelation.
- Sources of Godly revelation:
 - The Holy Bible.
 - The holy tradition.

Unit 04 - Dogma in Liturgical texts:

- The Eucharist and lived dogma.
- The dogma of the Holy Trinity.
- The dogma of the Father, father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believing in the Son of Man.
- Christology - The study of Christ.
- The godliness of the Holy Spirit.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze, evaluate, and apply specific theoretical frameworks and knowledge to help younger people.
2. Assess the reliability, importance, and validity of patristics in relation to the Bible and dogma and the liturgy.
3. Critically reflect on patrology, patrology and the Holy Bible and patrology in dogma in order to develop a broader and deeper understanding of fatherly writings in church.