

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church**  
**Tacoma, Washington**  
[www.OrthodoxTacoma.com](http://www.OrthodoxTacoma.com)

**Learn more about Orthodox Christianly**  
**Inquirers Class: “Orthodoxy 101”**

This series of 16 classes presented by Fr. John Pierce is composed of talks, PowerPoint presentations and discussion. The class is offered most Saturday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 when Standard Time returns) at Holy Resurrection Church. Please check the [current monthly calendar](#) on our webpage, [OrthodoxTacoma.com](http://OrthodoxTacoma.com), for dates. In the unlikely occurrence of Fr. John being called away on a pastoral emergency, he will indicate the class has been cancelled using the online calendar, and attempt to contact class members via email.

***Who is this class for?***

People who would like to learn more about Orthodox Christianity. Anyone may attend, and there are no commitments required of anyone who attends this series of class.

People who especially desire to follow Christ in the Orthodox Christian way, becoming members of the “household of faith.” Gal. 6:10

Orthodox Christians seeking to deepen their understanding of the faith.

**Section One: Orientation**

**1. Tour of the Church (Oct. 22)**

The Christian Temple. The vision of Solomon’s Temple in the Old Testament and early Christian worship. Learn about the layout and furnishings of the building, as well as the items used in Orthodox worship.

**2. The Church in Time & Space I: History and Mission (Oct. 29)**

We claim to be the continuation of the historic church of the first Christian centuries. How do we understand this? The development and spread of Orthodox Christianity from Jerusalem to America. Divisions among Christians in the fifth, eleventh and sixteenth centuries. The Orthodox Christian patriarchates and national churches. Overlapping Orthodox jurisdictions in North America.

**3. The Church in Time & Space II: Sacred Time, Sacred Space (Nov. 5)**

What we think we are doing when we gather in Jesus Christ as the Church. The transcendent understanding and transformation of our lives as we are joined together as members of the Body of which Christ is the Head. How we fit into the “fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph. 1:23”

**Section Two: Christian Tradition**

**4. Ultimate Authority within the Church (Nov. 19)**

Models of Christian authority: the Latin church and the Papacy, the Reformed churches and “Sola Scriptura.” Traditions “of men” and Apostolic Tradition. The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. The role of Scripture in Christian Tradition. Where did the Bible come from? Who decides? The sources of Orthodox Christian Tradition.

**5. Councils & Canons (Nov. 26)**

The role of councils and canons in Christian Tradition. The conciliar vision of Acts 16. Local and Ecumenical Councils. Church law: understanding the “canon” as a rule of faith. Examples

and interpretation of the canons: strictness and leniency. Struggles with canonical interpretation.

### **6. Fathers & Lives of Saints (Dec. 3)**

The role of patristics and hagiography in Christian Tradition. What is a “Father?” What about Mothers? The various forms of patristic writing: Apologetic, theological, pastoral, ascetic, and mystical. Major Christian fathers and their genres. Lives of the saints. Examples.

### **7. Liturgy I (Dec. 10)**

The role of liturgy in Christian Tradition. What is liturgy? Seasons, fasts and feasts. The five cycles of Orthodox Christian worship. The various services and liturgical books. Using the calendar.

### **8. Liturgy II\***

Focus on one of the five cycles: The great cycle of life. Entrance into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation. Marriage and monasticism. The Orthodox Christian funeral.

### **9. Icons\***

The role of iconography in Christian Tradition. Scriptural prohibition of images. Jesus Christ, the icon of God. The theology of the icon. Distinctions between “worship” and “venerate.” *Reading* an icon.

## **Section Three: Proclamation of the Christian Faith in the Nicene Creed**

### **10. The Holy Trinity\***

Introduction to the Nicene Creed. Three Persons in one Essence. Orthodox theology.

### **11. Creation and the Fall, Christ and Redemption I\***

The creation of the world. Spiritual, physical creation. Image and likeness. Human vocation, possibilities and failures. “Original sin.”

### **12. Creation and the Fall, Christ and Redemption II\***

The incarnation. Sin and death. Why did God become man? What do we owe and whom do we pay? Deification.

### **13. The Holy Spirit: I, The Virgin Mary:\***

Most Holy Theotokos save us. The Ever-Virgin Mary. Healing our human will.

### **14. The Holy Spirit: II, The Church\***

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. Body of Christ. Communion.

### **15. Resurrection of the Dead and the Life of the World to Come\***

Spiritual bodies. St. Nicholas Cabasilas and the cosmic Body of Christ.

### **16. FAQs of Faith\***

Questions about relics, prayer to saints, wonder-working icons.

## **Class dates in Fall 2016 (5:30 p.m. Daylight Time; 5:00 p.m. Standard Time.)**

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| 1. October 22  | 5. November 26 |
| 2. October 29  | 6. December 3  |
| 3. November 5  | 7. December 10 |
| 4. November 19 |                |

\*The 2017 schedule for classes 8-16 will be published at a later date.