



St. John Chrysostom writing with St. Paul looking over his shoulder  
Milan, Ambrosian A 172, Sup., fol. 263<sup>v</sup> (property of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana)  
from Margaret Mitchell, *The Heavenly Trumpet*, plate 4, p. 505

## PAPPAS PATRISTIC INSTITUTE SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM

# Courses and Faculty

JULY 30 - AUGUST 4, 2017

AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
BROOKLINE, MA

## MORNING COURSES

9:15-12:15

WEALTH AND POVERTY IN THE PATRISTIC  
TRADITION

*Dr. Brian Matz*

THE ASCENDING PILGRIMAGE: THE  
SPIRITUAL LIFE ACCORDING TO IRENAEUS  
OF LYONS

*Don Springer*

CHRIST IN THE GREEK PATRISTIC  
TRADITION

*Rev. Dr. Paul Kolbet*

LIVES OF THE SAINTS: IMITATION AS  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*Dr. Sean Moberg*

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN PATRISTIC  
TRADITION

*Dr. Zachary Kostopoulos*

## AFTERNOON COURSES

2:00-5:00

ECONOMIA AND ECOLOGY: THE CHURCH  
FATHERS ON THE CREATION

*Dr. David Goodin*

READING SCRIPTURE WITH THE FATHERS:  
STUDIES IN PATRISTIC THEOLOGY OF  
INTERPRETATION

*Dr. Bruce Beck*

TAMING THE THOUGHTS: ASCESIS IN THE  
MONASTIC WRITINGS

*Dr. Despina D. Prassas*

VIRTUES AND VICES IN THE EASTERN AND  
WESTERN FATHERS

*Kevin Clarke*

## MORNING COURSES

### Wealth and Poverty in the Patristic Tradition

*Dr. Brian Matz, Carondelet Chair in Catholic Thought, Fontbonne University*



Christians in Late Antiquity, particularly the pastors and bishops, were far from immune to the social, cultural, and economic pressures of the imperial system. While at times they benefitted from that class-based society, they more often went out of their way to identify themselves with those on the social margins. Their interactions with people and systems reveal, to an extent, their interest in social ethics. Indeed, the course analyses trends in early Christian thinking on social ethics, particularly those concerned with economic life. Readings from authors spanning the third through sixth century will be supplemented by more recent, secondary literature as well as additional notes distributed by the instructor during the course.

**Brian Matz** is the Fontbonne University Chair in Catholic Thought, and is Associate Professor of History, Philosophy, and Religion. He has served frequently as an officer of the North American Patristics Society. This is Dr. Matz's eighth year on the faculty of the Pappas Patristic Institute's summer program. He is author and co-editor of a number of books, including *Reading Patristic Texts: Issues and Challenges for Twenty-First-Century Christian Social Thought* (co-edited with Johan Leemans and Johan Verstraeten), and most recently, *Patristics and Catholic Social Thought: Hermeneutical Models for a Dialogue*.

### The Ascending Pilgrimage: The Spiritual Life According to Irenaeus of Lyons

*Don Springer  
McMaster Divinity College*



This course examines Irenaeus of Lyons' writings on the Spiritual life. A careful reading of his texts reveals several foundational themes, five of which this class will study in detail. These themes include: an emphasis on humanity's creation and restoration into the divine image and likeness, the Christian life as pilgrimage, the pilgrimage as a journey marked by growth and ascent to God, spirituality as fellowship with God, and divinization. The course will conclude with a brief survey of Irenaeus' few thoughts on the practical steps of the spiritual life.

**Don Springer** is a Ph.D. candidate at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. After a decade of pastoral ministry in British Columbia, Don turned his attention to the study of Christian spirituality in the early church. For two summers he served as a teaching fellow at the Pappas Patristic Institute, where in 2017 he will instruct a course on the spirituality of Irenaeus of Lyons. Early this year he taught a course on early patristic theology and spirituality at McMaster Divinity College. This year he will have an article published in *Vox Patrum*, a book chapter in a volume on Eastern mysticism with Theotokos Press, and a book review in the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*. He is also co-editing a volume on patristic perspectives on anagogy. Don is also an ecumenical (associate) fellow at the Sophia Institute in New York, NY.

## MORNING COURSES

### Christ in the Greek Patristic Tradition

Dr. Paul Kolbet  
Yale Divinity School



This course examines the Christological questions that developed from the early fourth to the mid-eighth century primarily among Greek speaking Christians. In doing so, it identifies various understandings of the relation between the divine and human in Christ and inquires into the theological implications of such ways of thinking for other areas of the Christian life. Attention is given both to conciliar statements as well as the works of individual authors including Athanasius of Alexandria, Apollinarius of Laodicea, Gregory Nazianzus, Theodore of Mopsuestia, Nestorius, Cyril of Alexandria, Leo of Rome, Maximus the Confessor, and John Damascene. The class will situate each text in its historical context, and identify its specific terminology along with the exegetical strategies informing it.

Paul Kolbet is Lecturer in Early Christianity at Yale Divinity School, instructor at Hellenic College, and Co-Chair of the Augustine and Augustinianisms Group of the American Academy of Religion. He is the author of *Augustine and the Cure of Souls: Revising a Classical Ideal* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010); and (with Brian Daley, S.J.) *The Harp of Prophecy: Early Christian Interpretation of the Psalms* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015). He has also published articles on topics ranging from early Christian strategies for coping with state-sponsored torture to contemporary Christian realism in journals such as *Ecclesiology*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Modern Theology*, *Studia Patristica*, and the *Toronto Journal of Theology*.  
as an instructor.

### Lives of the Saints: Imitation as Spiritual Formation

Dr. Sean Moburg  
Catholic University of America



Christianity, the Fathers understood well, encompasses much more than simply the body of its absent doctrines and their justifications. It is a comprehensive way of life, governing the believer's private and social behavior, prayer, worship, work, leisure, diet, and more. In order to prepare Christians to meet the high demands their religion places upon them, the Fathers develop a number of approaches to spiritual formation. Drawing upon the methods of education prevalent in their late antique context, one of the most important of these was imitation. Imitation and education were inseparable in classical thought, and the Fathers utilized this method as they developed a distinctly Christian approach to teaching. The "Lives of the Saints" were, for those who first wrote and read them, not merely items of historical curiosity, but models for living. In this class, we will explore five such "lives," each of which depicts a unique saint, different in significant ways from the other four, and see what attributes their biographers wanted to put forward as material for imitation.

**Sean Moburg** is a scholar of Christian asceticism in Late Antiquity, with a particular focus on early Egyptian monasticism. He recently completed his doctoral dissertation *The Apophthegmata Patrum and the Greek Philosophical Tradition* in the Center for the Study of Early Christianity at the Catholic University of America. Prior to coming to Catholic University, he received a Master's in Early Christian Studies at the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor's in Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies at the University of Michigan. This summer will be his fifth year of being involved with the Pappas Patristic Summer Institute and his third year teaching.

## MORNING COURSES

### The Lord's Prayer in Patristic Tradition

*Dr. Zachary Kostopoulos*

*Research Fellow, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

The Lord's Prayer is arguably the most important prayer in Christian history. Patristic authors have repeatedly reflected on its mystery and significance; Tertullian rightly called it, "truly the summary of the whole Gospel." This course explores the rich tradition of patristic commentaries on the Lord's Prayer. We will survey a series of commentaries across late antiquity in order to gain appreciation for both how the Lord's Prayer was received in the early church as well as how different patristic authors approached the practice of prayer more generally. Some of the authors that we will read and discuss include Tertullian, Origen, Cyprian of Carthage, and Gregory of Nyssa, amongst others.



An important sub-text for this course will be how we in the modern era understand and practice prayer compared to the church fathers. In particular, what role does or should the Lord's Prayer have in our religious lives today, and what can be emulated from the patristic tradition in our own appreciation of the Lord's Prayer?

**Zachary Kostopoulos** has a PhD in Historical Theology from Saint Louis University with a concentration in early Christianity. He recently defended his doctoral dissertation, "Constructing Origen: Christian Biography in Late Antiquity," which explores the various biographical portraits of Origen across late antiquity and the Byzantine period. Prior to coming to Saint Louis University, he received a Masters of Theological Studies from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Bachelor's degree from Fordham University. This past year, Zachary was a Research Fellow in residence at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology where he completed work on his dissertation as well as a co-authored article that was released in the July 2017 issue of *New Testament Studies*.

## AFTERNOON COURSES

### Economia and Ecology: The Church Fathers on the Creation

*Dr. David Goodin*  
McGill University

In spiritual analogies, homilies, and in direct demonstrations of divine truth, references to the non-human world of Creation appear throughout the Patristic writings. The Fathers were called to defend the visible creation against certain heresies that had sought to represent the physical substance of the created world as intrinsically evil. Incarnational theology and Mariology however explicitly made clear the instrumental place of material substance in the redemptive economy. Likewise in their eschatological writings, references can also found to the place of the non-human world as *sharing* in some way that eschaton—plants and animals included. This course will present a survey of these Patristic writings, which are to be explored for the eco-theological insights that they may provide. Contemporary commentaries on these works and subjects will be supplied in the supplemental readings.



**David K. Goodin** has a PhD in Religious Studies from McGill University in the philosophy of religion, with a secondary area of concentration in Patristic theology. Currently, he is a lecturer for the McGill School of Environment and McGill Faculty of Religious Studies, as well as an Associate Researcher at the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR). He is also an instructor for the summer studies program at the Pappas Patristic Institute at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

### Reading Scripture with the Fathers: Studies in Patristic Theology of Interpretation

*Dr. Bruce Beck*

This is a course on patristic interpretation of Scripture. We will examine various genres of patristic writing (including homilies, liturgical hymns, and biblical commentaries) in order to gain a hands-on appreciation for both how the scriptures were interpreted within the early Church, as well as why they were interpreted these ways. We will look at some representative figures in the early Church during the first six centuries as examples of Patristic Hermeneutics. The course will have as a sub-text the question of how these patterns of patristic exegesis compare to more modern uses of scripture, and whether the hermeneutical principles of the Fathers can or should be emulated in the Church today.



**Bruce Beck** is the Assistant Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Director of the Religious Studies program at Hellenic College. He has also served since 2003 as the Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute. Dr. Beck received both his MDiv and ThD at Harvard Divinity School, where his area of specialization was New Testament and Early Christianity, and the history of the interpretation of Scripture.

## AFTERNOON COURSES

### Taming the Thoughts: Ascesis in the Monastic Writings

Dr. Despina Prassas  
Providence College

Taming the thoughts! The *logismoi* (thoughts) were the activities that usually made or broke the life the monk, and the ability to maneuver one's way around the noise in one's head was skill necessary to perfect if one wanted to move closer to God. The demons were usually the culprits when it came to unwanted thoughts, plaguing the prayer life of the monk.

This course will examine the role the *logismoi* played in the lives of the monks, focusing on the different types of thoughts and outlining the tools and tactics employed to negotiate and battle them. Specific topics that will be considered include discernment, *hesychia* (inner stillness), *penthos* (compunction), *apatheia* (passionlessness), and *agape* (unconditional love). Beginning with the *Life of Antony*, we will work our way through several of the early monastic texts, including the *Apophthegmata Patrum* as well as the writings of Isaiah of Scetis, John Cassian, Evagrius, Maximos the Confessor, Mark the Monk, and Barsanuphius and John. Finally, we will examine the role the demons play in the manipulation of the *logismoi* and the strategies that would help one to remain "watchful" over one's thoughts.



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**Despina Prassas** holds a PhD from Catholic University and teaches in the area of Historical Theology at Providence College. She works primarily in the late antique and the early byzantine period, specifically looking at the monastic and ascetical writings of St. Maximos the Confessor. Another area of interest is the modern ecumenical movement, and she is currently a participant on several ecumenical dialogues.

### Virtues and Vices in the Eastern and Western Fathers

Kevin Clarke  
Ave Maria University

This course aims to examine the sayings of the Fathers of the Church on the capital vices/evil thoughts and the virtues that heal the soul of those vices. The course will primarily use a collection of quotes of the Fathers that is in production with CUA Press. At the most basic level, the course is going to introduce a) the tradition of the thoughts or vices that spawn other vices in the soul, and b) the virtues that are means for healing. A key theme for us is going to be discovering how the Fathers themselves saw these spiritual treasures and insights for healing the human condition of sin and brokenness. Since a study on vice alone would be plain drudgery, we will also be focusing on virtue and its relation to human nature. Other key themes we will take up during our course is how the Fathers used the presence of Christ, whether in the suffering other or in the suffering self, as a means for inspiring moral change and conversion.



**Kevin Clarke** Kevin Clarke is an adjunct professor at Ave Maria University, where he hopes to defend his dissertation in the next 9-12 months. He has been studying biblical theology and is writing his dissertation on Maximus the Confessor's Christological exegesis. A member of IAPS and NAPS, he has edited and introduced a book for CUA Press on the Fathers of the Church and the capital vices, which is scheduled to ship in spring 2018. Before coming to Ave Maria, he taught Biblical Greek at John Paul Catholic University and high school in Southern California for five years. He has published in *Nova et Vetera* and has articles forthcoming in the Polish journal *Vox Patrum* and in *Marian Studies*. Before getting his master's in theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Kevin was once a copy editor at *The Roanoke Times* in Virginia. Kevin is especially thankful to his beautiful wife of ten years and to their three daughters for generously sharing him with his writing projects.

## EVENING LECTURES

Tuesday August 1, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

"Women in the Apostolic  
Constitutions" by Pauliina  
Pylänäinen, M.Th. candidate,  
University of Eastern Finland



Thursday August 3, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

"Guilt and Forgiveness: the Fathers  
in Dialogue with the Science of  
Emotion" by Dr. George Tsakiridis,  
South Dakota State University

