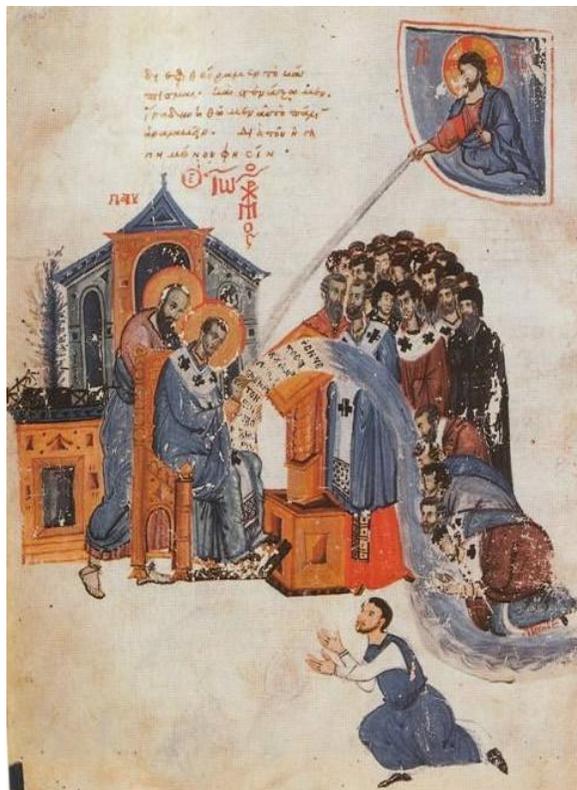


# Announcing the Pappas Patristic Institute's Fourth Annual Summer Patristic Studies Program July 19 – 24, 2010

At Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology  
Brookline, Massachusetts



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

We are pleased to announce the fourth annual week-long Summer Patristic Studies Program on the campus of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA on **July 19-24, 2010**. This week-long program is a unique opportunity to study and discuss classic texts of the early Church through small group-study and brief lectures from leading patristic scholars. The intended audience for the program includes theology and religious studies students at the masters and undergraduate levels, along with clergy, lay people, and undergraduates with an interest in learning more about the Church Fathers. For more information, or to register, please send an email to the Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute, Dr. Bruce Beck ([pappaspatristic@comcast.net](mailto:pappaspatristic@comcast.net)) at your earliest convenience.

**Academic Credit:** Students enrolled in an undergraduate or masters program who wish to receive credit for the courses should indicate this on their registration form. Students

seeking academic credit must submit a research paper of approximately 15 pages, due by November 1, 2010.

**Current List of Courses:**

- *The Desert Fathers: Stories and Sayings for Contemporary Life,*  
Dr. Bradley Nassif, North Park University
- *Patristic Interpretation of the Bible: Historical Methods and Contemporary Lessons,*  
Dr. Bruce Beck, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
- *Patristic Social Ethics,*  
Dr. Brian Matz, Carroll College
- *The Human Person as Image and Likeness of God,*  
Sr. Nonna Verna Harrison, Saint Paul School of Theology
- *The Divine Liturgy Celebrated and Interpreted in the Patristic Period*  
Rev. Dr. Nicholas Denysenko, George Washington University
- *Approaches to Prayer in the Early Church*  
Dr. George Tsakiridis, Assistant Professor of Religion at South Dakota State University

**Schedule of Courses:**

Course	Professor	Start Time	End Time
The Divine Liturgy Celebrated and Interpreted in the Patristic Period	Rev. Dr. Nicholas E. Denysenko	9:00 AM	12:00 PM
Patristic Social Ethics	Dr. Brian Matz	9:00 AM	12:00 PM
The Desert Fathers: Stories and Sayings for Contemporary Life	Dr. Bradley Nassif	9:00 AM	12:00 PM
Patristic Interpretation of the Bible: Historical Methods and Contemporary Lessons	Dr. Bruce Beck	2:00 PM	5:00 PM
The Human Person as Image and Likeness of God	Sr. Dr. Nonna Harrison	2:00 PM	5:00 PM
Approaches to Prayer in the Early Church	Dr. George Tsakiridis	2:00 PM	5:00 PM

The program goes from Monday *evening*, July 19, through Saturday afternoon, July 24. Each course will be offered daily in a 2 ½ hour session. Each participant will have the opportunity to take two courses during the week (see below for more details on the schedule and methodology). For attendees needing lodging, housing will be provided on campus. For more information, or to register, please send an email to the Director of the Pappas Institute, Dr. Bruce Beck ([pappaspatristic@comcast.net](mailto:pappaspatristic@comcast.net)) at your earliest convenience. We will then send you a registration form to fill out. *Please register at your earliest convenience.*

### Program Fees:

- Registration for Credit (including lunches): \$525
- Registration without Credit (including lunches): \$375
- Room and Board (for 6 nights, breakfasts, & dinners) \$240

### Program Details:

- **Goals:** to provide the opportunity for in-depth, group study of significant theological topics of contemporary relevance based on selected writings of the ancient Church.
- **Primary Audience:** Theology and religious studies students at the masters and undergraduate levels, doctoral students in the field, along with clergy, lay people, and undergraduates with an interest in learning more about the Church Fathers All others interested in coming are also welcome to apply.
- **Pedagogical Method:** each course will be comprised of small groups of 6-10 people led by Faculty. The groups will study together selections of primary patristic texts selected by the instructor based on the theme of the course. Following the group study of selected texts, the instructor will offer a brief lecture (20-25 minutes) followed by further discussion.

- **Structure of Program**

Check-in is Monday afternoon, July 19, between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Orientation will be Monday evening after dinner.

Sessions will be held Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sessions will consist of group-study sessions led by faculty along with doctoral students as teaching fellows.

Each session will be 2 ½ hours, consisting of

15 minutes introduction of the texts by instructor

90 minutes group study led by instructor and teaching fellow

Break (30 Minutes)

45 minutes lecture and further discussion

Each student may choose two courses of study for the week, one morning and one afternoon class. Each course will meet 5 times (once each day).

## Course Descriptions

### *Biblical Hermeneutics from a Patristic Perspective,*

Dr. Bruce Beck, Pappas Patristic Institute, and Associate Adjunct Professor of the Interpretation of Scripture, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

This course will work with examples of patristic exegesis across various genres (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 so. Beginning with the writings of the New Testament itself, as it interpreted the scriptures in the light of Christ's Death and Resurrection, we will look at some representative figures in the early Church during the first six centuries as examples of Patristic Hermeneutics. We will include among our exegetical examples interpretations by St. Melito of Sardis, St. Ephrem, the Desert Fathers, Origen, Theodore of Mopsuestia, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Romanos the Melodist. The course will have as a sub-text the question of how these patterns of patristic exegesis compare to modern and post-modern uses of the Bible, and whether the Fathers can or should contribute today in our interpreting the scriptures.

### *The Divine Liturgy Celebrated and Interpreted in the Patristic Age*

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Denysenko, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles

This course examines patristic teachings on the Eucharist by reading important commentaries on the Eucharistic Liturgy, or "mystagogies." We begin with St. Cyril of Jerusalem's fourth-century catechetical lectures on the Eucharist for an early example of mystagogy in a context of catechizing neophytes. We will then examine selections from Maximus Confessor's *Mystagogia*, a seventh-century commentary on the Eucharistic Liturgy written in a monastic context. Next is Germanus of Constantinople's eighth-century commentary on the Liturgy during the iconoclastic controversy. We then turn to Nicholas Cabasilas' fourteenth-century explanation of the Liturgy after the Schism and prior to the fall of Constantinople. We conclude by exploring *liturgica prima*, and study (as a group) the anaphora by St. Basil the Great. Our goal is to consider the authors' interpretations of the liturgical celebrations in their historical and liturgical contexts, and discuss the reception and value of these commentaries today.

### *The Human Person as Image and Likeness of God,*

Sr. Nonna Verna Harrison, Saint Paul School of Theology

This course is about how the image of God (Gen 1:26-27) is central in defining what it is to be human. It will explore the ideas of Clement of Alexandria, Athanasius of Alexandria, and the three Cappadocian fathers on this subject. We will discuss the human creation in God's image; Christ's roles as creator and redeemer of humankind; human capabilities and responsibilities as image of God; human community, freedom and dignity, and the vocation of becoming God's likeness.

### *Patristic Social Ethics,*

Dr. Brian Matz, Carroll College

This course will introduce students to five major texts in the construction of patristic social thought around the notions of wealth and private property. The course will highlight the shift during the third-century away from a renunciation view towards a detachment view of wealth. It will also highlight the Father's tendency to treat "the poor" and "poverty" as rhetorical devices rather than real persons/problems during the fourth and fifth centuries. This latter issue gets at the heart of the difficulty in reading patristic socio-ethical texts, and so time will be devoted at the end of the week to discussing whether and/or how patristic texts may fruitfully be read in our contemporary setting.

*The Desert Fathers: Stories and Sayings for Contemporary Life,*  
Dr. Bradley Nassif, North Park University

This course will examine the nature of Orthodox spirituality as viewed from the perspective of Christian antiquity, with emphasis on personal development and maturity. We'll briefly outline the rise of the great Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 4th-6th centuries, and the book which contained their wisdom known as The Sayings of the Desert Fathers. Most of the time will be spent exploring key themes in desert spirituality that are taken directly from their writings, and suggest how those themes may relate to our daily lives in the 21st century. Depending on time, sample topics include: Spirituality and the Workplace, The Goal: To Love as God Loves, "Athletes of God": "Training" and Ordering the Passions, The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness, Judging Others, Humility, Authenticity, Silence, The "Cell" is Your Teacher, and "Abba, give me a word that I may live!".

*Approaches to Prayer in the Early Church,*  
Dr. George Tsakiridis, Assistant Professor in Religion at South Dakota State University

This course will look at prayer in the Early Church by studying a variety of primary readings, ranging from Polycarp to Aphrahat. The student will be exposed to a multitude of approaches to prayer from the first through the fourth centuries from both orthodox and heterodox theologians of the period. Students will examine text with both the method of prayer and the spirituality of prayer in view. Beginning with Polycarp's prayer of martyrdom, the student will trace a history that moves both geographically and chronologically, covering Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom, Evagrius Ponticus, and concluding with readings from Aphrahat and Philoxenus. The student is expected to look for both the intellectual and historical approaches to prayer as well as the emotional, spiritual and confessional aspects of the text. The readings will describe both the meaning of prayer for these theologians, as well as engage actual prayers, bringing both the theoretical and practical approaches to prayer into their studies.

## **Faculty Bios**

**Bruce Beck** is the Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute, and Associate Adjunct Professor of Scripture, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The mission of the Pappas Patristic Institute is to promote the study and teaching of the lives and writings

of the Church Fathers both within the academy and the Church. He completed both his Masters of Divinity and his Doctor of Theology from Harvard Divinity School in New Testament and Early Christianity, writing his dissertation on the history of interpretation of the book of Jonah within early Judaism and Christianity.

**Nicholas Denysenko** is assistant professor of Theological Studies in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies/Sacramental Theology from The Catholic University of America in 2008, writing his dissertation on the history and theology of the Blessing of Waters on the Theophany feast under the direction of Dominic Serra. He has published articles on liturgy and sacraments in *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, *Studia Liturgica*, *Theological Studies*, and *Logos*. He is a member of the Orthodox Theological Society of America and a deacon of the Orthodox Church in America (ordained 2003).

**Sr. Nonna Verna Harrison**, a nun in the Orthodox Church, is Assistant Professor of Church History at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. She has also taught at Saint Paul University in Ottawa and at St. Vladimir's Seminary. She has done extensive research on the Cappadocian fathers and the theology of what it is to be human and is the author of *Grace and Human Freedom according to St Gregory of Nyssa* (1992), *St Basil the Great: On the Human Condition* (2005), *St Gregory of Nazianzus: Festal Orations* (2008), and *God's Many Splendored Image* (forthcoming in 2010). She has also written numerous articles and book chapters on Greek patristics and Orthodox theology.

**Brian Matz** is Assistant Professor of Historical Theology at Carroll College. Prior to Carroll, Brian spent three years as a post-doc researcher attached to the Center for Catholic Social Thought of the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), during which time he researched and published in the field of patristic social thought. Brian earned his doctorate in early Christianity at Saint Louis University. In addition to patristic social thought, Brian's past and forthcoming publications are concerned with Gregory Nazianzen, with the filioque controversy and with the double-predestination controversy in the ninth century.

**Bradley Nassif** has been a courageous and enthusiastic pioneer of Orthodox-evangelical dialogue around the world. Dr. Nassif holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University, where he was one of the last students of the late Fr. John Meyendorff. He also holds an M.Div. from St. Vladimir's Seminary; an M.A. in New Testament Studies, Denver Seminary; an M.A. in European History, Wichita State University; and a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy, Friends University (Wichita, KS). Dr. Nassif is currently professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at North Park University (Chicago). A consultant for Time and Christianity Today magazines, Dr. Nassif has been a television commentator for the documentary series "Christianity: The First Thousand Years" and "The Jesus Experience: Jesus Among the Slavs." Much of his work over the past 30 years has been devoted to introducing evangelical students and faculty to the riches of the Orthodox tradition. He served as the director of academic programs at Fuller Seminary and was a visiting professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Regent College, and the Southern Baptist Seminary. Among his numerous publications are the chapters entitled "The Evangelical Theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church" (in *Three Views on Eastern Orthodoxy* and

Evangelicalism. One can hear Dr. Nassif teach via his Simply Orthodox podcast at Ancient Faith Radio.

**George Tsakiridis** is currently an Assistant Professor in Religion at South Dakota State University and part of the permanent faculty at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. He formerly lectured at Saint Xavier University, Chicago and is author of the book *Evagrius Ponticus and Cognitive Science: A Look at Moral Evil and the Thoughts*.

*Founded by a generous grant from the late Stephen Pappas and his wife Catherine, the goal of the Pappas Patristic Institute is the advancement and promotion of eastern patristic studies in the service of the academy and of the Church.*