



**ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:**

**Grades 7+:** Students should be able to: 1. Take hand written notes during class; 2. Be able to type sufficiently to respond to questions in written form during class when appropriate; 3. Write a biography for their midterm; 4. Be willing to verbally discuss and answer questions during glass.

**School Year:** September 7, 2021- May 27, 2022

**Instructors:**

Rev. Fr. Daniel Bethancourt

Rev. Fr. Nikolai Meyers

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**OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES FOR LEVEL V CATECHISM:**

Grow in love for God and His Church through deeper knowledge of Theology, Scripture, Saints, History, and Spirituality in order to live and share these truths.

***LEVEL V CATECHISM COURSE DESCRIPTION:***

In Level 5 Catechism we delve deeper into the scriptures. Over two years we will read significant portions of the Old and New Testament. Our only text for the class is the Orthodox Study Bible. Students will have assigned reading to be completed before class from which class discussion will be based. In class we will together read patristic commentaries on the passages we have read as well as refer to our iconographic and liturgical tradition in our discussions of the passages from Scripture. We will focus our attention on the Saints found in the Old and New Testament with an interest in how later Saints understood their lives and imitated their faith. Besides the assigned reading, students will complete a short biography each semester on one of the Saints covered. There also will be an end of semester exam to gauge how much the student has retained.

***LEVEL V CATECHISM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:***

In Level 5 Catechism we want the Student to:

1. Learn to read the Bible for spiritual growth.
2. Understand how the Church interprets the Bible
3. See and begin to understand the common experience of God in the Bible and in the lives of the Saints.
4. Develop a devotion for several of the Saints in the Bible.

***SCHEDULE FOR LEVEL V CATECHISM:***

**There are three sections of Catechism Level V**

- Section 1:** Fridays at 12:30 pm for 90 minutes.
- Section 2:** Wednesdays at 10 am for 90 minutes.
- Section 3:** TBD for 90 minutes.

**There will be 32 weeks of classes.**

***LEVEL V CATECHISM COURSE MAP\*:***

<p><b>Year 1 Semester 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adam &amp; Eve/Creation/ Cain &amp; Able</li> <li>2. Noah &amp; Abraham</li> <li>3. Books of Joshua &amp; Judges</li> <li>4. Prophet and King David</li> </ol> <p><b>Year 1 Semester 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Solomon</li> <li>2. Prophest Isaiah &amp; Daniel</li> <li>3. Job &amp; Esther</li> </ol>	<p><b>Year 2 Semester 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adam &amp; Eve/ Creation &amp; Fall</li> <li>2. Patriarchs of Israel</li> <li>3. Moses</li> <li>4. Dueterocanonical books</li> </ol> <p><b>Year 2 Semester 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prophets Jeremiah &amp; Ezekiel</li> <li>2. Jonah</li> <li>3. Apostles John &amp; Paul</li> </ol>
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4. John the Baptist/ Apostles	4. Myrrh Bearing Women
5. Virgin Mary	

\* Level V Catechism is designed around a two-year cycle that you can join at any time. No knowledge of the preceding year is needed to participate. **In 2021/2022 academic year we will be on year 1 of the cycle.**

### **STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION:**

Students will be evaluated based on meaningful participation in class; reading passages, contributing to discussion, and their interaction with one another.

Students are to keep a hand-written notebook of important details to use for their midterm biography and to study from for their semester exam. Only if there is a disability that necessitates the use of typed notes will an exception be made.

Students will choose a Saint from the current semester to write a biography on for their midterm of each semester.

At the end of each semester there will be an exam.

A grade is not the objective of the course but will be calculated based on their participation and written assignments.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students are expected to be honest in their participation in class, their written assignments and oral exams. Students are on their honor to abide by Schole Academy's Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. ***Parents please explain to your child that copying and pasting large sections from an internet page into their paper and not citing their source is plagiarism.*** It is an easy way to add content to their midterm essay but not acceptable and obvious to see. Plagiarism can result in a failing grade for the assignment.

### **THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Schole( Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the Technology in the Classroom section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit assignments through Schoology. (access granted after enrollment is secured).

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

“Office Hours” are available as needed by students. Students can request a meeting with their instructor throughout the year.

### **REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:**

The Orthodox Study Bible

### **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS:**

**Fr. Daniel Bethancourt** was born in Arizona. After several moves his family landed in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he graduated from high school and attended St. John’s College, receiving a BA in Liberal Arts. He met his wife, Presvytera Maria, when she visited his church in Santa Fe on a business trip for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. Eventually they both ended up at St. Vladimir’s Seminary in Crestwood, NY. Fr. Daniel graduated in 2007 with an MDiv; they were married that summer and returned for another year at the seminary, where Fr. Daniel worked as director of recruitment while Presvytera Maria finished her degree. In June of 2008 Fr. Daniel was ordained to the holy priesthood by His Grace, Bishop BASIL, and was assigned to St. Nicholas in Shreveport, LA, beginning an adventure that continues to the present. Now Fr. Daniel has served at St. Nicholas for 12 and has been the SOYO spiritual advisor for the Diocese of Wichita for 7 years. He is currently in a PhD program in Orthodox Studies with the Antiochian House of Studies. Fr. Daniel is grateful to God for his dear wife and two children, his lovely parish family, and countless other blessings, none of which he deserves.

**Fr. Nikolai Meyers** is a native of Southern California. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Cross-Cultural Ministry from Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan KS. He earned his Master of Divinity from St. Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary, in South Cannon, PA. He was ordained Deacon in September of 2007 by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese at St. Tikhon Monastery in South Cannon, PA, and to the holy Priesthood in July of 2008 by His Eminence at St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, CA. He served 6 years as Assistant Pastor of St. John Orthodox Church in Memphis TN and concurrently was the priest in charge of the St. Paul Orthodox Mission in Tupelo, MS. From October of 2014 to July of 2019 he was the Pastor of St. George Orthodox Church in New Hartford, NY. where he also currently was the Spiritual Adviser for Teen SOYO in the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Up-State New York. He now serves as the Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Topeka, KS. He is married and has 5 children.



<sup>1</sup>The illustration on the first page is from the <https://orthodoxartsjournal.org/orthodox-illustration-project/>