



LEVEL IV CATECHISM

Duration (yearlong)

Academic Year (2021/22)

Grades 5+: Students should be able to: 1. Take simple 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 three paragraph essay for their midterm; 4. Be willing to verbally discuss and answer questions during class.

School Year: September 7 2021- May 27 2022.

Instructors:

Presb. Maria Koulianos

Rev. Fr, Nikolai Meyers

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OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES FOR LEVEL IV 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 IV CATECHISM COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class will begin with an opening prayer, followed by a short discussion on a topic. This helps students to feel comfortable in class and build community amongst the students and to check that their microphone works properly.

Material covered in each class will consist of Time Line review, “Word(s) of the Day”, and any Saints relevant to the material. Relevant passages from the Bible, Church Fathers and literature will be read together and discussed. Students at times will be asked to read aloud. Part of basic spirituality is learning to be respectful of others, to behave towards others in a Godly manner. This will be emphasized as we learn dates, definitions and lives of saints. Students will learn to encourage and not discourage fellow Students.

Please note: Parents are needed for the success of their child's participation in this class. Parents after each week's class need to be given an oral explanation of each word of the day, any Saints discussed and help their child to memorize the time line.

LEVEL IV CATECHISM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To expand their vocabulary of words found in the Bible, the services and writings of the Saints. Expanded understanding of words bring an expanded understanding of their faith.
2. To have a basic framework of sacred history.
3. To be able to articulate their faith in front of others.
4. To make friends with other Orthodox kids their age.

SCHEDULE FOR LEVEL IV CATECHISM:

There are four sections for Catechism Level IV

Classes will take place for Section 1: Fridays 10:30 am ET for 90 min.

Classes will take place for Section 2: Fridays 12:30 pm ET for 90 min.

Classes will take place for Section 3: Mondays 2:30 pm ET for 90 min.

Classes will take place for Section 4: Thursdays 2:30 pm ET for 90 min.

There will be 32 weeks of classes.

LEVEL IV CATECHISM COURSE MAP*:

Year 1 Semester 1

1. Timeline dates between 5509 BC & 156 AD
2. Dealing with concepts like: created & uncreated, good & evil, sacrifice & sacrament.
3. Discussing various Saints such as the Prophet Moses & St. Basil the Great

Year 1 Semester 2

1. Time dates between 161 & 749 AD
2. Dealing with concepts related to sacraments, vice & virtue.
3. Discussing various Monastic Saints.

Year 2 Semester 1

1. Timeline dates between 787 & 1628 AD
2. Dealing with concepts like: male & female, nature, theosis & prayer
3. Discussing various Saints such as The Virgin Mary & St. Gregory Palamas.

Year 2 Semester 2

1. Timeline dates between 1672 & 1992 AD
2. Dealing with concepts such as Priesthood, Spiritual Father, Lent & Theanthropos.
3. Discussing various Saints such as The Aaron, Melchizedek & Apostle Paul.

* Level IV 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 first year of the cycle.**

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION:

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

Students will keep a *hand written* notebook of all words defined (“word of the day”) and details of saints lives that are discussed. They will also take notes on dates from the timeline. Parents will want to weekly check their child’s notebook for the most recent entry and ask their child to give an oral presentation on the most recent “word of the day” timeline dates. Only if there is a disability that necessitates the use of typed notes will an exception be made.

A PDF of Pages for taking notes of the “word of the day” and timeline dates will be found on the Schoology class page for students to download and print off for their use.

There will be one short essay at the midterm of each semester.

At the end of each semester there will be an oral quiz of the timeline and “word of the day”. This will be done as a group.

A grade is not the objective of the course. A partial grade will be calculated based on their participation in class, written assignments, and performance in oral exams. The remainder of the grade is based on the weekly oral narrations given to parents by students of what they learned in class. Parents will need to assess their child’s completion of the homework to finalize a grade.

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:

No text book required.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS:

Presbytera Maria Koulianos has been an educator for over 20 years, loving every minute, with vast experiences in both public and private schools as a classroom teacher, a developer and implementer of learning programs for students, and an area administrator. She earned her bachelor of science in education from Indiana University with certifications in elementary education, 7/8 non-departmental, language arts 1–9, and computer education K–12. She holds a master of divinity and a master of theology from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, where she wrote her thesis, “The Annunciation of the Theotokos from a Liturgical Perspective.” Presbytera Maria and her husband, Father Dionysios, live in the greater Springfield area, where he is the Dean of Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Springfield, Massachusetts. She hopes to inspire her students to love literature and become lifelong learners.

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 Masters of Divinity from St. Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary, in South Cannon, PA. He was ordained 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 & Youth Director 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 has taught for St. Raphael School since 2017. He is married and has 5 children.



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