



Orthodox Saints, Nature, and Their Animal Friends

Spring Semester
Target Grades: 3-6

2023

Class Dates:

Wednesdays

Q3: January 23 – March 24, 2023

Q4: March 27 – May 27, 2023

Breaks:

Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24, 2023 (winter break)

Monday, April 10 – Monday, April 17, 2023 (Holy Week/Pascha and Bright Monday)

Class Times:

Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 pm EST

Instructors: Presvytera Jennifer Moore

Email: j.mooreraphaelschool@gmail.com

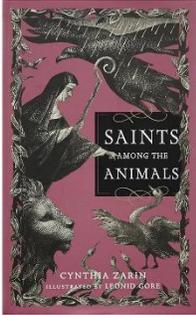
Office Hours: Upon Request

Class Description:

From Adam's naming of the animals to our modern saint, Saint Paisios' friendship with a wild bird, God has been glorified in the relationships between His people, His animal kingdom, and the world we share. This course explores those relationships, with a focus on the hagiography of those saints who were particularly and uniquely connected to the natural world around them. Students will consider and learn about their own relationships with the whole of the Creation of God.

Required Resources:

Saints Among the Animals by Cynthia Zarin



Course Objectives:

Students in this course will:

- Explore the lives of Orthodox Christian saints through books, hymnography, prayers, and tradition.
- Learn about the animals (and others of their species) who have served and been companions of the saints through nature studies and activities.
- Explore their own relationships with the whole Creation of God through journaling and other teacher-led activities.

Course Map:

Saints we will explore (in alphabetical order)*:

Saint Ambrose
Saint Brendan
Saint Canice
Saint Colman
Saint Gerasimos
Saint Hilda
Saint Keneth
Saint Kevin
Saint Mamas
Saint Mary of Egypt
Saint Medard
Saint Menas
Saint Seraphim of Sarov
Saint Werburge

*subject to change

Student Expectations:

Students will be expected to attend class regularly, complete and participate in discussions, brief creative writing projects, and creative projects.

1. An Engaged Student: One who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, ask questions, supply answers, and follow classroom rules.
2. Attention to Detail & Preparedness: These students will read and prepare for each class and complete creative projects in a timely manner.

Student Evaluation: Narrative Assessment

The instructor will provide a narrative assessment of the student's progress and engagement through Schoology.

At the end of the course, parents are the final authority in awarding credit and are responsible to determine a letter grade. Teachers are available for consulting in these decisions and will offer their input upon request.

Teacher Feedback

All work will be graded and returned via Schoology in a timely manner. Please allow a while longer for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and sometimes be asked to reflect or resubmit their work. These are opportunities for students to grow academically, and in the end, create a portfolio for the year.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of *Student-Virtues* described in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

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. Students and parents will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email.

About the Instructor:



Presvytera Jennifer Moore was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. The youngest of four children, she became an aunt at the age of five and thus began her career as an educator. Presvytera Jennifer attended Indiana Wesleyan University, completing coursework and practicums for both Children's Ministry and Secondary English Education, eventually graduating with a B.A. in English Language and Literature from Southern New Hampshire University. She has a passion for education, especially language, writing, literature, and faith studies. She married her high school sweetheart in 2003. Father Matthew was ordained in 2014 and currently serves All Saints Greek Orthodox church in Weirton, West Virginia. They have three daughters, Adeline, Katherine, and Beatrice, all of whom Presvytera Jennifer has home-educated over the past eleven years, though the oldest two have begun their journey in education outside of the home. Their family has multiple bonus features, such as ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, asynchrony, and sensory issues. Presvytera Jennifer believes in the potential of every child, and it is her great joy and privilege to help facilitate their growth and achievement. She is an insatiable reader of anything she can get her hands on. She also volunteers as a social media manager for her husband's non-profit and enjoys time with her incredible family and friends. Presvytera Jennifer believes that both literature and Orthodox Christianity can change the world.