

LENTEN RETREAT

Engaging Orthodoxy: Past Heroes and Present Challenges

MARCH 25 & 26, 2022

at St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church

Session 1: The Desert Fathers:

Who are they and how does their wisdom speak to us today?

It has been said that “The best way to penetrate Orthodox spirituality is through the door of monasticism” (Paul Evdokimov). The goal of this session is to introduce you to the Desert Fathers and Mothers of Egypt, Palestine and Syria (4th-5th centuries), and to apply their wisdom to us city dwellers today. **Q/A included.**

Session 2: What Can Orthodox and Protestant Evangelicals Learn from Each Other?

Evangelicalism is one of the most vibrant religious movements in the world today. American Orthodoxy must engage these fellow Christians *constructively* in order to fulfill its mission. The goal of this session is to enrich each other's communities by identifying the common ground we share and discussing the differences that continue to challenge our unity. Designed especially for converts, seekers and critics alike. **Q/A included.**

Retreat Leader: Dr. Brad Nassif

Brad Nassif grew up in St Mary's Orthodox Church in Wichita, his home parish. He is a graduate of St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and completed a doctorate in patristics at Fordham University under the late Fr John Meyendorff. He holds Masters' degrees from Denver Seminary (New Testament), Wichita State University (History) and a B.A. (Religion and Philosophy) from Friends University. Brad has been a Visiting Professor at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute and evangelical seminaries across America. His books include *The Evangelical Theology of the Orthodox Church*, foreword by Fr Andrew Louth (SVS press, 2021); *The Philokalia: A Classic Text of Orthodox Spirituality*, foreword by Bishop Kallistos Ware (Oxford University Press); *Bringing Jesus to the Desert*; and *New Perspectives on Historical Theology: Essays in Memory of John Meyendorff*. Fr John McGuckin describes him as "the leading world-expert on the dialogue of the Orthodox Church with Evangelical Protestant traditions" (Faculty of Theology, Oxford University). Brad, Barbara (wife) and Melanie (daughter) are active parishioners at Holy Transfiguration Antiochian Church in Warrenville, Illinois.

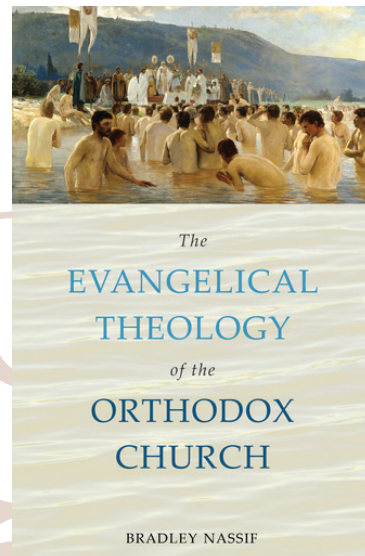
FRIDAY, MARCH 25

4:30 PM Vespers Divine Liturgy
for the Annunciation
5:45 PM Meal
6:30 PM Session 1

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

9:30 AM Morning Prayers
10:00 AM Breakfast
10:30 AM Session 2

**FREE to
the PUBLIC**



St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church

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