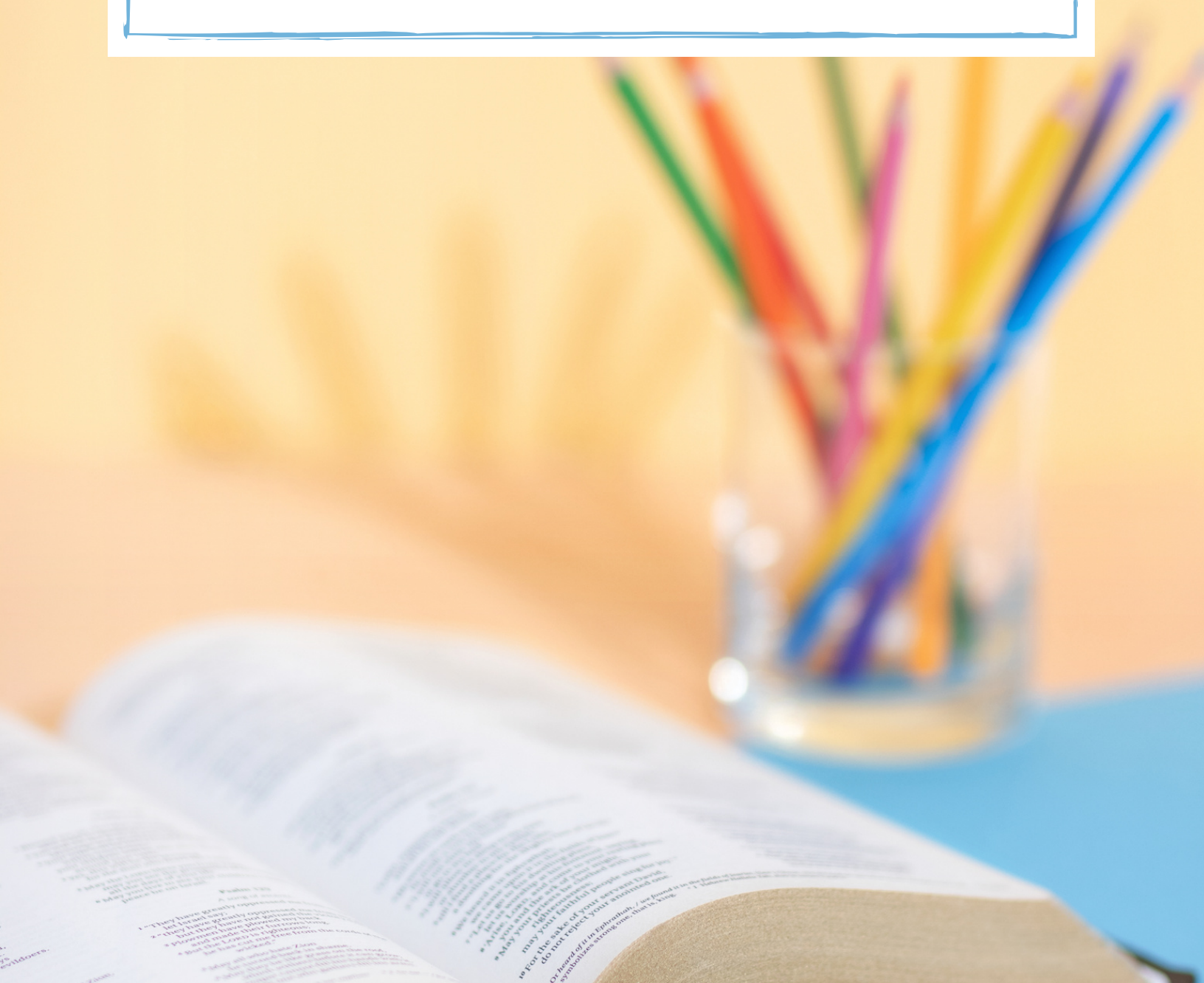


2023-2024

# One-Year Scope

BRIDGES TO ORTHODOXY



# CONTENT OVERVIEW

## July/August

*Orthodox Faith*

The Martyrs and Confessors

## September

*Spiritual Growth*

Are You For Real?

## October

*Biblical Study*

Patriarchs of (Dis)Obedience

## November

*Spiritual Growth*

The League of Justice

## December

*Biblical Study*

Christmas Vantage Point



## January

*Orthodox Faith*

The Sacramental Life

## February

*Spiritual Growth / Orthodox Faith*

Stay the Course

## March/April

*Biblical Study / Lent Prep*

Follow Me

## May

*Spiritual Growth*

Shameless

## June

*Spiritual Growth / Orthodox Faith*

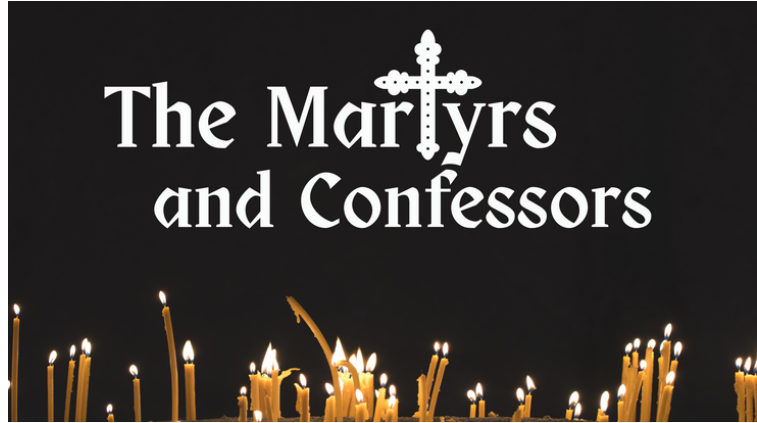
**BOLD!**



July 2 – August 27

# THE MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS

A 2-Month Series on the First  
Apologists of the Orthodox  
Church



Whether we like it or not, we will face challenges about our beliefs – sometimes from ourselves. It's important to learn how to put on a good defense for Christ and how to find good answers to tough questions. What better teachers than the Martyrs and Confessors, the first Apologists of the Church? This summer, we will learn more about the saints of the Church, the challenges they faced, and how they found faith in adversity. Through these life stories, we hope to show our teens the deep roots of our hope in Christ's resurrection, belief in God's love for humankind, and trust in the Bible.

*"Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."*

*1 Peter 3:15*

September 3 – September 24

# ARE YOU FOR REAL?

A 4-Week Series on the  
Importance of Honesty



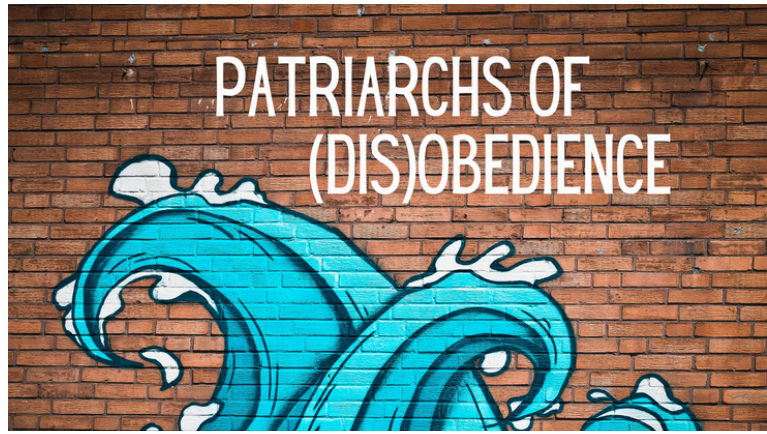
Are you for real? We will be asking that question all month long as we ponder the importance of integrity: honesty; doing the right thing whether someone is looking or not; saying what you mean and meaning what you say. At one time or another we all have justified that "little white lie," or convinced ourselves that an omission of truth is not the same thing as dishonesty. Through this series, we hope to convince our teenagers that dishonesty is a big deal in our day-to-day life and, more importantly, in the eyes of our Lord. What starts off as a small discretion, quickly turns into a tangled mess. Our words, moreover, have consequences – usually unintended – harming ourselves and others.

*"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." Matthew 5:37*

October 1 – October 29

# PATRIARCHS OF (DIS)OBEDIENCE

A 5-Week Series on The Fruits of Obedience to God Through the Lens of the Old Testament Prophets



Whether it be running a stop sign, speeding, staying out past curfew, or eating the candy before dinner, we all struggle with the concept of “obedience” – especially if we do not understand, if we do not agree, or if we think we know better. When we disobey a traffic law or a household rule, we may or may not suffer a consequence, but we 100% have chosen to live outside the protection of that traffic law and rule. The same thing is true when we disobey God’s law. We may or may not suffer an Earthly consequence, but we have 100% chosen to live outside the protection of God’s law.

This month, our Biblical Study is focused on the Patriarchs of the Old Testament and an old-familiar pattern of disobedience. The disobedience in the Garden of Eden costed humanity everything, and the continued pattern of disobedience with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob continued to make life harder than necessary. We hope to challenge teens to re-think the value of obediently submitting to God’s authority, safety, and plan. When we choose to believe we “know better,” we choose to live without God’s protection... and that’s not a good place to be.

*"The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it." Proverbs 30:17*

November 5 – November 26

# THE LEAGUE OF JUSTICE

A 4-Week Series on God’s Justice



Humans care a lot about things being fair, right, and just. Everyone wants to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of who we are. Some Biblical stories, such as the story of Job, make us wonder how God defines justice and why we care so much.

This month, we will explore where our deep desire for justice comes from, how God defines justice, and our responsibility to live a life pleasing to our Lord. Through some Old Testament Biblical stories and New Testament Epistle principles, we will see humans’ ongoing pattern of injustice and God’s loving response.

*"But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin." Micah 3:8*



December 3 – December 31

# CHRISTMAS VANTAGE POINT

A 4-Week Unit\* Looking at Each Gospel's Unique Purpose in Telling the Story of Christ

*\*Bonus Christmas Party to be used at any time*



The purpose of the four Gospels is to tell the story of Christ, His life on Earth: from the Nativity through the events immediately after the Resurrection. Why, then, are there four separate books in the Bible devoted to the same story? This month, we will look at the story of Christ, with special emphasis on the Nativity, through the Vantage Point of each separate Gospel. While the Gospel according to St. Matthew focuses on Jesus the “Messiah,” the fulfiller of prophecy, the Gospel according to St. John emphasizes Jesus is “Lord” – the Word, the Son of God. The Gospel according to St. Luke provides a gentler perspective of Jesus, focusing on His love for all humanity – our “Healer”. On the other hand, the Gospel according to St. Mark seems to skip over the Nativity altogether focusing on Jesus’ service and mission, our “Teacher.” The students will enjoy this unique take on Christmas as we learn a bit more about the authors of the Gospel and the Divine Story they were inspired to share- from their own vantage point.

***“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:32-33***

January 7 – January 28

# THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE

A 4-Week Unit\* on Understanding the Sacraments of the Church

*\*Includes a Christmas Party Package to be used for Old-Calendar Christmas*



Think you know all the Sacraments of the Orthodox Church? This month, teens will explore not just what the Sacraments are, but what it means to live a sacramental life in the Church. Teens likely know what communion is, but do they know why the Orthodox Church does not have “open” communion? Teens likely know we partake in confession in the presence of a priest, but do they know why and what authority the priest has through the sacrament of priesthood? Most people have seen an Orthodox wedding, but what does the sacrament of marriage teach us about the purpose of marriage...and dating? This month, we challenge teens to find answers to pressing questions important to living the Sacramental Life of the Church.

***“While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18***

February 4 – February 25th

## STAY THE COURSE

A 4-Week Unit on Making Wise Choices



Maps, road signs, traffic lights – they are all designed to keep us on the right course. If we choose to disregard them we rarely end up where we intended and may even get hurt or hurt others in the process. Similarly, God gave us important tools such as the Bible, Church, prayer, and wise role models designed to keep us on the right course in our life. This month, we will take a close look at some words of wisdom in the book of Proverbs, and how those words played out in the lives of some of our Orthodox Saints. We learn from St. Mary of Egypt, for example, what Proverbs 27:12 warns us about – that a warning sign means it’s time to turn around.

This month we hope our teens learn how to effectively use God’s tools to stay the course.

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6***

March 3 – April 21

## FOLLOW ME

A 2-Month\* Biblical Character Study on Those Who Answered Jesus’ Call

*\*Excluding Palm Sunday (April 28).  
Includes Holy Week Resources*



“Follow Me.” Jesus uttered these words to many, but only some answered His call. Most of Jesus’ followers were very unlikely disciples: fishermen, a tax collector, a woman previously possessed by demons, and others. They saw something in Jesus that was worth following. This Lent unit will be a character study – some said “yes” and some said “no,” but what does it really mean to “click” on “Follow Me”?

***Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Mark 1:17-18***



May 12 – May 26

## SHAMELESS

A 3-Week\* Series on Ridding  
Ourselves of Guilt and Shame

*\*Excluding Pascha (May 5).  
Includes an Easter Lesson/Party*



We've all done or said things that made us a bit "red-faced" embarrassed. Sometimes our guilt over what we've done bleeds into shame over how we see ourselves, how we treat others, and even what we think about God. Shame can be very harmful and is not in line with God's loving grace – our Healer. This month, we hope to challenge our teens in testing that foundation. When they have an embarrassing moment, or a time where they did or said something wrong, where do they find refuge? In Whom is their foundation? Shame is not just guilt or embarrassment over what we've done– it is feeling we *are* something bad, which is not from God. In God's eyes we are loved, and we are precious.

***"Those who look to Him are radiant. Their faces are never covered with shame." Psalm 34:5***

June 2 – June 30

## BOLD

A 5-Week Unit on Our Call to  
Evangelism



Around this time of year, we celebrate Pentecost – an important feast centered on Evangelism. A call to spread the word of Christ from one end of the earth to the other. What does that mean to a modern-day teen? Standing on corners handing out pamphlets? Yelling at "sinners" from the street? Forcing our beliefs down the throats of others? If we're honest, some of us paint an awful picture of the word "evangelism." A lot of that comes from fear of condemnation in this world and insecurity of our own knowledge. In fact, St. Francis of Assisi is popularly attributed as saying, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."

Evangelism comes in all forms and sizes, just as our talents come in all forms and sizes. Some of us are teachers, some of us are creative builders, some of us are nurturing helpers. Evangelism is not about the words we speak, but about showing Christ's love to people. This month, we hope to inspire our teens to be the Gospel to others, to live BOLD so that by all possible means, we might save some.

***"To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), to win those under the law. To those without the law I became like one without the law (though I am not outside the law of God but am under the law of Christ), to win those without the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." 1 Corinthians 9:20-22***