

AV Morning Program 2019 Curriculum Synopsis

Orthodoxy 101: A Catechism

This summer the campers will be learning about what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. What does it mean to say “I believe in one God. . .and in one Lord Jesus Christ. . .and in the Holy Spirit. . . Amen.”? A catechism often takes the form of a series of questions and answers. Over the course of two weeks the campers will engage in explorations of scripture and the Church herself (saints, icons, hymns, etc.), as well as the campers own experiences in the church all wrapped up in **engaging activities** and **camper driven discussions**. Together, as counselors and campers, we ask many questions and discover many more answers.

The foundation of these explorations will be **Nicean-Constantinopolitan Creed** (more commonly known as the “Nicean Creed” or simply “the Creed”) just as the truths stated therein are the foundation of the Orthodox Christian Church. But how did this statement come to be? From where does this knowledge arise?

From our experiences of **God the Father**. From His interactions with His people as recorded in the pages of Holy Scripture. We come to know God through His actions. But what were these actions? How do we describe our God to others? Can God be described? Who is God?

God sent us **His Son, Jesus Christ**, incarnate as a human being in order to bring us even closer to him. What do we know about Jesus? What did he do and say while among us? What does it mean to say that he was fully God and fully man? Is the reality of Jesus’ life and resurrection important--or just a useful story?

And the **Holy Spirit**, which proceeds from the Father and works among the Church today, even as it worked through the prophets and Apostles, how is it manifest? How do we experience it? And how are these three persons, one God--the Trinity? How does that work? How can we describe it?

And what does it mean to be a member of “**one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church**”? Who or what *is* the Church? What does it look, sound, taste, and feel like? Is this community important to our individual faith?

And the those whom we meet in the Church--**the Theotokos, the Saints**--who are they and why do we revere them so? Can they be helpful to us in our relationship with Christ and God?

And finally, seeing the breath and depth of the theological foundation that make up our Orthodox Christian faith, how do we *live* as Orthodox Christians? Is the Creed merely something

we say in church to prove our membership? Or, perhaps, is it not merely the foundation of our Church--but **the foundation of *our own life*** as well?

Questions.

Answers.

Stories.

Discovery.

Faith.

There is a lot going in Morning Program, so let's begin!