

Also Available:

Theology

Sacramental Theology

The Patristic Fathers of the Church

The Scholastic Fathers of the Church

Foundations in Spiritual Theology

Scripture

Biblical Methodology

Genesis to Exodus

Overview of the Synoptic Gospels — Matthew, Mark & Luke

Gospel According to Matthew

Gospel According to Mark

Gospel According to Luke

Adult Faith Formation

Courses offered by
Fr. William Nicholas

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Single Session Workshops

Scripture:

The Psalms: Prayer and Poetry, Direct from God

- *There are 150 God-inspired prayers in the Book of Psalms. These prayers express a variety of sentiment and feeling, covering a wide range of spirituality, from earthy to mystical, thanksgiving to regret, deep affection to equally deep resentment, jumping for joy to calling out from the depths of despair. Fr. Bill presents an overview of the prayers found in the Book of Psalms and how these prayers can enhance our spiritual life.*

The Prophets of the Bible:

Ancient Men with Modern Messages

- *The Prophets are known for how their words are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. They also had messages for the people of their time. This session is an overview of the Prophets of the Old Testament. What is the Biblical understanding of Prophet? Who were the Prophets of the Old Testament? What was God saying through them to the people of their time and how are those messages still relevant today?*

Visions of the Future: The Book of Daniel

- *The Book of the Prophet Daniel is a biblical example of a Theology of History, containing two of the most mystifying biblical stories (the Fiery Furnace and the Hand Writing on the Wall) and one of the most beloved (the Lion's Den). Fr. Bill presents a brief history of the Jewish people relevant to the Book of Daniel and how the author incorporates an understanding of God's mastery of history in the telling of the stories and visions.*

The Book of Jonah: Beyond the Great Fish

- *The Book of Jonah is only four chapters long. Yet its legend and legacy has spanned time and cultures. Two evangelists recall Jesus making reference to Jonah, with two interpretations of the same "sign". The great American novel "Moby Dick" dedicates an entire sermon to Jonah (chapter 9) prior to the doomed voyage of the Pequod; recently the traditional burial site of Jonah, in Mosul, Iraq, was destroyed by the Islamic State. This course examines the multiple levels of the Book of Jonah and its deep realities regarding faith in light of the history of Israel.*

Single Session Workshops

Continued

Scripture:

The Gospel of St. Paul

- *Along with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, St. Paul also authored a Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unlike the Evangelists, Paul did not set his Gospel in the context of a Biographical account of Jesus' life and ministry, but in a series of letters to communities of the early Church. This course reviews the basic tenants of Paul's theology and reviews the New Testament Epistles written by him in which he puts forth his teaching regarding Jesus, the Church, Morality, Suffering and the End Time.*

Apocalyptic Literature:

Making Sense of Dynamic Imagery

- *The Books of Daniel and Revelation are examples of a style of literature known as "Apocalyptic." In them can be found dynamic visions through which God's message is conveyed to the reader. This workshop will present the definition and specific qualities that distinguish Apocalyptic Literature, and examine the basic messages of Daniel and Revelation for both their time and their continued relevance throughout history.*

This Generation Shall Not Pass...":

Christ's Eschatological Discourse

- *Just before entering into His Passion and Death, Jesus speaks to His disciples on matters regarding the End Time. Fr. Bill presents an overview of the key points in Christ's discourse in light of the Catholic understanding of the "End Time" and how the Discourse relates to the experience of the Church throughout history.*

History:

Collisions with History—The Catholic Church in the World

- *Many Saints have had personal encounters with major figures of history. Other times, the very presence and action of the Church has influenced history's progress. Through examples, this session shows how Catholicism, through individuals as well as the Church as a whole, has impacted the progress of history and the development of Western Civilization.*

Foundations in Christology

(Theology of Christ)

Class Outline

Session 1 — Introduction

Biblical Christology

Session 2 — *Mark & John*

Session 3 — *Matthew & Luke*

Session 4 — *Gospel Infancy Narratives*

Session 5 — *Paul's Epistles*

Historical Foundations

Session 6 — *Patristic Christology*

Session 7 — *Schools of Christological Theology: Alexandria*

Session 8 — *Schools of Christological Theology: Antioch*

Session 9 — *Western Theologies*

Formal Doctrinal Definitions

Session 10 — *Church Councils*

Historical Developments

Session 11 — *Scholastic Christology*

Catholicism: An Overview

Class Outline

- Session 1** — Welcome and Overview
- Session 2** — What does it Mean to be Catholic?
- Session 3** — The Scriptures: Old Testament
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- Session 5** — Jesus: His Life and Ministry
- Session 6** — The Church
- Session 7** — The Holy Trinity
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- Session 9** — History of the Church
- Session 10** — Prayer and Worship
- Session 11** — The Liturgical Year
- Session 12** — Holy Week
- Session 13** — Baptism
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- Session 15** — Eucharist
- Session 16** — Mass: Liturgies of the Word & Eucharist
- Session 17** — Matrimony
- Session 18** — Holy Orders
- Session 19** — Healing: Reconciliation & Anointing
- Session 20** — Morality: Living in Christ
- Session 21** — Confession “how to”
- Session 22** — Mary: Symbol of the Church
- Session 23** — Communion of Saints
- Session 24** — Called to Serve: Ministry in the Church

Single Session Workshops

Continued

God & Country: Faith & Religion in America's Founding

- *Are we aware that the Founding Documents of the United States, while not establishing a state religion, have a strong religious undercurrent? This course presents and discusses the great respect our Founding Fathers had for faith and religion as essential for the existence of a free society, and how they worked that respect into the Founding Documents and other speeches and ordinances of our nation's founding and early expansion.*

Mother of Modern Science - The Catholic Church

- *Conventional Wisdom believes that there is a conflict between Faith and Science. On the contrary, without the Christian Faith, there would be no Modern Science as we know it. This course presents examples of the many priests, bishops and religious brothers who are fathers of many fields of Modern Science and will demonstrate how the Christian Faith paved the way for the emergence of Science as we know and celebrate it today.*

Slavery: Does the Bible Condone It? Does Christianity Foster It? Is Our Nation Founded On It?

- *The history of slavery in the United States is an issue that just won't go away! Some have even used it to attack the very Christian roots of the Country. Fr. Bill examines where and how the Bible addresses the issue (particularly in the New Testament), the history of slavery in Christian Europe, and how the issue was addressed in the Founding Documents of the United States.*

Vatican II: What Was It? What Did It Produce?

- *For many, Vatican II means two things -- changes in the Mass and modified religious habits. For fifty-years Vatican II and the "spirit" of Vatican II have been invoked in numerous contexts, often to promote or legitimize (or even discredit) a particular agenda or ideology in the Church. What was Vatican II? What did it produce? and How does Vatican II fit into the over-all history of the Church? This course presents a history of the Church's Ecumenical Councils, concluding with a review of Vatican II and the documents that came forth from it*

The Prophets of the Lord

Class Outline

Session 1 – Introductory Matters

Session 2 – Hebrew History and the Pre-Classical Prophets

Prophets of the North

Session 3 – *Amos*

Session 4 – *Hosea*

Prophets of the South

Session 5 – *Micah*

Session 6 – *Isaiah*: Introduction

Session 7 – *Isaiah*: Period of Two Kings

Session 8 – *Isaiah*, pt. 3

Session 9 – *Zephaniah*

Session 10 – *Nahum* and *Habakkuk*

Session 11 – *Jeremiah*: Background

Session 12 – *Jeremiah*: Message of Conflict

Session 13 – *Jeremiah*: Message of Hope

Session 14 – *Jeremiah*: Tragic Figure of the Old Testament

Prophets of the Exile

Session 15 – *Ezekiel*: Introduction

Session 16 – *Ezekiel*: Prophet of Judgment

Session 17 – *Ezekiel*: Prophet of Hope

Session 18 – Deutero & Trito *Isaiah*

Post-Exilic Prophets of the Temple

Session 19 – *Haggai*

Session 20 – *Zechariah*

Session 21 – *Malachi* & *Obadiah*

Session 22 – Proto Apocalyptic Prophecy: *Joel*

Narrative Prophets

Session 23 – *Daniel*: Background

Session 24 – *Daniel*: Message

Session 25 – *Jonah*

Foundations in Worship

Class Outline

Session 1 – Introduction

Vatican II

Sacrosanctum Concilium

Session 2 – The Trinity from a Liturgical Point of View

Session 3 – Christian Identity: A Worshiping Community

Prayer: Personal and Communal

Session 4 – The Liturgy of the Hours

Session 5 – The Liturgy of the Hours, pt. 2

Session 6 – The Seven Sacraments

& Sacramental Reality

Session 7 – The Seven Sacraments – *Reconciliation*

Session 8 – The Celebration of the Eucharist (history)

Session 9 – The Process of the Mass

Session 10 – The Process of the Mass, pt. 2

Session 11 – The Liturgical Year

Session 12 – The Liturgical Year

Biblical Apocalyptic Literature

Class Outline

Introduction

- Session 1** – Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature
- Session 2** – Mythological Backgrounds
- Session 3** – Apocalyptic Prophets

The Book of Daniel

- Session 4** – Background & Format
- Session 5** – Message

The Book of Revelation

- Session 6** – Introduction and Background
- Session 7** – First Visions
 - Messages to the Churches
- Session 8** – The Heavenly Throne Room
 - The Lamb
- Session 9** – Opening the Scroll
 - The Seven Trumpets
- Session 10** – Anti-Trinity
- Session 11** – The Seven Last Plagues
 - Armageddon
- Session 12** – Fall of Babylon
 - The Great Millennium
- Session 13** – The New Creation
 - Epilogue

Appendix Sessions:

- Session 14** – Jesus' Eschatological Discourse
- Session 15** – St. Paul's Thessalonian Correspondence

Psalms:

Prayer and Poetry Direct From God

Class Outline

- Session 1** – Introductory Matters
- Session 2** – Introductory Matters & Psalm 1
- Session 3** – Prelude – Psalms 1 & 2
- Session 4** – Acrostic Psalms
 - Psalms 34, 111 & 119
- Session 5** – Historical Psalms
 - Psalms 135 & 78
- Session 6** – Royal Psalms
 - Psalms 45, 47 & 110
- Session 7** – God's Glory in Creation
 - Psalms 8 & 19
- Session 8** – God in the Storm
 - Psalms 29 & 18
- Session 9** – Individual Laments
 - Psalms 3 & 39 – Distress
- Session 10** – Lamentation – Psalms 22 & 69
- Session 11** – Penitential Psalms
 - Psalms 6 & 143
- Session 12** – Penitential Psalms
 - Psalm 130 – the *De Profundis*
 - Psalm 51 – the *Miserere*
- Session 13** – Atheism & Dedication to Yahweh
 - Psalms 14/53 & 16
- Session 14** – Psalms of Trust – Psalms 23 & 27
- Session 15** – Psalm of Trust – Psalm 91
- Session 16** – Psalm 118

Pauline Literature and Theology

Class Outline

- Session 1** – Paul and His Letters
- Session 2** – Paul and His Gospel
- Session 3** – Pauline Terminology
- Session 4** – Paul’s Theology of Redemption
- Session 5** – *The 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*
- Session 6** – *The 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, pt. 2
- Session 7** – *The 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, pt. 3
- Session 8** – *The 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, pt. 4
- Session 9** – *The 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*
- Session 10** – *The 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, pt. 2
- Session 11** – *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*
- Session 12** – *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*, pt. 2
- Session 13** – *The Letter of Paul to the Romans*
- Session 14** – *The Letter of Paul to the Romans*, pt. 2
- Session 15** – *The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians*
- Session 16** – *The Letter of Paul to the Colossians*
- Session 17** – *The Letters to the Philippians and Philemon*
- Session 18** – The Thessalonian Correspondence
- Session 19** – The Pastoral Letters: *1 & 2 Timothy & Titus*
- Session 20** – The Pastoral Letters, pt. 2

The New Testament “Catholic” Epistles

- Session 21** – *The Letter to the Hebrews*
- Session 22** – *The Letter to the Hebrews*, pt. 2
- Session 23** – *The Letter of James*
- Session 24** – *The Letters of Peter and Jude*
- Session 25** – *The Letters of Peter and Jude*, pt. 2

Johannine Literature and Theology

Class Outline

- Session 1** – *Good Things to Know About John’s Gospel*
 - Session 2** – *Themes in John’s Gospel* (intro,, pt 2)
 - Session 3** – *The Prologue*
 - Session 4** – *John the Baptist and the Testimonies*
 - Session 5** – *The Wedding at Cana*
 - Session 6** – *Nicodemus*
 - Session 7** – *The Woman at the Well*
 - Session 8** – *Signs 2 & 3*
 - Session 9** – *John 6: the Framework of the Story*
 - Session 10** – *John 6: Eucharistic Theology*
 - Session 11** – “*The Light of the World*”
 - Session 12** – *The Man Born Blind*
 - Session 13** – *The Good Shepherd*
 - Session 14** – *The Lazarus Cycle: From Death to Life to Death*
 - Session 15** – *The Book of Glory*, Intro to the Last Discourse
 - Session 16** – *Washing of the Feet*, John 13:1-20
 - Session 17** – *The Last Discourse*; Jesus’ Farewell Address
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 - Session 20** – *The Exaltation of the Christ*
 - Session 21** – *The Triumph of the Cross*
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 - Session 23** – *The Resurrection: Galilee Appearance*
 - Session 24** – *1, 2 & 3 John*
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- Session 26** – *The Book of Revelation* (Letters to the Churches)