

**Our Faith: Orthodox Christianity at St. Michael's
Woonsocket, Rhode Island
Winter, 2008 (Fr. Anthony Perkins)**

Session Five: The History of Our Church – from the upper room to Woonsocket

Opening Prayer: O Heavenly King the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art ev'rywhere, Treasure of good and Giver of life. Dwell within us, Lord hear our prayer. Cleanse us from ev'ry impurity. Save our souls, God of mercy.

Opening Scripture: St. Matthew 28: 19- 20; St. Matthew 16: 16-18; 1 Corinthians 10: 16- 17; Galatians 6: 16; Ephesians 4: 12; 5: 22- 32;

Summary of Scripture: Christ's Incarnation continues within the physical and spiritual reality of the Holy Orthodox Church. It exists in its fullness at St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket.

Today's Lesson: The Church and its History

Questions for consideration:

- What is the Church? How does St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church fit in? How do I fit in?

Introduction to Ukrainian Orthodox Church History

- **A Timeline of Church History (after the Ascension)**
 - **Apostolic and AnteNicene Age (33-325):** Pentecost, Founding of Churches, Priests, Deacons, Bishops, Conciliar system, Eucharistic worship, spread of the faith, development of forms
 - **Age of the Seven Councils (325-787)**
 - **Conversion of Rus-Ukraine (988)**
 - Olha became regent in 945. She was baptized in 955 in Constantinople.
 - The Story of Volodymyr and his conversion
 - Sts. Antony and Theodisii and the caves Monastery (1062)
 - **Internecine War, the Polovtsians, and capitulation to the Tartars**
 - **Domination by Poland and Lithuania (14th – 16th Centuries)**
 - False Union of Florence (1439), and the sacking of Metropolitan Isidore of Kyiv
 - Fall of Constantinople in 1453
 - (False) Union of Berest (1596) and subsequent persecution of Orthodox (low point in 1620)
 - **Saviors of Ukrainian Orthodoxy: Bratstvo, Cossacks, and other saints**
 - Reinforcement of Ukrainian Orthodox Church from Constantinople (1620)
 - St. Petro Mohyla (1596 – 1646) , Mazepa's last stand (1709), St. Paisiy Valychkivskiy (1722-1794),
 - **End of the Kievan Metropolitanate, first protected by Moscow Patriarchate through a treaty with Poland (1686), then integrated (Poles had all but decimated Orthodoxy within their territory before this)**
 - **The Disintegration of the Russian Empire, and the attempt to re-establish an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Sobor of 1921)**
 - Lots of themes interwoven, some healthy, some less so. Quick growth
 - Communist reassertion of control and destruction of UAOC
 - More successful in Poland (1924 became Autocephalous)
 - **World War Two allowed for the (healthier) re-establishment of the UOAC (until Soviets...)**
 - **1991 Collapse of Soviet Union led to new hope, but soon brought down by opportunism**
 - **Ukrainian Orthodoxy in America: an interesting journey (and our parish is emblematic)**
 - Faithful people, striving for an authentic expression of the Timeless Faith of Orthodoxy
 - Looking both backwards and forwards, but living in the Now of Christ
- **Next Week: Final Lesson: A Brief Catechism**