Some Questions Asked By Inquirers



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| **THE LITURGY** |
| 1. Is Orthodox worship scriptural?  |  |
| 2. Why don’t you have any musical instruments in your church? |  |
| 3. Why do you stand through the whole service? The service is so long! |  |
| 4. Why do you repeat so many things over and over in your liturgies? |  |
| 5. What is the purpose of making the sign of the cross? |  |
| 6. Why do you say “Lord have mercy” so many times? |  |
| 7. I’ve heard you have Feast Days. What are those for? |  |

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| **THE SACRAMENTS** |
| 1. What does the Orthodox Church mean by “sacraments”? What are they? |  |
| 2. What does the Eucharist mean in the Orthodox Church? |  |
| 3. Why can’t I receive Communion when I come to your church? I’ve been a Christian all of my life! |  |
| 4. What is the extra bread and wine people get after communion? |  |
| 5. I’ve never seen babies receive communion! Please explain that to me. |  |

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| **THE THEOTOKOS** |
| 1. Why is there such a strong emphasis in Orthodoxy on Christ’s mother? |  |
| 2. Do you worship Mary? |  |
| **.**3. Theotokos is an odd name. What does it mean? |  |
| 4. Do you really think Mary prays for you? Why can’t you go directly to Jesus yourself? |  |
| 5. Do you really think Mary has anything to do with saving us? |  |
| 6. Why is Mary right in the front of the church and the first thing you see when you come in? Why is she so big? |  |

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| **ICONS** |
| 1. Do Orthodox worship icons? |  |
| 2. Why do you kiss the icons? |  |
| 3. It seems to me that having icons is like idol worship. What do you think? |  |
| 4. Why do the people that are depicted on the icons look so different than our artwork? |  |
| 5. Are there special prayers that should be prayed when the icons are venerated? |  |

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| **THE SAINTS** |
| 1. Why do you pray to saints? Can’t you go directly to God? |  |
| 2. Why do you have “pictures” of the saints all over your church? |  |
| 3. Why do you think some people are so good that they are saints? Aren’t we all saints since Christ died and washed us whiter than snow? |  |
| 4. So you really believe that saints hear prayers said to them even though they are dead? Do they have any power to effect change? |  |
| 5. Isn’t praying to saints like idol worship? |  |

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| **TRADITION** |
| 1. How does the Orthodox Church regard the Bible? A lot of what you believe isn’t in the Bible. Where does that other “stuff” come from? |  |
| 2. Why do you think you have the fullness of faith? Is everyone else wrong? |   |
| 3. What does “Orthodox” mean? |  |
| 4. What do you mean by Holy Tradition? Isn’t it just the handing on of what people before you have said and done, and thus is subject to human error? |  |
| 5. Why do you call your priest “Father”? Jesus warned not to call any one Father but God alone. |  |
| 6. Why do you only say written prayers? Do you ever pray prayers from the heart? Who wrote those prayers? |  |