

# ORTHODOX READING LIST

*(Adapted from various sources; core texts are in bold)*

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

### **Authorized Text or King James Version (KJV):**

- a) with “Deuterocanonical Books” ” or “Apocrypha.” and
- b) not a study bible.

## LIVES OF SAINTS

- **Prologue of Ohrid** (2 volume set) (St. Nikolai Velimirovich)
- The Synaxarion – The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church (7 volume set)  
(Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra, published by Holy Convent of the Annunciation of Our Lady Ormylia, Chalkidiki, Greece)
- **Synaxarion** – A Saint for Every Day (Potamitis Press)
- Paterikon for Kids (Potamitis Press)
- The Evergetinos – A Complete Text in 4 Volumes published by Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, Etna, CA
- The Northern Thebaid: Monastic Saints of the Russian North published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina CA.
- Romanian Patericon: Saints of the Romanian Orthodox Church by Fr. Ioanichie Balan, published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina CA.
- Serbian Paterikon – Saints of the Serbian Orthodox Church by Fr Daniel Rogich, published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina CA.
- Lives of the Georgian Saints by Archpriest Zakaria Machitadze, published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina CA

- **Saints from All Walks of Life: Brief Homilies on the Lives of the Saints** by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- **Blessed John the Wonderworker: A Preliminary Account of the Life and Miracles of Archbishop John Maximovitch** by Father Seraphim Rose (St Herman Press)
- **Father Seraphim Rose: His Life and Works** by Hieromonk Damascene (St Herman Press)
- **The Way of the Pilgrim** (SAGOM Press)

## **SERVICE BOOKS**

- **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** (St. Tikhon's Press or Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville NY)
- **Jordanville Prayerbook** (Holy Trinity Press, Jordanville NY)
- **Prayer Book** (Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA)

## **EXPLANATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

- **Orthodox Study Bible** (Ancient Faith Publishing)
- **The Explanation of the Gospels** (4 volume set) by Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid. (Distributor: Saint Herman Press)
- **The Explanation of the Epistles of St Paul** (Various Volumes) by Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid. (Distributor: Saint Herman Press)

## READING LIST

- The Apostolic Fathers (Light and Life Publishing Company)
- The Divine Liturgy: A Commentary in the Light of the Fathers (Hieromonk Gregorios)
- Orthodox Veneration of the Mother of God – (St. John of San Francisco, St. Herman Press)
- Becoming Orthodox – (Fr. Peter Gilquist, Ancient Faith Press)
- Catholicism in the Light of Orthodoxy (Archimandrite George of Grigoriou)
- My Exodus from Roman Catholicism (Bishop Paul de Ballester)
- Rock and Sand (Fr. Josiah Trenham)
- Orthodox Survival Course (Fr. Seraphim Rose)
- Christology (St. Nektarios of Aegina)
- The Papacy (Abbe Guettée)
- Practical Guide to Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis (Priest Michael)
- Unseen Warfare (St. Theophan the Recluse, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Theosis: The True Purpose of Human Life (Archimandrite George of Grigoriou)
- Christianity or the Church (St. Hilarion Troitsky)
- Holy Scripture and the Church (St. Hilarion Troitsky)
- Tradition in the Church (Fr. Lazarus Moore)

## CATECHISMS

- **The Law of God** (Fr. Seraphim Slobodskoy)
- The Truth of Our Faith, Volumes 1 & 2 (Elder Cleopa of Romania)
- Catechetical Lectures (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery Press, or SAGOM Press)
- Baptismal Instructions (St. John Chrysostom, SAGOM Press)
- An Indication of the Path into the Kingdom of God (St. Innocent of Alaska)
- Entering the Orthodox Church: (Met. Hierotheos Vlachos)
- The Way: An Introduction to the Orthodox Faith (Fr. George Metallinos)
- **The Orthodox Faith, Worship, and Life** (Hieromonk Gregorios)
- The Faith of the Saints (St. Nikolai Velimirovich)
- Orthodox Sacred Catechism (Vernardakis / Cavarnos)

## THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

- These three by Met. Hierotheos Vlachos (in order):
  - Orthodox Spirituality
  - The Illness and Cure of the Soul in the Orthodox Tradition
  - A Night in the Desert of the Holy Mountain
- Wounded by Love (St. Porphyrios)
- **Our Thoughts Determine our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica** (St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood Press)
- Counsels from the Holy Mountain (Elder Ephraim of Philotheou and Arizona)

- May God Give You Wisdom: The Letters of Father John Krestiankin (St Xenia Skete Press)
- Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ (St. Justin Popovich)
- God's Revelation to the Human Heart (Fr. Seraphim Rose)
- The Way of the Ascetic (Tito Colliander)
- The Ladder (St. John Climacus)
- The Sayings of the Desert Fathers
- Monastic Wisdom: The Letters of Elder Joseph the Hesychast (St Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery, Arizona)
- Counsels for Life: From the Life and Teachings of Father Epiphanius (Orthodox Kypseli Publications)
- Guidance Toward Spiritual Life: Answers to the Questions of Disciples by Saints Barsanuphius and John (St Herman Press)
- Wisdom from Mount Athos: The Writings of Staretz Silouan by Archimandrite Sophrony (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- **The Arena: Guidelines for Spiritual and Monastic Life** by Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov (Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville)
- Concerning Frequent Communion (St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite)
- Three Treatises on the Divine Images (St. John of Damascus)

## ORTHODOXY & THE MODERN WORLD

- Nihilism (Fr. Seraphim Rose)
- The Life of Fr. Seraphim Rose (St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood Press)
- Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future (Fr. Seraphim Rose)
- Orthodox Faith & Life in Christ – St. Justin Popovich (Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies)
- The Truth of Our Faith – Vols. I & II by Elder Cleopa of Romania (Uncut Mountain Press)

## BEFORE GOING TO SEMINARY

- The Mind of the Orthodox Church\* (Met. Hierotheos (Vlachos))
- Patristic Theology\* (Fr. John Romanides)
- The Ancestral Sin\* (Fr. John Romanides)
- Orthodox Psychotherapy (Met. Hierotheos (Vlachos))
- The Science of Spiritual Medicine (Met. Hierotheos (Vlachos))
- St. Gregory Palamas as a Hagiorite\* (Met. Hierotheos (Vlachos))
- Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ\* (St. Justin Popovich)
- The Rudder\* (St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite, SAGOM Press), see book's introduction on why this is indeed essential reading for the Orthodox Christian
- Empirical Dogmatics\*, Volumes 1 and 2 (Met. Hierotheos (Vlachos) and Father John Romanides)
- **Orthodox Dogmatic Theology** (Fr. Michael Pomazansky)
- On Common Prayer with the Heterodox According to the Canons of the Church\* (Protopresbyter Anastasios Gotsopoulos)
- Exomologetarion (St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite)
- The Homilies of St. Gregory Palamas (Mt. Tabor Publishing)
- On the Mystical Life, three volumes (St. Symeon the New Theologian)
- From Saint Sophrony of Essex (in this order):
  - His Life is Mine
  - On Prayer
  - We Shall See Him As He Is

- From his disciple Archimandrite Zacharias (in this order):
  - Christ, Our Way and Our Life
  - The Enlargement of the Heart to The Hidden Man of the Heart
  - Remember Thy First Love
  
- Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses\*, Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (Dr. Jean Claude Larchet)
- The Ecclesiological Renovation of Vatican II\* (Fr. Peter Heers)
- The Missionary Origins of Modern Ecumenism (Fr. Peter Heers)
- Jesus Fallen? (Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis)
  
- The One and the Three: Nature, Person and Triadic Monarchy in the Greek and Irish Patristic Tradition\* (Fr. Chrysostom Koutlounousianos), this one tackles a huge anthropological error devastating the Greek Church and beyond

## Children's Books

- Paterikon for Kids published by Potamitis Publishing
  
- Children's Bible Reader by Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, published by American Bible Society

## Magic & Sorcery

- Confronting the Devil: Magic and Occult by Rev Vassilios Bakoyiannis

## OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS

### Explanations of the Holy Scriptures

- The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World by St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology
- The Explanation of the Gospels (4 volume set) by Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid. Distributor: St Herman Brotherhood
- The Explanation of the Epistles of St Paul (Various Volumes) by Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid. Distributor: St Herman Brotherhood
- Drops from the Living Water by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Sparks from the Apostles by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- A Panoramic View of Holy Scripture: Volume 1 – Orthodox Homilies Introducing all the Books of the Old Testament by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- A Panoramic View of Holy Scripture: Volume 2 – Orthodox Homilies Introducing all the Books of the New Testament by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Thoughts for Each Day of the Year by St. Theophan the Recluse, published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina CA.

### Spiritual Life and Guidance

- Christ is in Our Midst, Letters from a Russian Monk by Father John of Valamo published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press

- Russian Letters of Spiritual Direction by Saint Macarius, Starets of Optina published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press
- Spiritual Counsels of Saint John of Kronstadt published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press
- A Journey to Heaven, Counsels on the Particular Duties of Every Christian by St Tikhon of Zadonsk published by Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville
- Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven: An Introduction to Christian Life by Saint Innocent of Alaska published by Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville
- Monastic Wisdom: The Letters of Elder Joseph the Hesychast published by St Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery, Arizona
- Counsels for Life: From the Life and Teachings of Father Epiphanius published by Orthodox Kypseli Publications
- Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica Paperback by Ana Smiljanic, St. Herman of Alaska Press
- Guidance Toward Spiritual Life: Answers to the Questions of Disciples by Saints Barsanuphius and John published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- Wisdom from Mount Athos: The Writings of Staretz Silouan 1866-1938 by Archimandrite Sophrony published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press
- Unseen Warfare by Saint Theophan the Recluse published by Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press.

## The Orthodox Faith

- Missionary Conversations with Protestant Sectarians by Rev. Kyril Zaits published by Holy Trinity Publications
- Ancient and Contemporary Saints and Elders, Eldresses and Righteous
- Saint Nektarios: The Saint of Our Century by Sotos Chondropoulos published by Kainourgia GE Publications

- **Apostle to Zaire: The Life and Legacy of Blessed Father Cosmas of Grigoriou** by Demetrios Aslanidis & Monk Damascene Grigoriatis published by Uncut Mountain Press
- **Father Philotheos Zervakos (1884-1980): Autobiography, Homilies and Miracles** published by Orthodox Kypseli Publications
- **Life-Miracles-Prophecies of Saint Seraphim of Viritsa: The New Saint of Orthodox Russian Church 1866-1949** published by Orthodox Kypseli Publications
- **Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father** by the servant of God, Alexander published by St Vladimir's Seminary
- **Father George Calciu – Interviews, Homilies and Talks** published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- **Contemporary Ascetics of Mount Athos (Volumes 1 and 2)** by Archimandrite Cherubim (Karambelas) published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- **New Confessors of Russia** by Archimandrite Damascene published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- **Shepherd of Souls: The Life and Teachings of Elder Cleopa, Master of Inner Prayer and Spiritual Father of Romania** published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- **The Romanov Royal Martyrs: What Silence Could Not Conceal** by St John the Forerunner Monastery published by Mesa Potamos Publications

### **Saint Paisios of Mount Athos**

- **Saint Paisios of Mount Athos** by Hieromonk Isaac published by The Holy Monastery of Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian
- **Spiritual Counsels I: With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man** by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian

- Spiritual Counsels II: Spiritual Awakening by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian
- Spiritual Counsels III: Spiritual Struggle by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian
- Spiritual Counsels IV: Family Life by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian
- Spiritual Counsels V: Passions and Virtues by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian
- Athonite Fathers & Athonite Matters by Elder Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Convent of the Evangelist John the Theologian

### Saint Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia

- Wounded By Love: The Life and the Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios published by Denise Harvey
- The Divine Flame: Elder Porphyrios Lit in My Heart by Monk Agaprios published by The Holy Convent of the Transfiguration of the Savior, Milessi

### Books by Metropolitan Augoustinos of Florina

- Saints from All Walks of Life: Brief Homilies on the Lives of the Saints by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Fragrant Flowers: Orthodox Homilies on the Lives of the Saints by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Drops from the Living Water by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies

- Sparks from the Apostles by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- On the Divine Liturgy: Orthodox Homilies – Books 1 and 2 by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Orthodox House of Worship by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- A Panoramic View of Holy Scripture – Books 1 and 2 by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Follow Me by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- Miracles by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies
- A Letter of Consolation to the Bereaved by Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina published by Institute for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies

### Books by Father Seraphim Rose

- Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- The Soul After Death by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- God's Revelation to the Human Heart by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- Nihilism: The Root of the Revolution of the Modern Age by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood

- Blessed John the Wonderworker: A Preliminary Account of the Life and Miracles of Archbishop John Maximovitch by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- The Place of Blessed Augustine in the Orthodox Church by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood
- The Northern Thebaid: Monastic Saints of the Russian North by Father Seraphim Rose published by St Herman of Alaska Brotherhood

## Marriage and Family Life

- Orthodox Christian Parenting: Cultivating God's Creation published by Zoe Press
- Spiritual Counsels IV: Family Life by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos published by The Holy Monastery of the Evangelist John the Theologian
- On Marriage and Family Life by Saint John Chrysostom published by St Vladimir's Seminary Press
- Marriage: A Spiritual Arena by Reverend Vassilios Bakoyiannis published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

## Abortion and Contraception

- Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions? by Randy Alcorn published by Eternal Perspective Ministries
- Why ProLife?: Caring for the Unborn and Their Mothers by Randy Alcorn published by Hendrickson Publishers
- Who Should We Listen to Regarding Contraceptives and the Avoidance of Having Children? by Hieromonk Kosmas, Monastery of the Archangel Michael, Australia (orthodoxtalks.com)