



HIVER/WINTER 2024

CERTIFICAT EN THÉOLOGIE ORTHODOXE (1^{er} CYCLE)

**LITURGICAL LIFE I: FOCUS ON THE TRIODION,
GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK (THL-1237)**

Fr. Athanasios GIOCAS

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Thursday Evenings (6-9 p.m.) through Video Conferencing
From January 18 to April 25, 2024

The course aims to explore the biblical and liturgical aspects of one of the most important periods in the Church calendar, the period leading to Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. The course will provide students with a unique opportunity to demystify rarely studied aspects of the Church's hymnological tradition. In fact, many aspects of the Church's theological development are preserved and expressed within the hymns of the Church. In addition, the theological and biblical perspectives of Great Lent and Holy Week will be explored and examined, including the relevant Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings. The course will moreover make use of commentaries on aspects of Great Lent and Holy Week from both patristic and modern authors.

In more practical terms, the course aims to cultivate within students an informed context for their own active participation in the services of the Church during the period of Great Lent and leading to Pascha. After a general overview of the Typikon of the Church and the practice of fasting (Session 1), the successive feasts of each Sunday leading to Holy Week will be studied, starting with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, and progressing all the way to Palm Sunday (Sessions 2-7). The focus will then turn to each of the days of Holy Week (Sessions 8-11), and Holy Pascha (Sessions 12-13). The course progressively culminates towards an informed global discussion in the last session on how students can draw on the resources provided by the course for their own spiritual journey in the faith during Great Lent and Holy Week (Session 14).