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SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew to Fordham University and our Orthodox
Christian Studies Center



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be visiting Fordham University and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center on Tuesday, September 23rd. The University will host a concert by Cappella Romana, under the direction of Alexander Lingas, in honor of His All-Holiness at 6 PM at the University Church (Rose Hill campus). Cappella Romana, renowned for their Byzantine and medieval chant expertise, will perform Robert Kyr's "A Time for Life: An Environmental Oratorio"—a fitting tribute given the Patriarch's leadership in environmental advocacy.

If you'd like to attend, [RSVPs are required by September 16th >>>](#)

Religious Nationalism Conference

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center's three-day conference on Religious Nationalism (June 16-18, 2025) brought together leading scholars from across disciplines to examine the global resurgence of religious nationalist movements. Keynote speakers Pantelis Kalaitzidis (Volos Academy), Cathleen Kaveny (Boston College), and Charles Mathewes (University of Virginia) anchored discussions that ranged from Orthodox contexts in Greece and Russia to contemporary American Christian nationalism and Jewish nationalism in Israel. The conference featured fifteen speakers from institutions including Notre Dame, Cambridge, Union Theological Seminary, and the University of Athens, offering interdisciplinary perspectives from theology, political science, psychology, and sociology. Papers examined themes including the psychology of nationalist movements, the relationship between religious and territorial claims, and the impact of religious nationalism on democratic societies. The robust discussions reflected the timeliness of this critical topic as religious communities worldwide grapple with questions of identity, belonging, and political engagement.



From the Editor's Desk

Orthodoxy and Capitalism

What does it mean for Orthodox Christians to live faithfully in a world shaped by money, power, and ambition? In this set of essays, Charles T. Lelon, Private Equity Investor and Founder of Karmylon, offers a bold reading of the Gospel parable of the rich young man—not as a condemnation of wealth but as an Orthodox perspective on how business acumen might serve the Gospel and the salvation of the soul.

Part One: [But I'm Not a Camel](#)

Part Two: [A Divine Sell Order](#)

Part Three: [The Holy Heiress](#)

Part Four: [Giving Away \\$10 Billion: How Hard Could It Be?](#)

Part Five: [Another Climacan Ladder?](#)

See also

Dr. Dylan Pahman: [Trump's Tariffs Unfairly Hammer the Poor and Small Business](#) [Dylan Pahman](#)

Upcoming Events

September 11, 2025

Russia: An Interview on the Church, the War, and Navalny's Legacy

4.30 p.m. (Valparaiso University/Mueller Hall Refectory)

How can Americans understand the political situation in Russia in the post-truth era? What can Russians take from Navalny's legacy? What role does the Russian Orthodox Church play on the global stage? For answers to these questions and more, you are invited to join us for an interview with Sergei Chapnin, Director of communications of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University in New York. Chapnin has extensive experience as a journalist in Russia and has held positions in the administration of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Please contact Reverend Nicholas Denysenko, Ph.D., at nicholas.denysenko@valpo.edu with questions.

October 14, 2025

New Publication: *Sacralizing Violence in Byzantium* by George E. Demacopoulos

Reception 5 p.m. / Lecture 6 p.m. (Great Hall, McShane Campus Center, Rose Hill Campus)

George E. Demacopoulos's new book *Sacralizing Violence in Byzantium* examines a significant transformation in Byzantine Christian thought during the seventh century. Through detailed analysis of liturgical texts and hymnography, Demacopoulos demonstrates how Byzantine worship evolved to incorporate martial themes following the loss of Jerusalem to foreign armies. His research reveals the mechanisms by which theological discourse adapted to legitimize imperial military campaigns.

The work will be discussed by Susan Ashbrook Harvey (Brown University) Nina Glibetic (Yale University) and Alexander Lingas (St. Vladimir's Seminary) and moderated by Brenna Moore, chair of the Department of Theology (Fordham).

October 29, 2025

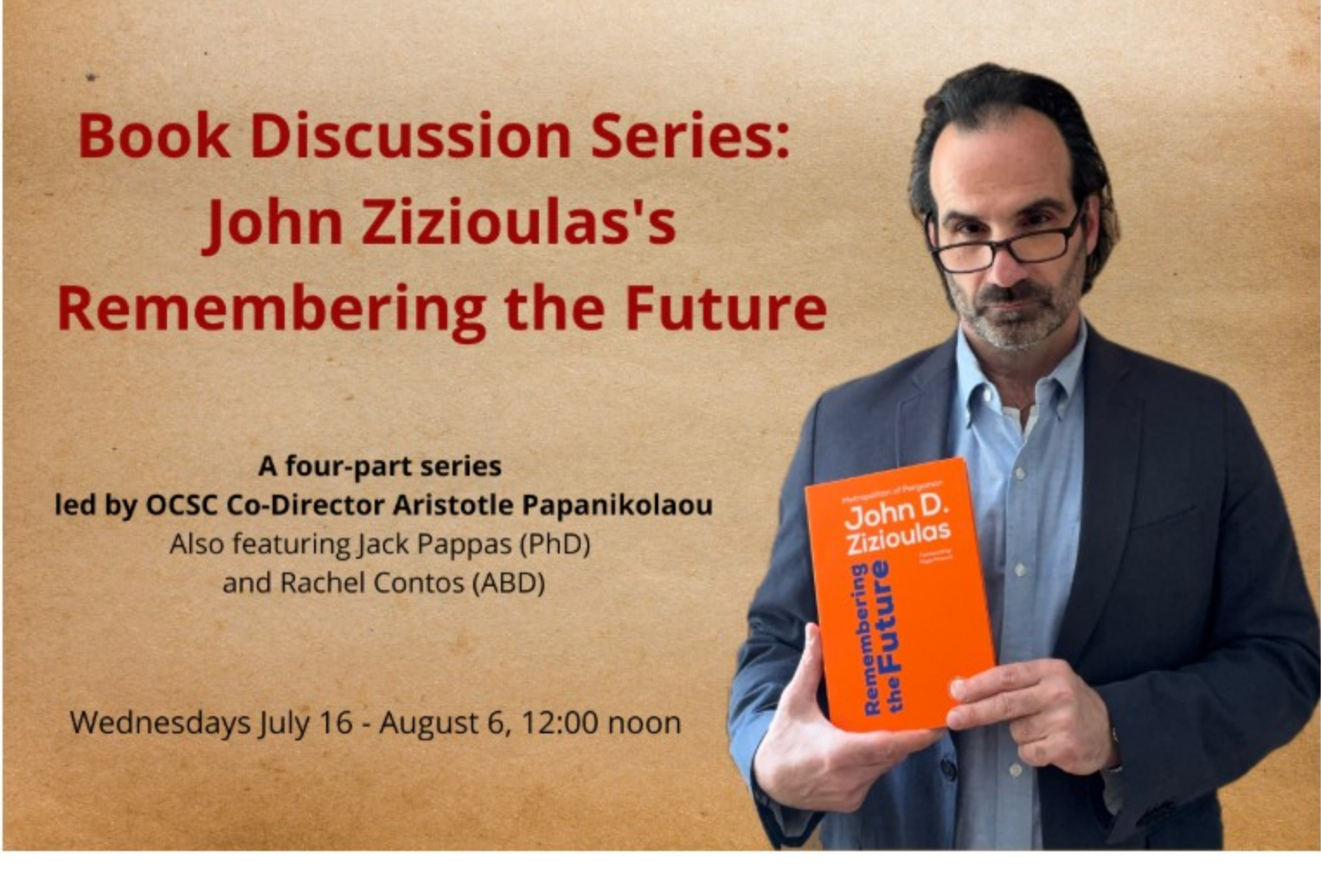
Economos Orthodoxy in America Lecture

6.00 p.m. (Rose Hill/McShane Great Hall)

Reclaiming 'Orthodoxy': Clarifying Our Ecclesial Vocabulary

Lecture by Sr. Vassa Larin

OCSC YouTube Channel



Book Discussion Series: John Zizioulas's *Remembering the Future*

This four-part video series captures our summer 2024 book discussion of Metropolitan John Zizioulas's final major work, *Remembering the Future: Toward an Eschatological Ontology*.

Led by OCSC Co-Director Aristotle Papanikolaou and featuring contributions from Jack Pappas (PhD) and Rachel Contos (ABD), these sessions explore Zizioulas's groundbreaking theological synthesis completed shortly before his death in 2023.

Each session begins with opening commentary from our panelists, followed by vibrant Q&A discussions with participants. The conversations delve into Zizioulas's distinctive approach to eschatology, personhood, and being itself—themes that defined his theological legacy.

Originally held via Zoom on Wednesdays from July 16 through August 6, 2024, these recordings offer both an introduction to Zizioulas's thought and deeper engagement with one of contemporary Orthodoxy's most influential theologians.

[Part One: Introduction](#)

[Part Two: Chapter 1](#)

[Part Three: Chapter 2-3](#)

[Part Four: Chapter 4](#)

Recently on Public Orthodoxy

Recent Good Reads:

- Very Rev. Dr. Isaac Skidmore: [Holy Attachment: Sharing in Christ's Experience of Nurture by the Mother of God](#)
- Rev. Dr. Aleksei Volchkov: [Nicaea and the Phantom Pains of Orthodoxy: Reflections on Church, Society, and the State](#)
- Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions: [LGBTQ+ Experience and Orthodox Tradition](#)
- Nik Jovčić-Sas: [We Need to Talk About Trans People](#)

Some recent Short Reads, in case you missed them:

- Dr. Paul Ladouceur: [Georges Florovsky and the Mind of the Fathers](#)
- Very Rev. Dr. Robert Arida: [African Democracy, Orthodoxy, and the Law A Warning from Pre-Revolutionary Russia](#)
- Rev. Dr. Gregory Tucker: [The Place on Which You Stand is Holy Ground: The Significance of the Monastery of Mount Sinai](#)
- Sergei Chapnin: [Another Attempt to Break the Silence: Why Orthodox Christians in America Must Stand with the Persecuted in Russia](#)
- Christopher Huth, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon: [Taybeh Under Attack: The Erasure of Christianity in the Holy Land](#)
- Dmytro Vovk: [Dancing to the Ban: The Ukrainian Government Is Preparing to Liberate Ukrainian Orthodoxy from "Moscow Devils"](#)
- Rev. Dr. Andria Saria: [Fundamentalism in the Georgian Orthodox Church and Generational Estrangement](#)
- Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions: [LGBTQ+ Experience and Orthodox Tradition: A Response to Edith Humzart](#)
- Joshua Matthan Brown: [Nazir Art, Ancient Faith Radio, and the Ethics of Discussing Fascism](#)
- Dr. John Fotopoulos: [Dealmaking or Gift Giving? On St. Phanourios and Phanouropita Cakes](#)
- Rev. Miltiades B. Efthimiou: [A Collection of Life Stories with Stops Along the Way](#)
- Susanna Kharatyan: [Reflections from the International Religious Freedom Summit](#)
- Summer Kinard: [Where Are All the Women? A Church Unrecognizable to Nicaea](#)
- Alexandra de Moffarts: [Time Travel and Theology Or, Timey-Wimey Theology](#)
- Apostolia Karagianni: [In Memory of Chrysostomos Stamoulis \(1964 – 2025\): An Academic Teacher who Theologized at the "Height of Love"](#)