

St. Andrew Fall Retreat

Saturday, November 18, 2023

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons: On the Apostolic Preaching

Presented by Brian Ephrem Fitzgerald, PhD

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (c. 130-202), was born in Smyrna in Asia Minor and had childhood memories of the life and teachings of Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 70-156). In his adulthood he migrated to the Roman West, probably spending some time in Rome where he very likely encountered Saint Justin the Martyr (c. 100-165), under whose influence he clearly fell. During the reign of Marcus Aurelius (r. 161-180), Saint Irenaeus became a presbyter in Lyons and would soon be made bishop of that see. As the author of *Against Heresies* and *On the Apostolic Preaching*, he is the first of the great Patristic Fathers of the Church. Having known Saint Polycarp, a living bridge to the Apostolic era, and having studied the works of Saint Justin Martyr, Saint Irenaeus opens the Patristic era with firm roots in both the Apostolic and sub-Apostolic eras. Yet he is more than a transitional figure. He is the first in the line of the great Patristic Fathers, proclaiming a mature message of the economy of God's plan of salvation as well as defending the true faith against the multi-headed threat of heresy. He is a great resource for and proclaimer of the Orthodox Christian faith.



Brian Fitzgerald is an independent scholar, adjunct professor at Eastern University, and long-term Orthodox Christian with publications at Liverpool University Press, the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, and the Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. He has special interests in Byzantine and Syriac Christian history and theology, as well as Roman, Late Antique, Byzantine, and Middle Eastern history in general. He also has a series of online Patristic-related lectures freely available at the URL: https://sites.google.com/site/brianephrem/adult_patristic_studies

Retreat Schedule:

- 09:30 am: Coffee and welcome
- 10:00 am: Third Hour and First Presentation: Saint Irenaeus of Lyons: His Life, Times, and Works
- 11:15 am: Break
- 11:30 am: Second Presentation: The Economy of God's Salvation
- 12:45 pm: Lunch
- 02:00 pm: Sixth Hour and Third Presentation: Saint Irenaeus' Biblical Hermeneutics
- 03:15 pm: Break
- 03:30 pm: Fourth Presentation: Wrapping up the Apostolic Kerygma Q & A

All are welcome to remain for coffee, fellowship, and Vespers at 6:00 pm.

Lunch will be provided. (Free-will offerings will be accepted)

Please register so we may plan accordingly:

♦ Email standrewlewes@gmail.com

St. Andrew Orthodox Church

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Saint Ireneaus of Lyons: On the Apostolic Preaching

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