

2009  
15th Annual

**The Eagle River Institute** of Orthodox Christian Studies, sponsored by Saint John Orthodox Cathedral, is held each summer August 1-5, and offers sixteen hours of college-level instruction in a variety of Orthodox topics, including Theology, History, Liturgy, Spirituality, and Scriptural Studies. While the primary aim of the Institute is to offer ongoing Christian instruction to Orthodox Christians in Alaska, it is also open to any who wish to attend, and each year the Institute has been enriched by those who have travelled from outside of the state to attend.

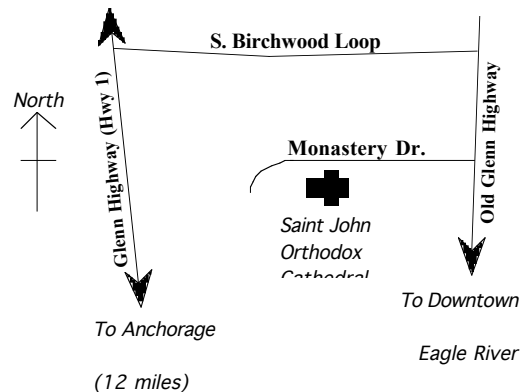
**St. John Orthodox Cathedral** is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese in North America, led by Metropolitan PHILIP. The Cathedral and 55 acres of church land are situated at the base of the Chugach Mountains, 12 miles outside Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. The facilities of the Cathedral include St. John's School, the St. James House, and St. Sergius of Radonezh Chapel. The sessions of the Institute are structured so as to allow time during the day for those who wish to take advantage of local attractions such as hiking, fishing, or sightseeing.

**Lodging, Meals and Transportation are the responsibility of the participants.** The Anchorage International Airport is a 40-minute drive from Eagle River. In addition to the many hotels in Anchorage, Eagle River has a Microtel Inn (907) 622-6000 and several fine restaurants in the downtown area. A limited amount of lodging is also available on the Church property; please call (907) 696-2002 for more information. A simple meal will be provided between sessions for out of town guests. Childcare can also be arranged for a small fee.

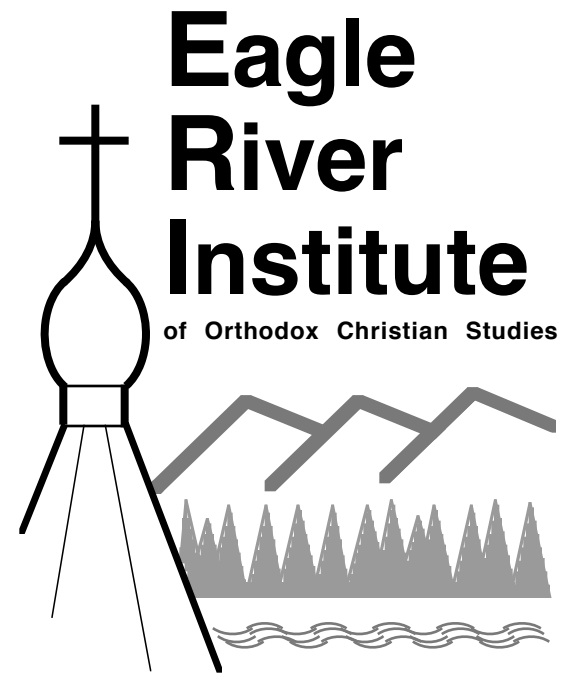
Most Americans are familiar with Catholicism and Protestantism, but few know much about **the Orthodox Church**. At the same time, many Orthodox Christians today are desiring to learn more about their Faith. The Eagle River Institute aims to contribute locally to addressing these needs and to the general building up of the Orthodox Church in Alaska and in North America.

**Directions from Anchorage to St. John's**

- Take the Glenn Highway (Hwy 1) North out of Anchorage.
- Go approximately 12 miles past Muldoon Road (last overpass on the way out of Anchorage).
- Exit onto South Birchwood Loop and turn right (toward mountains).
- Go to end and turn right onto Old Glenn Highway.
- Turn right onto Monastery Drive (first road to right).
- The Cathedral is one half-mile down Monastery Drive.



*A reason to visit Alaska  
this summer...*



**August 1-5, 2009**

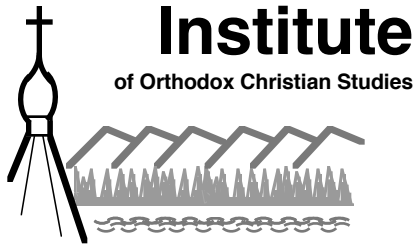
**Christianity and Crisis**

**Dr. Christopher Veniamin  
and  
Author, Rod Dreher**

Sponsored by  
Saint John Orthodox Cathedral  
P.O. Box 1108, Eagle River, Alaska, 99577  
stjohnalaska.org (907) 696-2002  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

out of town guests. Cancellations can also be arranged for a small fee.

# Eagle River Institute



**August 1 - 5, 2009**

## Christianity and Crisis

**Cost: \$50 per "Track"**

**(No Charge for High School and College Students)**

Registration will take place on August 1.  
For more information  
or travel or lodging needs, write or call:

St. John Orthodox Cathedral  
P.O. Box 1108 Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
(907) 696-2002  
(e-mail: StJohnERI@aol.com)

Audio tapes will be recorded  
and made available by  
"Orthodox Christian Cassettes"  
2919 N. 56th Street  
Springdale, AR 72762  
e-mail: occassette@aol.com



**Dr. Christopher Venamin**



**Rod Dreher**

## "Track 1" - Orthopraxy: Living Rightly in the Modern World

**Rod Dreher**

Rod Dreher holds a B.A. in journalism from Louisiana State University. Raised a Methodist, he later converted to Roman Catholicism and then to Orthodoxy in 2006. In the same year Rod published his best-selling book Crunchy Cons. He is a sought after commentator and author, and currently writes for the Dallas Morning News. Rod is married and the father of three children.

4 Sessions

- 1) The Benedict Option: Why Orthodox Christians Should Pioneer New Forms of Community
- 2) Eating to Live: Mindfulness, Morality and Our Complicated Relationship to Food
- 3) Morality and Marketplace: Orthodox Approaches to a Humane Economy
- 4) Orthodoxy and the Medicine of the Future: The Surprising Connections Among Ancient Christian Wisdom, the New Physics, and "Heterodox" Healing

## "Track 2" - Lessons from Wisdom of Saint Silouan the Athonite: "Keep Thy Mind in Hell and Despair Not"

**Dr. Christopher Venamin**

Dr. Christopher Venamin was born in London, England, of Greek Cypriot parents. A love for the Church and a desire to learn more about the Orthodox faith came as a direct result of growing up in the spiritual climate of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist (Tolleshunt Knights, Essex, England), founded by Archimandrite Sophrony Sakharov. He studied at the University of Thessalonika and then received his PhD from the University of Oxford. He has been a resident faculty member at Saint Tikhon Seminary in Pennsylvania since 1994 and Professor of Patristics since 2005.

4 Sessions

- 1) Finding the Will of God
- 2) The Place for Obedience in the Christian Life
- 3) Prayer and the Imagination
- 4) More on Prayer: Personal and Liturgical

## 2009 INSTITUTE SCHEDULE

**Friday - July 31**

(7:00pm, Paraklesis)

**Saturday - August 1**

(9:15am, Third Hour Prayers)

9:30am - 11:30am "Track 1" - Session 1

**Sunday - August 2**

(9:00am, Matins 10:00am, Divine Liturgy)

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 2" - Session 1

Dinner Following

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 1" - Session 2

**Monday - August 3**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 2" - Session 2

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 1" - Session 3

**Tuesday - August 4**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 2" - Session 3

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Daily Vespers)

7:30pm - 9:30pm "Track 1" - Session 4

**Wednesday - August 5**

3:30pm - 5:30pm "Track 2" - Session 4

Dinner Following

(7:00pm, Great Vespers for the Feast)

8:00pm - 9:00pm Final Session

### "Participation and Integration"

This informal session will be held on the last day of the Institute. It will provide participants the opportunity to discuss the material presented in both "tracks" and to discover ways to apply what they have learned to their own lives.

**Thursday, August 6 - Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

6:30pm - Divine Liturgy

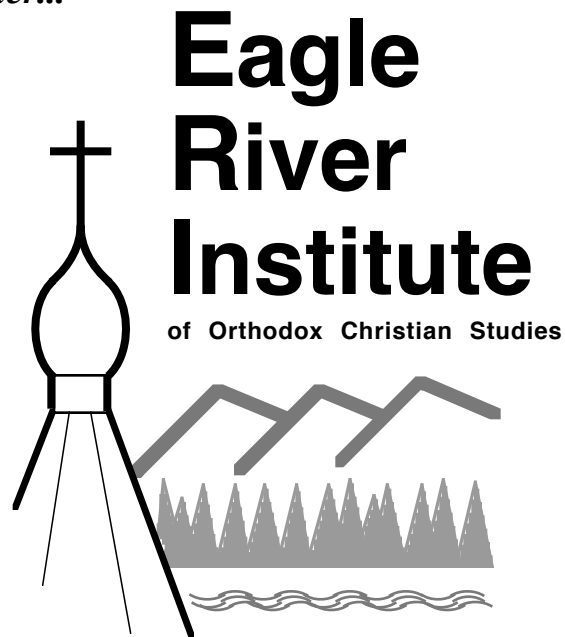
### OTHER EVENTS

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Aug 7 - 9**

Annual Pilgrimage to Kodiak and Spruce Island on the Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Herman of Alaska. Information can be obtained by visiting our website at: [stjohنالaska.org/institute](http://stjohنالaska.org/institute), or by writing to the ERI Pilgrimage Coordinator, John Morrison (e-mail: [jpiper51@gmail.com](mailto:jpiper51@gmail.com)).

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**Dr. Christopher  
Veniamin**

**Lessons from Wisdom of  
Saint Silouan the Athonite:  
“Keep Thy Mind in Hell and  
Despair Not”**

- 1) Finding the Will of God
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**Author,  
Rod Dreher**



**Orthopraxy: Living Rightly in  
the Modern World**

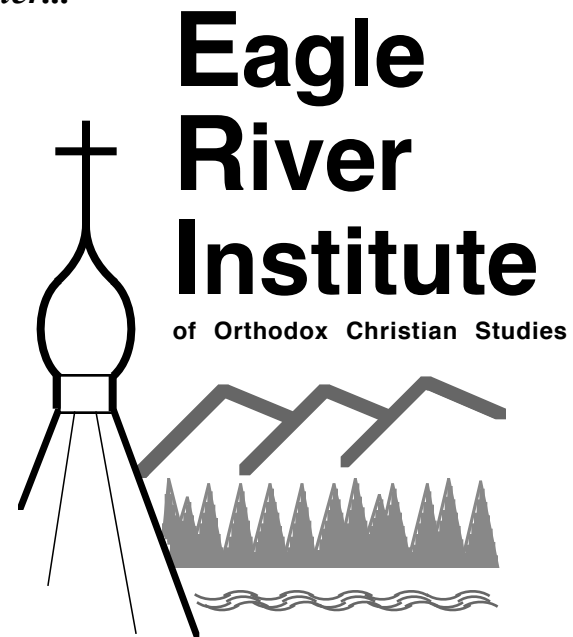
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