

History of Christendom

Despite many problematic events, Western Civilization, sometimes also referred to as Christendom, is the greatest in the history of the world because it has been infused with the spirit of Jesus Christ.

A 10-session class will be offered at Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church, 9-10 AM in classroom 2 every other Sunday beginning on September 8, 2019 for all interested individuals 12 years and older, including adults. Michael Schell will lead the class, using as primary sources: A History of Christendom series, a six-volume series by Warren Carroll (founder of Christendom College), Heroism and Genius: How Catholic Priests Helped Build – And Can Help Rebuild – Western Civilization by Fr. William J. Slattery, Western Culture Today and Tomorrow by Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI), and Tried by Fire: The Story of Christianity's First Thousand Years by William J. Bennett. Some Hilaire Belloc, G.K. Chesterton, and Arnold Toynbee will get woven in as well.

The 10 sessions are:

- 1) The Age of the Martyrs (30-312 AD) – September 8
- 2) The Age of the Church Fathers (312-604 AD) – September 22
- 3) The Holy Roman Empire and The Papal States (604-867 AD) – October 6
- 4) Expansion of Christendom and Resistance (867-1085 AD) – October 20
- 5) The Glory of Christendom and the 13th Century Peak: Saints Dominic, Francis, and Thomas Aquinas (1085-1378 AD) – November 3
- 6) The Renaissance and the New World (1378-1517 AD) – November 17
- 7) The Protestant Reformation and the Council of Trent (1517-1618 AD) – December 1
- 8) Treaty of Westphalia, and Enlightenment Speculative Philosophy: Descartes to Voltaire (1618-1775 AD) – December 15
- 9) American and French Revolutions through the Napoleonic Age and WWI (1776-1918 AD) – January 12
- 10) The Crisis of Christendom in the Modern Age (1918-present) – January 26.

Warren Carroll says, "Christendom is the reign of Christ – that is to say, for the Christian, the reign of God recognized by men ... Christendom has faded today, to the edge of invisibility."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI laments, "Here we notice a self-hatred in the Western world that is strange and that can be considered pathological; yes, the West is making a praiseworthy attempt to be completely open to understanding foreign values, but it no longer loves itself ... Europe needs a new -- and certainly a critical and humble -- acceptance of itself, that is, if it wants to survive."

Chesterton ends *The Everlasting Man* by saying, "[Christendom] has endured for nearly two thousand years; and the world within it has been more lucid, more level-headed, more reasonable in its hopes, more healthy in its instincts, more cheerful in the face of fate and death, than all the world outside. For it was the soul of Christendom that came forth from the incredible Christ; and the soul of it was common sense."

Slattery notes: "The builders of the West deciphered the deepest meaning of time's passage by recognizing that because of the creation and the redemption, history is mysteriously both his story and ours".

Bennett adds, "I hope that your faith will be strengthened by reading the accounts of those who have come, thought, written, and suffered before us."

Please join us to discuss how Christ has triumphantly steered the barque of Peter for 2000 years!