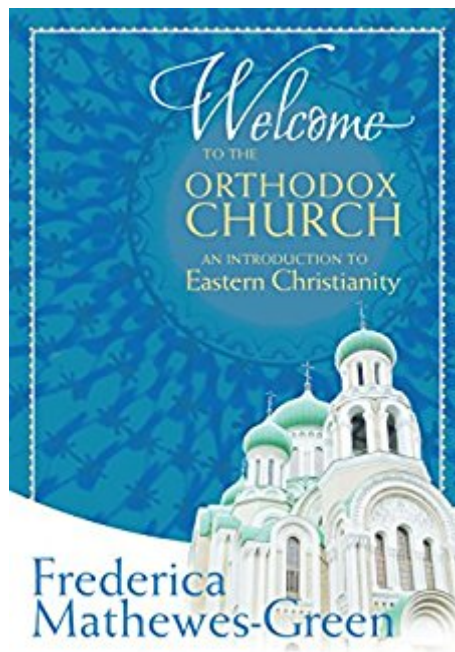




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# Welcome To The Orthodox Church: An Introduction To Eastern Christianity



## Synopsis

There are other introductory books about Orthodoxy. This one comprehensively covers the history, theology, and practice without talking over your head. Mathewes-Green takes the original approach of bringing you into a typical church for a series of visits. That is how Christians learned the faith for most of history, by coming into a community and keeping their eyes and ears open. Designed primarily for newcomers to come to understand Orthodoxy and Orthodox Christians, this guide to the faith is also a non-threatening and accessible introduction to people already "in the pews."

• Inviting rather than argumentative, this is a book Orthodox Christians will be giving to their friends. "Plenty of books deal with Christian theology in weighty and abstruse ways, but few apply the theology so wholly to the everyday lived realities of life, and in such easily accessible prose, as does *Welcome to the Orthodox Church*. Take warning, though: if you do read this thoughtful, passionate book, you run the risk of having to take the claims of Orthodox Christianity very seriously indeed."

• Philip Jenkins, Baylor University "How do you introduce (Eastern) Orthodoxy? Frederica suggests we treat it as a large, and muchloved, family house. She takes us round it, showing us all the rooms and what goes on in them. . . . There is lots of information, and she deals directly with problems to be encountered. This is a wonderful book."

• The Very Revd Archpriest Andrew Louth, Durham University, author of *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology* "With exhilarating clarity, Frederica Mathewes-Green introduces the profound mystery at the heart of the Orthodox Christian faith, which is also our common inheritance: it is a way of life to be encountered and performed; it is not reducible to a range of propositions to be considered. With great charm and with characteristic wit and humor, she prepares the way for those who arrive at an Orthodox church for services, letting them know what to expect, what to watch for, how to lean in, letting them know how best to open their hearts to this worship that is both ancient and ever new."

• Scott Cairns "In her own warm and engaging way, Frederica takes you on a journey into a strange and exotic world for those unfamiliar with it but a spiritual refuge and oasis for those who have embraced it. This just may be the Church you have been looking for and didn't even know it existed."

• John Maddex, CEO Ancient Faith Ministries "Beautifully written and carefully explained with a heart for the non-Orthodox. As an evangelical, who grew up in the Greek Orthodox Church, until being shipped off to boarding school in England, I found myself longing to revisit the liturgy and traditions of my youth!"

• Emmanuel Kampouris, Former Chairman & CEO of American Standard Companies, Founder of [www.biblemesh.com](http://www.biblemesh.com) "This excellent book is most valuable because it is more like a friend than a book. It's the voice you hope to hear beside you in church, murmuring explanations

and encouragement as you make your journey. I highly recommend it." — Rev. Dr. Christopher Metropulos, Executive Director, Orthodox Christian Network, MyOCN.net

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the best crafted books I have read. For someone new to Orthodoxy, as am I, this book may be all you need to learn about the liturgy, history, and theology of the Faith. The author begins by describing the layout of an Orthodox church building, then leads you through the structure describing the parts of the church and the liturgical activities associated with each part. With each discussion, the author narrates the history and theology that is the foundation of that aspect of the liturgy. By the time you finish the book, you have a solid understanding of the liturgy, history, and theology of Orthodoxy. In addition to the craftsmanship of the writing, the book is very personal and easy to read. When I attended my first Orthodox service, I felt comfortable knowing what was happening, why it was happening, and amazed that this is what happened in the early church services 1900 years ago.

As a recent convert to Orthodoxy, I am overwhelmed by all that I have to learn. The writing style is like a personal narrative, so it's like a story one can relate to rather than cramming facts ...and yet it has explained and taught me more facts ....as well as opened up the meaning of the faith as nothing else i have yet read. I DO recommend this for all new to the faith.

This book is a very good starting point for an inquirer. It dispels and debunks a lot of the common misunderstandings that people of other Christian denominations may have encountered when looking at the Orthodox faith from the outside. It is a very gentle and non threatening...positive work, easy to read and understand. Reading this after attending Divine Liturgy over the years has given me a recognition, richness and understanding of the experience that I did not have previously. Highly recommend to non orthodox friends, family, or people who are just curious...or even to those Orthodox who have never received education about the traditions of the church. Wonderfully done.

By going on an imaginary walk through an Orthodox temple, the reader is introduced to a wide variety of topics about the Faith in a natural way. Though not comprehensive, this book does a good job hitting most of the major cognitive questions that people might have when first experiencing the Orthodox Church, and in an easy to follow, conversational format. There are also short videos that have been released on YouTube that parallel some of what has been said within these pages. Overall, a nicely executed and tasteful evangelistic tool within the Orthodox Church. Caveat Emptor: As might be expected from the author (though surely written in all sincerity), she does introduce the topic of women's ordination and propose a discussion about it for 3/4 of a page. This would be confusing to a new person coming into Orthodoxy who perhaps may not be expecting such a deviation in doctrinal position from an Orthodox author.

Incredible book! I converted to the Orthodox Church a couple of years ago. During that process (and since then) I have read many books on the subject and, although I love other introductions to the Orthodox Church, this one has been my favorite. Her explanation of the Orthodox view on salvation was, in itself, worth the money spent. This will be the book that I give to non-Orthodox family and friends to understand where we are. With that being said, those who have been Orthodox for for years could still have plenty to gain from this work.

This is by far one of the best books written on the Orthodox Christian Church. For someone new to

the church this is a must have! For someone interested in the church, this is a must have! For someone who's been in the church for many years, this is still a must have! Beautifully written by a beautiful author.

The writer did a great job writing this book.

My family converted to Orthodoxy this year. I am reading this book out loud to the kids every morning, and we are all leaning so much. I highly recommend this book.

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