

THE SOURCES

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IS
ROOTED IN HOLY TRADITION AND
HOLY SCRIPTURE.

HOLY TRADITION

- is the **ongoing life** of God's people;
- is the **total experience** of the Church as it has been *passed on or given over* to us from the time of Christ and the apostles; and
- is the **very life** of the Church itself as it is **inspired and guided** by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Tradition is composed of those things which are *essential* to the life and salvation of God's People. It should never be confused with the various *traditions* and *customs* often associated with Orthodox Christianity.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

is the foremost product of Holy Tradition.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures

- are the **word of God**;
- were written by men who were **inspired and guided** by the Holy Spirit; and
- are the very **self-revelation** of God Himself.

The Bible is a collection of books written and compiled over thousands of years by many different people.

- The **Old Testament** records God's revelation prior to the coming of Jesus Christ.
- The **New Testament** completes God's revelation by proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Saviour of all.

The Scriptures were produced by and for the Church.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES OF
OUR FAITH WHICH ARE ALSO EXPRESSIONS OF
HOLY TRADITION AND IN FULL HARMONY WITH
THE SCRIPTURES.

THE WRITINGS OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Certain other writings are regarded as sources of our faith. Foremost among them are **the writings of the Holy Fathers**, who *explained* the Church's essential teachings and *defended* the true faith.



PRAYER AND LITURGICAL WORSHIP

We are called to maintain a *personal rule of prayer* which is inseparably linked to the Church's **public worship**, or *liturgy*. **Liturgy** is the *common action* of God's People and an *encounter* with God Himself.

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

bear witness to God's Truth while serving to inspire us to also lead holy lives.



THE COUNCILS AND THE CANONS

In order to clarify essential doctrines and practices, the early Church held **seven Ecumenical Councils** under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The *definitions*, *creeds*, and *canon laws* which they produced are genuine expressions of our faith.

THE LITURGICAL ARTS

- **Icons** are works of *liturgical art* which depict Christ, the saints, or various events. They reveal God's Truth in line, form, and color while reminding us that we too are called to become *icons*, or *images*, of God.
- **Hymnography** is an equally important source of our faith. The texts of the various hymns serve to *instruct* as well as *offer praise and thanksgiving*.