Advent Retreat

"*Tradition and Change: Discerning God's Will for Us*"

All Saints Orthodox Church

205 Scarborough St, Hartford CT

Saturday November 21, 2026 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Father John Jillions



The Very Rev Dr John Jillions is past Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America and current president of the Orthodox Theological Society in America. He is one of the founders of The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, England, and continues to serve as a Visiting Professor and chairman of the Board of Directors. He has degrees from McGill University (BA), St Vladimir's Seminary (MDiv, DMin), and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (PhD, New Testament). He was Associate Professor of Theology at the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (Saint Paul University, Ottawa) and has taught in the Cambridge Theological Federation, St Vladimir's Seminary, and Fordham University. He is the author of *Divine Guidance: Lessons for Today from the World of Early Christianity* (Oxford) and a children's book, *The Christmas Story: Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem* (Xist). A new book, *Tradition and Change,* is forthcoming from Holy Cross Orthodox Press. As a priest for over forty years, he has served parishes in Australia, Greece, England, Canada and the US, and now lives in Hartford, CT with his wife Denise. In retirement from full-time parish ministry, he is attached to All Saints Church in Hartford and serves St Nicholas Church in Norwich, CT.

Retreat Description

At its best, tradition is good, restful, and life-giving. But Jesus Himself—following the Old Testament prophets—could be a severe critic when "the traditions of men" stood in the way of the Kingdom of God and doing His will "on earth as it is in heaven." This retreat—based on Fr John's forthcoming new book, *Tradition and Change*—will look at the tools for our spiritual life to be found in the Orthodox Tradition and then consider how we work the messy process of discerning God's will for our healing, growth, change, repentance, and transformation.

Our Advent Retreat begins at 10:30 a.m. and will conclude at 3 p.m. Lunch is included. A Twenty ($20) dollar donation is suggested. To register please go to:

https://allsaintshartford.org/church-events/