

## *Seeking the Face of Christ in Russia - An Experiential Pilgrimage*

*This pilgrimage is designed to build deeper bridges of cultural and spiritual understanding between American Christianity and the Orthodox faith in Holy Russia, introducing participants to the theology, spirituality, and philosophy of the Orthodox Church in Russia. In community, we will experience the arts and practices of Russian religious tradition. We will be enriched by entering into spiritual practices of another witness to Christ; personalized itineraries to monasteries, artist studios, iconography schools, seminaries, orphanages, cultural centers, to name a few, will offer unique experiences.*

Tour Itinerary

**Sunday, Sept. 26-** USA departure

**Monday, Sept. 27-** arrive in St. Petersburg in the afternoon/ lodging arrangements and dinner at restaurant (hotel night)

**Tuesday, Sept. 28-** breakfast and morning lecture and dialogue, city tour including afternoon excursion at St. Isaac's, dinner at restaurant (hotel night)

**Wednesday, Sept. 29-** breakfast, visit to St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra and grounds, visit to Fr. Gennady at Trinity Mikhailovskaya Cathedral with late lunch at his church (will see church renovations and hopefully a visit to his orphanage), ballet (hotel night)

**Thursday, Sept. 30-** day at the Hermitage, dinner at restaurant, leave for overnight train for Moscow

**Friday, Oct. 1-** arrive in Moscow in am, breakfast and lodging arrangements, city tour including interior of Christ the Savior Cathedral, free time on Red Square, dinner at restaurant (hotel night)

**Saturday, Oct. 2-** day excursion to Holy Trinity-St. Sergius, maybe stop at Sofrino (artesian factory of church wares, icons and vestments), dinner at restaurant (hotel night)

**Sunday, Oct. 3-** breakfast, Tretyakov, Kremlin museums, dinner at restaurant, overnight train back to St. Petersburg

**Monday, Oct. 4-** arrive back in St. Petersburg, breakfast at home stay, Russian Museum, free time, dinner at restaurant, visit to artists and/ or optional evening event

**Tuesday, Oct. 5-** breakfast at home stay, day excursion to Peterhof, free time in the city or visits to artists, dinner at home stay

**Wednesday, Oct. 6-** breakfast at home stay, all day excursion to Novgorod (9h00 to 21h00), dinner in Novgorod, return to hotel stay (hotel night)

**Thursday, Oct. 7-** breakfast, excursion to Pavlovsk/Catherine's Palace, visit to Fr. Valery and his church, The Miracle Worker St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pavlovsk- with late lunch at his church, open evening and or/optional evening ballet or opera (hotel night)

**Friday, Oct. 8-** breakfast and morning lecture and dialogue number 2- return visit to St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra and icon studio, perhaps guided tour at Sts. Peter and Paul Fortress, visit to children's hospice, celebration and good-bye dinner at restaurant with Russian colleagues and friends, (hotel night)

**Saturday, Oct. 9-** breakfast, open optional day - (a day with options of choice -shopping, imperial residences in the environs of St. Petersburg, F. Dostoyevsky in St. Petersburg, additional time at the Hermitage or the Russian Museum, visit to the Lomonosov Porcelain Factory), dinner at restaurant, optional evening event- opera or ballet, (hotel night)

**Sunday, Oct. 10th-** breakfast, very early morning departure and return to USA