



SOPHIA

INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ORTHODOX THOUGHT & CULTURE



Sophia Institute's NINTH Annual Intl. Conference

THE MYSTICAL THEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN CHURCH



Friday December 9TH 2016.

9.00 am to 6.00pm.

Sophia Institute. UTS. 3041 Broadway (at 121st St.)

New York, NY 10027. www.Sophia.Institute.com

Registration 8.00 am — 9.00 am

Registration Fee — payable at the door \$55. (check or cash only)

General Conference queries to Prof. J. A. McGuckin

jam401@columbia.edu

+ Note the New Date: Friday Dec. 9th +

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**V Revd. Prof. John Behr, Rev. Prof. Paul Gavrilyuk, Prof. Fr. John McGuckin,
Rev Dr. Clair McPherson, Rev Dr. Paul Blowers**

There are a few spaces remaining for offers of short academic papers (20 minutes allocation) from those with a Master's degree or higher, on a topic of close relation to the Conference Topic. Titles, please, with one page short Abstracts, email and address details, to: Prof. John McGuckin jam401@columbia.edu **STRICTLY BEFORE OCTOBER 30th 2016 the closure date, for all short paper offers.**

The Conference will take place on the campus of Union Theological Seminary (3041 Broadway @ 121st St, New York, NY 10027). On Friday, December 9th, 2016. The Day-long gathering (9.am to 6.00 pm—with registration beginning at 8 am), will focus on the various ways the Eastern Orthodox Church, over past centuries and in recent times, has approached the dominant and central theme of spiritual transcendence. The Conference title clearly evokes the work of Vladimir Lossky, whose study of this name was so influential in opening up to the wider Christian world aspects of the inner spiritual traditions of Orthodoxy. Our approach to the concept will probably follow a wider arc: considering the Orthodox world's approach to spirituality through philosophy, theology, asceticism, literature, monastic and lay prayer traditions, as well as liturgy. Correlated themes such as the evocation of a transcendent ethos in Church architecture and art are equally possible ways of approaching the notion: as clearly are also ethical and political avenues of enquiry. We will cover a time span from The New Testament, through Byzantium, to contemporary Church life. The Orthodox Church has an ancient and immensely rich spiritual tradition that embraces the so-called 'mystical' (or secret) inner theological tradition, as well as at the same time fully embodying the more public paths of a world-engaged and committed manner of living in society.... the mysticism of "liturgie après la liturgie." Our keynote Speakers are Internationally renowned experts on the concept.

*The Sophia Annual Conferences are aimed at producing scholarly volumes on major themes of Orthodox life and Culture that require exposition and re-statement in our modern world. We believe that the present Conference Topic will be of great interest, because of its outstanding importance in a world thirsting for authentic sources of Christian Spirituality. We will plan for it as a volume in our **Sophia Studies in Orthodox Theology** Series that will continue the ground-breaking approach characteristic of previous Conferences.*