



The Very Reverend James Coles was born in Dallas, Texas and grew up Roman Catholic. He was involved in Young Life in high school and college and met his wife, Kh. Karen, while they were both working at a youth camp in Colorado. He graduated from Texas Tech in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies and moved to Tucson, AZ to court Kh. Karen. In Tucson, he worked as the youth director at an Episcopal Church and they were married that following year. They moved to Los Angeles for another youth director position at the Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills and a few years later moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico for Fr. to work for Young Life as the Area Director. It was while working for Young Life in Santa Fe that Fr. James and Kh. Karen joined the Orthodox Church. Their two oldest children, Emma and John, were born in Santa Fe.

In 2000 they packed up and moved to New York for seminary. In the Spring of 2003, Fr. James was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Theophany, their son, Samuel, was born in April, and Fr. graduated from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Fr. James was the assistant pastor at St. George in Houston from 2003-2005 and has been the pastor of Saint Ignatius in Mesa, AZ since 2005. He took a Doctorate in Eastern Christian Studies in 2016. His dissertation was on Confession. He has served as the Youth Director for the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and as the National Chaplain for the Orthodox College Fellowship. He is currently the Missions Coordinator for the Diocese and directs the biennial Clergy Symposium for the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Thursday 4 July, 2024 10:30 Am – 12:00 PM

*May it be Blessed: The Life and Teaching of Elder Symeon Kragiopolous*