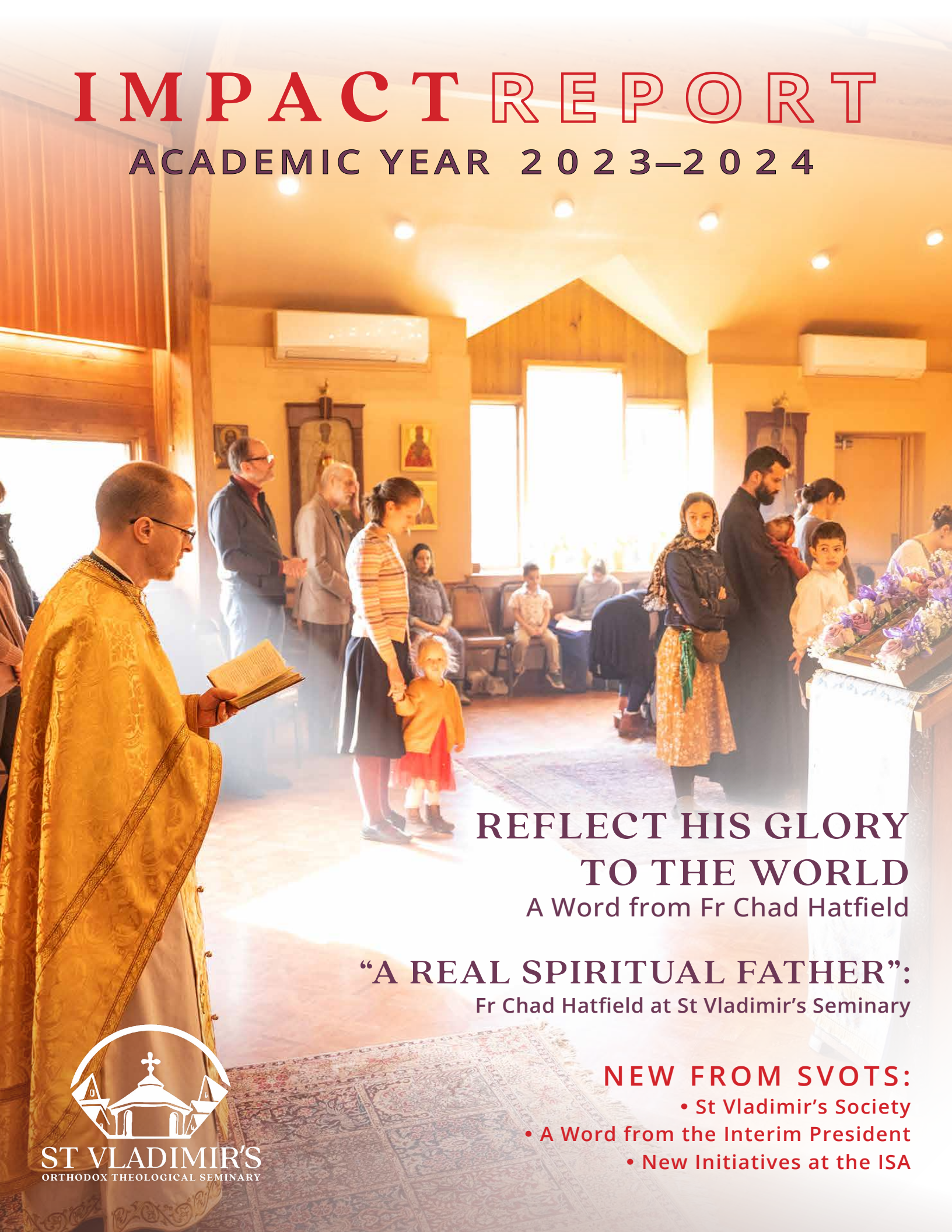


IMPACT REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024



REFLECT HIS GLORY TO THE WORLD

A Word from Fr Chad Hatfield

“A REAL SPIRITUAL FATHER”:

Fr Chad Hatfield at St Vladimir’s Seminary

NEW FROM SVOTS:

- St Vladimir’s Society
- A Word from the Interim President
- New Initiatives at the ISA



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ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Values, Purpose & Mission

VALUES

SERVANT LEADERSHIP We are **servants** of Jesus Christ and His Church.

EDUCATION We are an educational **resource** for Orthodox Christians worldwide.

MISSION We are a **ministry** of and for the Church.

STEWARDSHIP We are twenty-first-century **apologists** for the Orthodox Christian Faith.

PURPOSE

The purpose of St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary is to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by bearing witness to Him throughout the world.

MISSION

We train priests, lay leaders, and scholars to be active apologists of the Orthodox Christian Faith, focusing on academic rigor and spiritual formation within a residential Orthodox community.

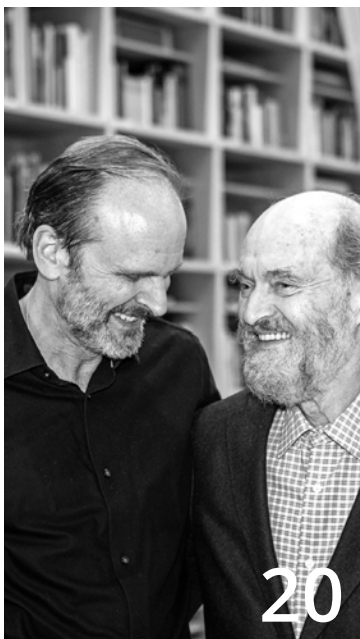


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A Word from the Board of Trustees

Bringing the Truth to the World



Dear Friends of St Vladimir's Seminary,

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support of our beloved St Vladimir's Seminary. Your prayers, generosity, and advocacy are the pillars that uphold our evangelical mission. Without you, we would not have been able to achieve all that we have.

St Vladimir's Seminary, in its training of Orthodox clergy and lay leaders, SVS Press, and theological and academic excellence, is the shining light on the hill, witnessing to the Truth. And we have much work to do.

The extraordinary number of seekers and catechumens that our parishes are experiencing is a great joy and blessing but also a manifestation of a society that has lost its way. Moral relativism and the rejection of the traditional understanding of family and community, truth, beauty, goodness, and right and wrong have left so many sinking with no firm footing to orient their lives. In coming to Orthodoxy, these seekers

are looking for and finding solid ground. That solid ground is the Truth, and the Truth is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To bring that Truth to those who are hungering for reality, we need more priests. Even before this evangelical awakening, the Church was facing an impending critical priest shortage at a time of unprecedented societal division and upheaval. Our priests will have to speak to contemporary issues of economics, poverty, environment, gender, marriage, and sexuality. The Church must wade into the heated waters of the culture wars, not to take sides but to bring peace by framing and explaining these controversies within the unchanging Orthodox Tradition.

The seminary has much work to do but faces operational challenges. The seminary chronically suffers from inadequate financial resources, resulting in budget deficits that are slowly consuming our endowment. The high cost of living and housing expenses in our location of Westchester County exacerbate our financial difficulties. Our beautiful campus is aging, and projected maintenance costs are significant. The seminary's legacy data systems for finance, academics, advancement, and SVS Press are in need of updating and integration.

Still, we have much to be thankful for and to celebrate at St Vladimir's Seminary. Over the last several years, the seminary has grown the student body, filled out a renowned faculty, and strengthened its worldwide reputation as a premier center of Orthodox education. Because of St Vladimir's Seminary's educational and academic excellence, broad outreach through SVS Press, and pan-Orthodox ethos, the seminary is uniquely positioned to serve the Church across our many jurisdictional and national boundaries. These accomplishments speak to the tireless work of our staff and faculty,



Your faithful support and prayers ensure St Vladimir’s Seminary continues to send men and women into the world to share God’s everlasting peace. **(Top left)** Chaplain Sarah Byrne-Martelli (D.Min. ‘19) is an author, grief coach, and Senior Chaplain for the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Sarah says she is nourished by the courage, love, and endurance of the people she serves, and that the M.Div. program at St Vladimir’s Seminary has equipped her with a new framework to think about ministry in this age. **(Top right)** Fr Andrew Salvia (M.Div. ‘23) serves as the Assistant Pastor at St Elias Orthodox Church in Austin, TX, under the Antiochian Archdiocese, where they have experienced an influx of catechumens. Fr Andrew talks about how his experience at St Vladimir’s Seminary prepared him for the life of ministry on pp. 30–31. **(Bottom)** When thousands of refugees arrived in Wrocław, Poland, where Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak (M.Div. ‘06) lives, he worked tirelessly to help organize a special event to welcome arriving families.

and particularly to the leadership and vision of our retiring president, Fr Chad Hatfield. We will miss him dearly.

The seminary Board of Trustees and the staff are addressing our operational issues. We have started the process of finding our next president and CEO. Until that is accomplished, the Board has confidently entrusted Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie to serve as interim seminary president and CEO.

By God’s grace and His faithfuls’ support—and your prayer, talent, and treasure—we can grow St Vlad-

imir’s Seminary’s mission and impact to serve the Church, proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a country and world so in need of that Truth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas Pandelidis".

Nicholas Pandelidis, M.D.
Outgoing Executive Chair, St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary Board of Trustees

A Word from Fr Chad Hatfield

Reflect His Glory to the World



Fr Chad presiding over Pascha Liturgy at Three Hierarchs Chapel, April 2023.

From our humble beginnings through today, St Vladimir’s Seminary has responded to God’s call—to train men and women to be active apologists for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We remain focused on academic rigor and spiritual and pastoral formation within a residential Orthodox community. The seminary is a community of discernment for vocations, and this includes our institutional vocations.

In Matthew 5.14, God says we are the light of the world, a light that cannot be hidden. We need to stand up for our Faith, for God, and reflect His glory to the world. Further, as Orthodox Christians, we are

We are thrilled to mark sixty years of clean financial audits at St Vladimir’s Seminary. It is a significant achievement in our institutional history and underscores our ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. This milestone reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff, faculty, and leadership who have consistently upheld the values that define our institution.

Scan to read full 2023 Financial Report online or go to pp. 40-41 for a financial summary!

www.svots.edu/about/financials

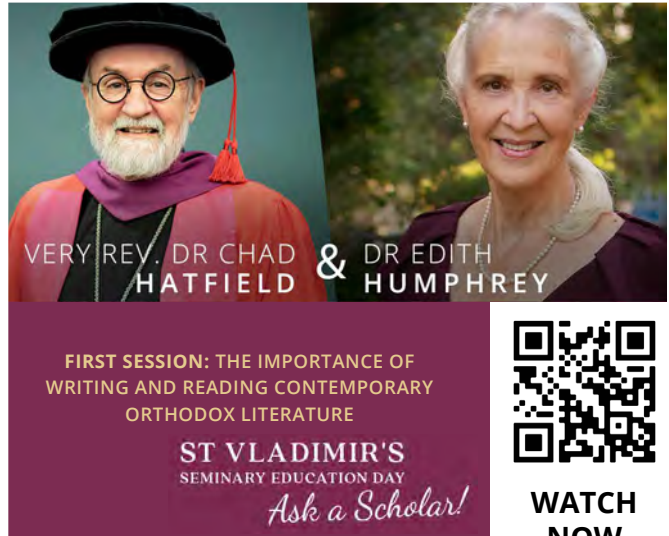


commanded to gather those who wish to preserve and promote Orthodox Christianity in sacred spaces for spiritual formation, and to band together as a “city on a hill” that cannot be hidden.

The Orthodox Church is experiencing a growth explosion. Since the pandemic, there has been a remarkable number of catechumens entering into all North American jurisdictions. We find these individuals are mostly male and between the ages of eighteen and forty. They are wrestling with their own mortality and have turned to the Orthodox Faith to find solace.

It is clear to me that people are hungry for God’s Truth, to know more about the Orthodox Christian Faith, and to walk as children of light.

We have not only experienced an influx of new catechumens, but those interested in ministry service, as well. Classes resumed in August and thirty new seminarians joined us. We have a total of ninety-three seminarians living on campus from eighteen jurisdictions and ten countries. Forty-eight families with forty-four children also live, study, worship, and play here.



(Top) Life on campus is full of opportunities for our many families and their children to build deep friendships and enjoy fellowship. **(Bottom left)** During the 2023–2024 Academic Year Orientation, Fr Chad addressed the entire student body, exhorting them to approach their seminary education with a balanced, prayerful mindset. “The formation you receive at St Vladimir’s Seminary should look like a three-legged milking stool. Academic formation, pastoral formation, and spiritual formation—each one of these is an essential aspect of your training here as future clergy and lay leaders who will go out into the world and serve the Church.” **(Bottom right)** During Education Day 2023, SVOTS President, the Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield, and Dr Edith Humphrey lead the first session: “The Importance of Writing and Reading Contemporary Orthodox Literature.” Watch the conversation online at www.youtube.com/@StVladimirsSeminary.

Even with the increase of seminarians, we still have a great need for priests, lay leaders, and missionaries.

As you may have heard, **I am retiring as President of St Vladimir’s Seminary effective July 1, 2024.** I feel truly blessed and honored to have served the seminary for seventeen years. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. You have played a vital role in the success of the seminary and seminarians.

In the following pages, we are delighted to share more about what you have made possible, through seminarians, faculty, staff, and SVS Press. Thanks be to God for you!

Yours faithfully in Christ,

The Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield
Outgoing President, St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

A Word from the Academic Dean & Interim President

Renewing Our Focus



The seminary now finds itself in a process of transition that will eventually lead to the selection of new leadership. It is always difficult and challenging when a long-tenured and respected leader, such as Fr Chad Hatfield, who has worked tirelessly and faithfully for the Church and the seminary, moves on. We find ourselves at a crossroads as we look ahead to new leadership. It is not the seminary's first such moment, nor will it be the last; but we do have the opportunity for a fresh look at how best to do our work as an academic institution at the service of the Church. We find ourselves in a position to recommit to a model of teaching in service to the Church that is Christ-centered, student-focused, and education-driven.

Christ-centered

Perhaps the most important aspect of what we do at St Vladimir's Seminary is our building on the work of those who have labored selflessly before us. At the most fundamental level, this means that the cornerstone of the teaching and formation that go on

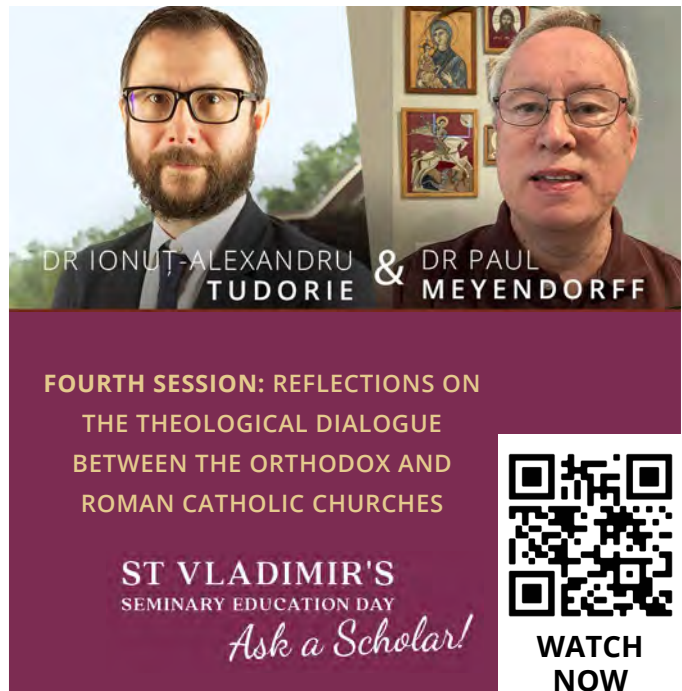
at the seminary is—as it has been since its founding—the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only by keeping Christ as the center of all of our work can we fulfill our calling to be a resource of the Church and for the Church, and to accomplish our mission to “train priests, lay leaders, and scholars of the Orthodox Christian Faith by focusing on academic rigor and spiritual formation within a residential Orthodox community.”

Student-focused

Ultimately, St Vladimir's Seminary was founded to serve the Orthodox Church by serving the students entrusted to us for theological education and spiritual formation. These seminarians, and the potential they hold for the Church today and the Church tomorrow, are the purpose of all of our education, formation, training, and research. The testimony of our graduates in North America and all over the world is humbling and encouraging: our alumni and current seminarians love the seminary and value their experience. Our ongoing life at the seminary entails a constant recommitment to our students and their formation. Every year brings new challenges—the past year was no exception—that invite us to learn afresh how to be responsive to the community and enrich the student experience, the better to cultivate the spiritual and pastoral gifts our graduates will offer to the Church and the world.

Education-driven

St Vladimir's Seminary is not an institution with an academic department. The seminary is by nature an educational institution in service of the Church. Every one of its constituent bodies and stakeholders is vital to its existence, and they are mutually dependent upon each other. Yet understanding the seminary as “education-driven” invites a specific focus on the role for the faculty. The seminary's teachers and scholars are among its key ambassadors; they represent the seminary to the world. But more fundamentally the



(Left) During 2024 Commencement Ms Kripaya Varghese, president of the Student Council, presented the St Macrina Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie. “We have an amazing group of educators here who are not only our professors but are people who genuinely care for us and want what is best for us both in and outside of the classroom,” said Ms Varghese. **(Right)** During Education Day 2023, Academic Dean and Professor of Church History Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie and Professor of Liturgical Theology, Emeritus, Dr Paul Meyendorff lead the fourth session: “Reflections on the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches.” Watch the conversation online at www.youtube.com/@StVladimirsSeminary.

faculty are central to the seminary’s core mission of teaching and forming men and women who, in turn, will be in positions to support the teaching, preaching, and serving ministries of the Church. An education-driven seminary cannot exist without its staff who—with the cooperation of faculty and the support of the Board—oversee the seminary’s financial health, physical plant, Press, publicity, recruitment, administration, and other operational aspects necessary to serve seminarians and the Church. Following King Solomon’s advice, *Without counsel, plans go awry; but in the multitude of counselors, they are established* (Proverbs 15.22), we look forward to strengthening our working relationships within a conciliar and transparent model of governance, with greater attention to balance between the mutually dependent, mutually supporting roles of faculty and staff. In this way, the seminary’s educational priorities can be fulfilled by a team that works collaboratively in the service of Christ and His gospel.

Christ-centered, student-focused, and education-driven—we entrust ourselves to the prayers and concrete help of our donors, alumni, and friends who support the formation of our future priests, lay leaders, and scholars. By your prayers, our new beginning will be pleasing to God, who gives even the tiniest seed the power to grow and thrive. We are grateful for your constant support!

Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie
Interim President and CEO,
Academic Dean, St Vladimir’s Orthodox
Theological Seminary





“A Real Spiritual Father”

Fr Chad Hatfield at St Vladimir’s Seminary

Guest Article by Dn Alexander Hatcher

“He has been a real spiritual father,” said a graduating seminarian as he introduced his family to Fr Chad Hatfield following St Vladimir’s Seminary’s 2024 Commencement in May.

Recalling the moment, tears welled up in Fr Chad’s eyes.

“That really meant so much. How much more could a priest and leader of a seminary be honored?”

With retirement nearing after seventeen years leading the seminary, first as chancellor and then president and CEO, you wouldn’t know it by glancing at Fr Chad’s travel and work schedule—even leading up to his final day at the office, just a mere few weeks away.

On a sweltering day in June, the Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield keeps himself as busy as ever, as passionate about the mission of St Vladimir’s Seminary as ever, as concerned as ever with the seminarians still entrusted to his care. But that should come as no surprise to anyone who has studied or worked at St Vladimir’s with Fr Chad. His internal compass has always pointed unwaveringly toward each and every seminarian; driving him each year was his relentless dedication to make each seminarian’s experience as complete and transformational as possible. And if something wasn’t as good as it could be, he wanted to find a solution.

“Fr Chad Hatfield is a visionary of the highest order, because he is, above all things, a pastor. He loves the people whom he shepherds,” said the Rev. Photius Avant, a graduate of the seminary (M.Div., ’11) and rector of St Sava Orthodox Church in Allen, TX. “As a seminarian, I felt sometimes that



Fr Chad was always visibly joyous as he sent graduating seminarians off to receive blessings and diplomas from their hierarchs, as he was here with the Rev. Peter Runyon (M.Div., '21) at commencement in May 2021.

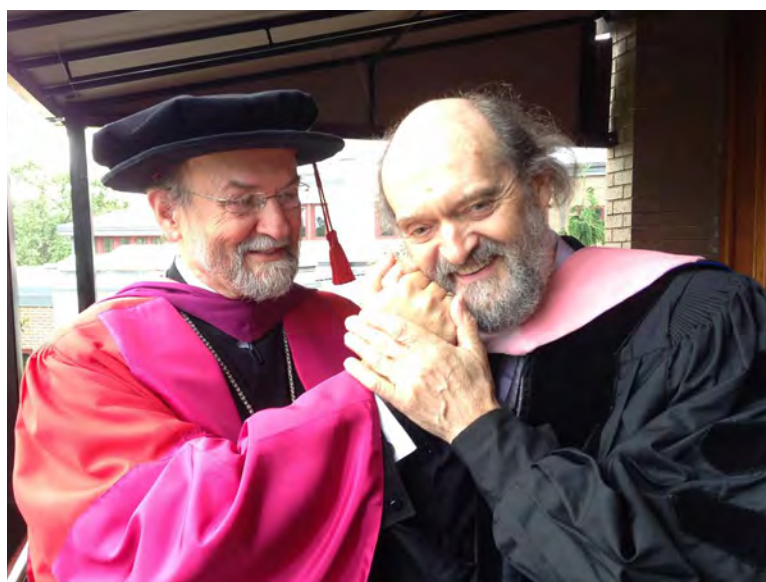


Fr Chad holds a graduating seminarian's child, May 2011. (Photo by Robert Lisak).

almost nobody cared about my family or me. But I knew that Fr Chad cared about my wife, my children, and me.

“It is because of him that St Vladimir’s is far more family friendly than it once was. It is because of him that many seminarians think positively about their time at St Vladimir’s. He has done so much for Orthodox Christianity in this country, and he could have done more. His shoes will be truly difficult to fill.”

Many things were accomplished at the seminary under Fr Chad’s leadership—the expansion of the faculty and of academic programs, the enhancement of campus facilities, the strengthening of the staff and administration, the building up of St Vladimir’s Seminary (SVS) Press and widening of its reach, the launch of St Vladimir’s Online School of Theology, the expansion and development of the seminary’s Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, the reinforcement of the seminary’s financial foundation, the implementation of the tuition-free program to remove financial burdens and barriers keeping prospective seminarians from enrolling—and all were done with the care and formation of seminarians at the forefront of his vision. If something was good for the seminarians, good for the faculty, good for his



Fr Chad and world-renowned composer Arvo Pärt in front of Three Hierarchs Chapel, St Vladimir’s Seminary.

staff, Fr Chad would work to make it happen. And like any good leader and spiritual father, Fr Chad empowered people and believed in them.

“There was no suggested project, no matter how far-fetched it may have sounded, that he didn’t support,” explained seminary Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Institute of Sacred Arts Dr Peter C. Bouteneff. “I recall how, when [former SVOTS music professor] Nicholas



Fr Chad and Mka Thekla Hatfield at SVOTS' Fall Benefit Gala, November 2018.



Members of the SJS and women's fellowship groups meet on campus, September 2021.

Reeves and I approached him with the idea of bringing Arvo Pärt and the Estonian orchestra and choir to Carnegie Hall, he not only said ‘Absolutely!’ but—within a matter of weeks—he got on a plane with us to Estonia to meet with the composer and begin laying plans.

“We’re all deeply grateful for your support, Fr Chad! You’ve helped us to do many beautiful things.”

Fr Chad’s wife Matushka Thekla, an iconographer and church musician, has always shared his love for the seminary community and the Church. Indeed, it seems almost impossible to imagine St Vladimir’s Seminary without both their warmth and smiles (with the past few years accompanied by their indomitable pup, Fergus!) just around the next corner of campus, in the classroom, or graciously hosting seminarians and families at their home next to the seminary. They worked together to leave no stone unturned in trying to create a campus environment that could address a wide scope of needs for every member of the seminary community.

As an example, in 2010 Fr Chad and Mka Thekla transformed what was then the “spouses’ group” on campus into the St Juliana’s Society (SJS)—named after St Juliana Lazarevo, a sixteenth-century woman known for her mercy, motherly kindness, and her continual ascetic

efforts—and began hosting wives of seminarians at their house. When the Hatfields arrived at St Vladimir’s, women on campus and wives of seminarians generally felt they were at the bottom rung of campus life and had no voice. Mka Thekla listened to their frustrated laments at her first meeting of the “spouses’ group” before being asked to take it over. She was determined to bring positive change to the group.

“We wanted to offer our future clergy wives, in an intentional way, the tools they would need to face the demanding situations they will encounter as they share in the ministry of their husbands,” she said. They continued to host the SJS meetings into the most recent academic year.

“I always looked forward to our St Juliana Society meetings at the Hatfields’ cozy home,” said Khouria Megan Elizabeth Gilbert, who lived on campus with her seminarian husband, now the Rev. Anthony Gilbert (M.Div., ’23), and their family. “We had a large spectrum of speakers ranging from seasoned clergy wives to bishops, speaking on topics such as marriage, raising families, parish life, iconography, and tools to help take care of our own and our families’ physical, mental, and spiritual health. Gathering together in this warm and trusted space, we could open up our hearts and share our lives, our struggles,



Fr Chad, then dean of St Herman’s Seminary, on pilgrimage in Alaska to Monk’s Lagoon, where St Herman struggled, and to St Nilus Island in 2006. (Photos courtesy of the Very Rev. Joseph Huneycutt).

and our hopes together. It bonded us together as a community and also nourished and equipped us as we stepped out into our next chapter.

“One night Mka Thekla herself was our special speaker. She shared about her and Fr Chad’s very adventurous life that comes from so fully serving Christ. I will never forget her words, encouraging us to remember that whatever we may encounter in our lives, always ‘listen quietly and pray loudly.’”

Whether hosting SJS or sponsoring numerous student-interest groups on campus, Fr Chad and Mka Thekla would lend a helping hand to whatever was happening at the seminary. This was in addition to Fr Chad’s duties as president, rector of the chapel, director of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program, professor of pastoral theology, and series editor of SVS Press’s Profiles and Missions and Evangelism series. He would find a way to make time for people, even though he had precious little.

“Fr Chad always makes the time—I could always go to him for guidance of any kind,” said Ann Sanchez, who served as Fr Chad’s administrative assistant during his entire tenure at the seminary.

“I can’t emphasize enough how truly blessed I feel to have been able to work with Fr Chad. I ad-



The Very Rev. Chad Hatfield and the Very Rev. John Behr (right) were named chancellor and dean of St Vladimir’s Seminary, pictured here at the official announcement in 2007 with the outgoing dean the Very Rev. John Erickson (center).

mire the priest that he is, his teaching skills, his care for the students, his mentorship as a father confessor to so many, making sure the chapel was just right before a feast day. He has been so dedicated to the seminary, gave his all, and worked so hard during his years here,” she continued. “He is just so well rounded, and he could switch hats in an instant from priest and spiritual father to president and administrator—whatever was needed at that moment he could do and do well. It was truly remarkable to witness working with him all these years.

“I am so thankful for Fr Chad and Mka Thekla. They both have worked so hard for this place, and they will be missed.”

Despite frequent pleas from Ann and other staff members over the years to “take it easy,” Fr Chad worked long hours in his office, almost always staying late even after everyone else had gone home. His sense of commitment as a servant of the Church seemingly wouldn’t let him take a breather, even sometimes to the detriment of his physical health. (Knee surgery a few years ago is probably the only thing that slowed him down for several days, but even then I personally saw him working from home during recovery—and heard that Mka Thekla had scolded him for doing so.)



Mka Thekla with sons Jason and Sean in South Africa.



The Hatfield family in the 1980s.



Fr Chad and Sean.



Blessing an orphanage in Guatemala, 2014.

It was his sense of duty as a priest of the Church that brought him to St Vladimir’s Seminary in the first place.

“When I was asked on two separate occasions to have my name submitted to [SVOTS’] dean search, I gave a firm ‘no’ each time,” he recalled. “I was just getting a feel for the unique approach needed to teach native Alaskans [as dean of St Herman’s Seminary in Alaska], and I was committed to my work there. I wasn’t hunting for the job at St Vladimir’s Seminary. But I ended up being

one of two finalists for dean [in 2007], and in the end the board came up with the double-headed eagle model of chancellor and dean with Fr John Behr. Mka Thekla and I came really as an act of obedience. We felt this was for the Church.”

Fr Chad’s determination to be a faithful servant of Christ had already taken him across North America and even abroad. A graduate of Nashotah House in Wisconsin (’78 and ’88) and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (’01), Fr’s ministry in the Episcopal Church took him, Mka Thekla, and their young son Jason to South Africa in the 1980s to serve in the mission field during Apartheid. (Their second son, Sean, was born there.) Despite the risk of drawing the ire of the Afrikaans government—which sent spies to Fr Chad’s parish to ensure they weren’t allowing non-whites into the church—he wouldn’t compromise his ministry to help whomever God had placed in front of him. He taught black and Indian students at an all-girls school. When he and Mka Thekla met a black South African who was interested in the priesthood but had nowhere to study, they took the bright young man into their home so he could receive instruction from Fr Chad (at the risk of deportation for them and imprisonment for the young student). After returning to the US, Fr Chad and Mka Thekla were eventually received into the Orthodox Church. Fr Chad was ordained as a priest by Bishop Basil



The seminary hosted an event for alumni in Dallas, Texas in February 2018. Fr Chad is pictured with (left to right) alumni Fr Raphael Barberg (M.Div., '11) and Fr David Bozeman (M.Div., '12).

(Essey) of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in 1994, and went on to found two Orthodox parishes: All Saints in Salina, KS, and St Mary Magdelene in Manhattan, KS. He then was asked to take up the deanship at St Herman's Seminary from 2002 until 2007, when he joined St Vladimir's Seminary.

His travels didn't stop. (They still haven't—he is honoring a speaking commitment that will keep him away from his office even on his final day as president of the seminary!) As chancellor and later president/CEO, Fr Chad hit the road often, to fundraise and promote the seminary, to visit alumni, to attend his students' ordinations, and to speak and teach. His engagements took him across the country and again abroad, to countries including Australia, Georgia, Romania, Uganda, and others where he worked to form partnerships and promote the work of the seminary and press, and to see what he could do to make seminary education more accessible to prospective students abroad.

It was on his travels, and is still, where Fr Chad says he finds sources of refreshment and continued motivation.

“Even before announcing retirement, people had been asking me about my legacy. The only legacy I'm really concerned about has been achieved, and that is what I see when I'm out on the road: I see so many good and effective priests and pas-



Fr Chad presenting a gift of \$13,000 raised by SVOTS to the Pro Vita Association for the Born and Unborn in Romania in June 2018. Pictured here with Pro Vita founder Fr Nicolas Tănase.

tors. That's how the Church is going to continue to be served, in very, very challenging times. I've had a small hand in the formation of some outstanding priests. That's all the legacy I need.”

Hearing these words from the mouth of Fr Chad wasn't a surprise to me at all, as a graduate of the seminary myself under his guidance and later a member of his staff for many years. Anyone who has spent time with him knows innately this is what he cares deeply about. But somehow I was still struck by his passion, still visible in his eyes and evident in the tone of voice, for his seminarians, his alumni, and the Church. Even after all these years, years filled with exhaustion and labors, and of course many disappointments along with the many successes.

And in true Fr Chad fashion, he wouldn't let me leave without doing the thing that is so like him. I had come to interview him during his last days as the leader of the seminary, but he turned the tables on me.

“Before you leave,” he said, “there was something I wanted to ask you. What are your plans for the future? How is your family?”

After talking a good while about myself—which is not what I intended at all to happen when I first arrived in his office—I finally did leave, asking for Fr Chad's prayers and feeling guilty for taking up even more of his time. And then, having held it



Illustration gifted to Fr Chad by his godson, Charles Ackerly.

together in his presence, I finally stopped holding back the tears welling up in my own eyes.

Fr Chad, your students, your spiritual children, your colleagues, and all who love you here at St Vladimir’s as well as those who are far off working in the vineyard of the Lord will miss you dearly. We knew this day had to come eventually, but it still feels far, far too soon.

May Almighty God grant to His archpriest, the Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield, Mka Thekla, their sons Jason and Sean, their daughters-in-law Kasey and Maggie, and their grandchildren Ryan, Morgan, and Braedon many years in Fr Chad’s well-earned retirement!

“**Even before announcing retirement, people had been asking me about my legacy... I’ve had a small hand in the formation of some outstanding priests. That’s all the legacy I need.”**



The Hatfields

NEW! THE VERY REV. DR CHAD AND MATUSHKA THEKLA HATFIELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In the hopes that they may continue to support seminarians beyond Fr Chad’s tenure at St Vladimir’s Seminary, the Hatfield family has established The Very Rev. Dr Chad and Matushka Thekla Hatfield Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship is being made available to any monastic seminarian, male or female, whether Eastern or Oriental Orthodox, who is called to study at the seminary.

You may donate to this fund through the remittance form attached (check the “Hatfield Monastic Scholarship” box) or through www.svots.edu/give (select the scholarship fund in the drop-down menu or write its name in the comments).

Watch first seven webinars on
[www.youtube.com/
@StVladimirsSeminary](https://www.youtube.com/@StVladimirsSeminary)



New from SVOTS

Light of the World Webinar Series

In October 2023, St Vladimir's Seminary launched the **Light of the World Webinar Series**, which features speakers from among St Vladimir's Seminary faculty, alumni, and friends, speaking on a variety of topics while answering a core question: How are we Christians to be the light of the world?

Drawing inspiration from feedback received through a recent survey of our constituents, these webinars aim to address a diverse range of themes that address real and pressing issues facing Orthodox faithful in modern society.

- Speakers have included His Grace Bishop John (Abdalah) of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Dr Edith Humphrey, Fredericka Mathewes-Green, Dr Al Rossi, and alumni Mother Devorah and Sister Anastasia of the Monastery of St Macarius the Great in Phoenix, AZ.
- Topics have ranged from submission to the Church, to dealing with grief, to biblical femininity.
- Registrants for these webinars average around 200 for each event, with over 400 signing up for the November session on the topic of gender.

“

Thank you for sharing the recording. This was a very helpful presentation. The presenters gave so many practical ways to do self care as well as sharing a lot of spiritual direction. I highly recommend!”

JANUARY 2024
WEBINAR PARTICIPANT





His Grace Bishop John (Abdalah)

Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green

October 2023: "Submission to the Church: How to Become Children of the Light," co-hosted by His Grace Bishop John (Abdalah), Auxiliary of the Diocese of Worcester and New England (AOCANA), and Orthodox writer Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green



Dr Edith Humphrey

Dr David Bradshaw

November 2023: "Gender: Enlightening Our Minds with the Words of Scripture," co-hosted by Dr Edith Humphrey, SVS Press Author and Professor Emerita of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Dr David Bradshaw, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kentucky



Dr Daniel Hinshaw

Dr Sarah Byrne-Martelli

December 2023: "The Tension Between Anticipatory Grief and Joy for Orthodox Christians," co-hosted by Dr Daniel Hinshaw, SVS Press author and Professor Emeritus of Surgery at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and Dr Sarah Byrne-Martelli (D.Min. '19), author, grief coach, and Senior Chaplain for the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital



Dr Albert Rossi

Laura Ionescu

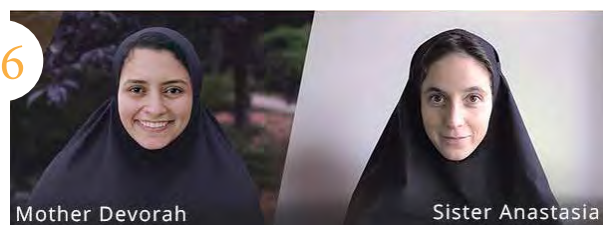
January 2024: "Light Is Sown for the Righteous, and Gladness for the Upright in Heart: How Do We Practice Self-Care as Orthodox Christians? (Psalm 97.11)," co-hosted by Dr Rossi, SVOTS Director of Counseling and Psychological Services and our seniormost faculty member, and Laura Ionescu (M.A. '24), a second-year student in the M.A. concentration in Sacred Arts



Father Photius Avant

Khouria Destinie Winn

February 2024: "A Light to Bring Revelation: The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple—How Are We to Present Ourselves and Our Children to the Lord in the Church?" co-hosted by a parish priest and author, Fr Photius Avant (M.Div. '11), and popular Orthodox blogger, Khouria Destinie Winn



Mother Devorah

Sister Anastasia

March 2024: "Lighting Your Lamps with the Wise Bridesmaids: a Discussion on Biblical Femininity," co-hosted by Mother Devorah Salamon (M.A. '23), and Sister Anastasia Colchester (M.A. '23) from the Monastery of St Macarius, Phoenix, AZ



Father Silviu Bunta

April 2024: "A Sweet Light Descended and Enlightened Me"—St Mary of Egypt and the Cleansing Strength of the Psalms" hosted by Rev. Dr Silviu Bunta, prolific Orthodox author and speaker

Faculty Spotlight

Dr Peter Bouteneff

Dr Peter Bouteneff, longtime Professor of Systematic Theology at St Vladimir's Seminary, has touched thousands across the American Orthodox world and beyond through his books, podcasts, and work in the sacred arts. He spent the past academic year on sabbatical, traveling to Oxford University as a guest scholar, giving lectures in Estonia and South Korea, and writing a new book on Eastern and Oriental Orthodox relations.



Q: Dr Bouteneff, how would you describe your background in the Orthodox Church and with St Vladimir's Seminary? What or who do you feel shaped and formed you along the way?

Dr Bouteneff: I feel extremely fortunate that throughout my youth, there were many in my family's circle who were deeply involved in the Church, as intelligent, reflective people, immersed in the arts and culture. My closest family and those around them were of that world of Russians exiled to Paris—so, Fr Schmemmann, Fr Meyendorff, Sophie Koulomzin, Nicholas Arseniev, and then the next generation. So Christ and the Church were natural subjects for me, nothing artificial, nothing “churchy” in the sticky sense of that word. These folks were so level-headed about their identity: loving the best of Russia but with a critical distance, loving Orthodoxy

but without an “Orthodox agenda” as such. Their priority was genuine Christian life. Orthodoxy was simply the natural outflow of that—especially through the Liturgy.

Q: Say something about your teaching at St Vladimir's Seminary, in “dogmatic”—or is it “systematic” theology?

Dr Bouteneff: Yes, when I arrived here it was called “Dogmatic Theology,” but at some point we started using the term “systematic,” which is simply the method by which we teach the dogmas: systematically—topic by topic—like St John of Damascus and others did. This is how we human beings process large topics: one by one. You can't say everything at once. So you consider, in turn, God, His Son, His Spirit, the Church, the Human Person, redemption, etc. And of course, all those subjects are interrelated, and more importantly they all have their center in the person of Jesus Christ. But anyway these are still dogmatic theology courses.

Q: How will you approach teaching this topic to a broader audience in this summer's online course, “Introduction to Theology” with the St Vladimir's Online School of Theology?

Dr Bouteneff: This course will answer some fundamental questions about theology—what it is, how it's possible, what it is for. Because theology is much more than “the study of God.” It is a relationship with God, where we seek to know Him, in love, in prayer, and—yes—through study. So I will talk about how it may be possible to speak about the unspeakable God, and why it matters. I'll introduce



(Left) Dr Peter with with wife Patricia, their daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Michael. **(Middle)** Professor Bouteneff with renowned composer Arvo Pärt. (Photo: Birgit Püve) **(Right)** Dr Peter (M.Div. '90) during his student days at St Vladimir's Seminary, 1987–1990.

the sources that we draw upon in our pursuit of theological understanding. In all this I will try to give a clear sense of how all this is done within the tradition of the Orthodox Church.

Q: What can you tell us about the book you've been writing this year on sabbatical?

Dr Bouteneff: The new book is on a subject I care very deeply about; namely, the theological reconciliation between Eastern and Oriental Churches. I was first “caught” by that issue during my stint at the World Council of Churches, where the two families have a common Orthodox voice. And then here at St Vladimir's Seminary, where we are so richly blessed to have students from Eastern Orthodox Churches as well as from the Indian, Coptic, Armenian, Syrian, and sometimes also Ethiopian and Eritrean Churches. Even as we feel the pain of being out of sacramental communion, we are constantly experiencing the communion of our history, faith, and worship. Living, studying, and praying side by side in our community is a powerful witness of that unbroken connection. So in the book I'm revisiting early history through the lens of what divided us and what can unite us. I hope that this will help build further confidence in the possibility of our restored sacramental communion.

Q: What other projects and opportunities have you enjoyed over the past year?

Dr Bouteneff: I have been having an enormously productive and restorative sabbatical year! During the autumn months, I spent two weeks in South Korea traveling with my wife and daughter, but also visiting

Metropolitan Ambrosius and giving a lecture on Orthodoxy at Seoul National University. That was followed by ten weeks in Cambridge, UK, together with my wife Patricia, as a fellow of the Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, during which time I got a lot of my basic research and writing done for my book. There were some events in New York related to the Institute of Sacred Arts that I direct, notably a private tour of the Africa & Byzantium exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, led by our student Jaime Rall, who was interning at the museum. And I am just back from a month that began at the Sankt Ignatios College near Stockholm, where I gave a faculty seminar on my book project, and then a three-week residency at the Arvo Pärt Centre in Estonia. While there, I lived in a cabin in the Estonian forest, spending my days writing in the Centre's “Creative Room.” I also gave a public lecture, entitled “The Brink of Despair and the Cup of Tea: St Sophrony and the Polarities of the Spiritual Life.”

Dr Bouteneff lives just minutes on foot from campus, with his wife Patricia and their two cats. His son, Michael, works in theater production and is a touring musician, and his daughter, Elizabeth, lives and works in South Korea.

Dr Bouteneff began teaching a non-credit online course in the summer (July 9–30, 2024) offered through St Vladimir's Online School of Theology, as he addressed the question: “What is Theology?” Learn more about St Vladimir's Online School of Theology on pp. 24–25.

Institute of Sacred Arts (ISA)

ISA Highlight: *Africa & Byzantium* Exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Institute of Sacred Arts (ISA) at St Vladimir's Seminary hosted a special private tour of a recent exhibition, *Africa & Byzantium*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on February 28, inviting select ISA faculty and guests to attend. The tour was led by seminarian Jaime Rall (M.A. '25, concentration in Sacred Arts), who completed a six-month internship at The Metropolitan Museum to support the exhibition, which ran from November 19 to March 3.

In her hour-long tour, Jaime took the private group on a deep-dive exploration of six works out of the collection of nearly 180 items featured in the exhibition. Jaime's selections invited the group to consider the evolution of faith and tradition in the art of northern and eastern Africa from the sixth through the eighteenth century.



After the tour, the group was treated to a reception with ISA Founding Director Dr Peter Bouteneff, ISA Associate Director Dr Alexander Lingas, and seminarian and tour leader Jaime Rall giving their remarks. Joan Shell, longtime friend of the Institute, expressed her profound appreciation for the exhibition tour and for the overall mission and work of the ISA, saying, "The Institute has profoundly enriched my life, introducing me to a wide variety of the arts as inspired by the love of our Lord. Our tour of this exhibition was a wonderful immersion into a centuries-old legacy of the inspiration of the soul, stretching across time and place."

Renowned Iconographer Returns to Campus

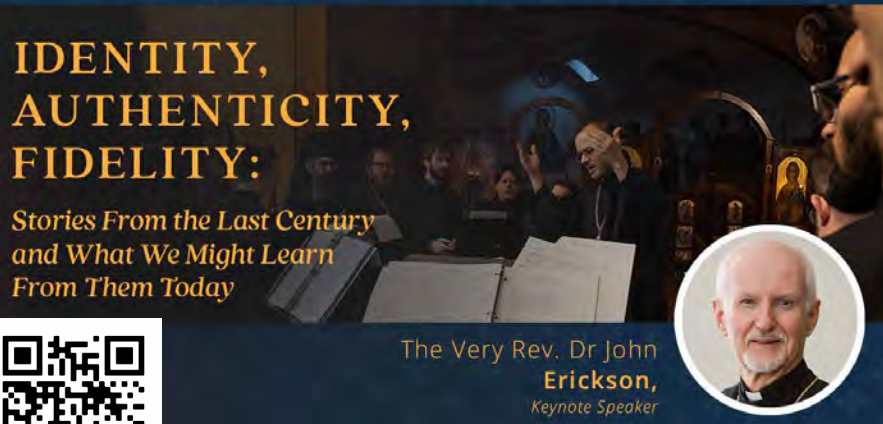


In June of 2024, the ISA brought back world-renowned iconographer Dr George Kordis to St Vladimir's Seminary. His icon-painting school, *Writing the Light*, offered several days of workshops. On June 20, Kordis and ISA Director Dr Peter Bouteneff held a public conversation on campus on the role of the sacred arts in Church and society. Kordis had previously visited the seminary as artist in residence and offered workshops in the spring of 2022.


Hear Dr George Kordis and Dr Peter Bouteneff's discussion on sacred arts in a forthcoming episode of the *Luminous Podcast*. www.instituteofsacredarts.com/luminous

2024 COLLOQUIUM ON LITURGICAL MUSIC IN EASTERN
ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**IDENTITY,
AUTHENTICITY,
FIDELITY:**
*Stories From the Last Century
and What We Might Learn
From Them Today*



The Very Rev. Dr John
Erickson,
Keynote Speaker



WATCH NOW



(Left) Dean Emeritus and former Professor of Church History, the Very Rev. Dr John H. Erickson returned to St Vladimir’s Seminary to deliver the keynote address for the 2024 Colloquium on Liturgical Music in Eastern Orthodox Theological Education, on March 13, 2024. Fr John gave his talk on the topic “Identity, Authenticity, Fidelity: Stories from the Last Century and What We Might Learn from Them Today.” (Right) Dr Alexander Lingas, Professor of Music & Associate Director of the Institute of Sacred Arts.

New Initiatives at the Institute of Sacred Arts

St Vladimir’s Seminary received a **Worshipping Communities Grant of \$24,630 from the Calvin Institute of Worship in January 2024.** The purpose of this grant is to support a year-long process of reflection and renewal relating to Eastern Orthodox liturgical singing in the seminary’s Three Hierarchs Chapel. This program is made possible by a Vital Worship, Vital Preaching Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Serving as project lead is **Dr Alexander Lingas,** Professor of Music and Associate Director of the Institute of Sacred Arts at St Vladimir’s Seminary. He is leading an Implementation Team of seminary faculty who:

- Undertake an inventory of existing chapel musical repertoires;
- Develop updated musical materials hand-book for chapel use, with implementation starting in the Fall 2024 semester.

Another stated goal for the grant was already achieved in March 2024, when the Institute of Sacred Arts hosted a colloquium titled **“Liturgical Music in Eastern Orthodox Theological Education.”** Representatives of American and European Orthodox institutions gathered to discuss how theological visions and socio-historical realities shape the practice of liturgical singing in their chapels. The keynote address was given by the **Very Rev. Prof. John Erickson,** former Dean of St Vladimir’s Seminary. Other speakers included the Rev Dr Romanos Karanos (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology), Deacon Petar Kozakijević (Serbian Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Zagreb and Ljubljana), Dr Nicholas Schidlovsky (Dean of Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville), and Anastasia Kappanadze (St Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary).

For more information on the Institute of Sacred Arts, visit the ISA homepage at www.instituteofsacredarts.com; stay tuned for future events at www.svots.edu/events.

Let My Prayer Arise



ST VLADIMIR'S
ONLINE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

Beginning in February 2024, the St Vladimir's Online School of Theology offered its first continuing education class for ordained Orthodox priests. The course, "Let My Prayer Arise: Music and Hymnography of the Lenten Triodion", explored the connection between liturgical texts and music, revealing how melodies can intricately enhance the meaning of the Lenten Triodion.

This five-week online course was taught by the Rev. Dn Dr Harrison Russin, Assistant Professor of Liturgical Music at St Vladimir's Seminary. Five ordained priests were selected to participate. During the course, they encountered the profound connection between liturgical texts and music, revealing how melodies can intricately enhance the meaning of the Lenten Triodion. They also explored diverse examples throughout the weeks of Great Lent, unraveling the extraordinary interplay of language and music that adds depth and significance to the experience of parishioners participating in the services.

A course participant remarked, "The reading material was very good. Dn Russin's lectures were also extremely informative and high level. Thank you."

Compelling Preaching Grant

Led by Fr Sergius Halvorsen, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric, the seminary received a grant of \$250,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to supplement the Compelling Preaching program, a new project that aims to strengthen preaching and homiletics in Orthodox Christian parishes.

The supplemental grant will allow SVOTS to expand and strengthen the first three initiatives of its Compelling Preaching program:

- Renew: a continuing education program for preachers
- Resource: a curated online resource of exemplary preaching
- Research: an interdisciplinary academic conference on Orthodox Christian preaching

One of the most meaningful aspects of this course was the thoughtful conversations of the fellow clergy about how these texts impact our spiritual lives. Music calls us to hear the Word of God and to keep it in our hearts.

About Dn Harrison Russin: The Rev. Dn Dr Harrison Russin is Assistant Professor of Liturgical Music at St Vladimir's Seminary. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from Duke University, where he wrote a dissertation on late medieval and early Renaissance settings of the Creed in the Latin Mass, focusing on monophonic and polyphonic versions. As an active Orthodox Church musician, Dn Harrison conducts the choirs at St Vladimir's Seminary and has served as a consultant for the Liturgical Music and Translations Department of the OCA. He is a St Vladimir's Seminary alumnus (M.Div. '13) and is married to Gabrielle, a 2014 M.A. alumna.

Get to know Dn Dr Harrison Basil Russin in this faculty spotlight article:

www.svots.edu/blog



Lay Catechist Certification

To help support the Church in North America in the midst of a profound surge of interest in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, St Vladimir's Online School of Theology is launching an online certification course for catechists in the fall of 2024, titled, Laying Foundations for Teaching the Faith. Spots for the first cohort filled up in a matter of days over the summer, glory be to God!

If you are interested in signing up for a future cohort, fill out the questionnaire linked below.

survey.svots.edu/zs/5CD4Cm



St Vladimir's Online School of Theology Overview

The St Vladimir's Online School of Theology, launched in June 2023, has now offered five online courses to over 700 students, with the sixth and seventh courses taking place in Summer 2024. This accessible extension of St Vladimir's Seminary is now offering our first-ever online courses for non-degree students, enabling us to offer Orthodox education to inquirers, laity, and ordained clergy all over the world.



In June 2023, Associate Professor of Patristics, the Very Rev. Dr Bogdan Bucur, taught the first course, titled "Preparing to Read the Fathers."



In July 2023, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Dr Michael Legaspi, taught the second course, "Orthodoxy & the Old Testament."



In November 2023, the third course, "Sacred Artistry: The Living Tradition of Orthodox Church Art" was taught by Associate Professor of Art History and Assistant Director of the Institute of Sacred Arts, Dr Rossitza Schroeder.



A special course, the first in the new Continuing Clergy Education initiative, was taught by Assistant Professor of Liturgical Music, the Rev. Dn Dr Harrison Basil Russin, to a select cohort of priests, on the topic "Music and Hymnography of the Lenten Triodion" in February and March 2024.



The April 2024 course, "An Introduction to Liturgical Theology," was taught by the Rev. Dn Dr Vitaly Permiakov.

HAPPENING NOW



June 4–25, 2024: "The Four Gospels and the One Christ: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels" taught by Fr George Parsenios. July 9–30, 2024: "What Is Theology?" taught by Dr Peter Bouteneff.

Student Interview

In Service to God

In this student spotlight interview, we get to know Fr Peter Jared Ries (M.Div. '24). Before arriving at St Vladimir's Seminary, Fr Peter Ries spent several years working in mental health case management. Here at seminary, he has become an integral part of the community, serving as student sacristan and organizing periodic "Porch Nights" for fellow seminarians to gather on the Germack porch to talk, laugh, and sing songs together. We sat down with him for this candid conversation on his experience as an M.Div. student at St Vladimir's Seminary.



Fr Peter and Mka Sophie

Q: Fr Peter, please tell us a bit about your background.

Fr Peter: I'm from Cleveland, OH, and for over fifteen years I have been a member of St Innocent Orthodox Church (OCA, Diocese of the Midwest). I attained a degree in psychology from Cleveland State University in 2015, and then I spent several years working in mental health case management. In this field, I assisted and treated individuals with severe mental health diagnoses, primarily those with schizoaffective and bipolar disorders. I ultimately found myself on the path to seminary, and this Midwestern boy came to the Big Apple in the Summer of 2021. My wife,

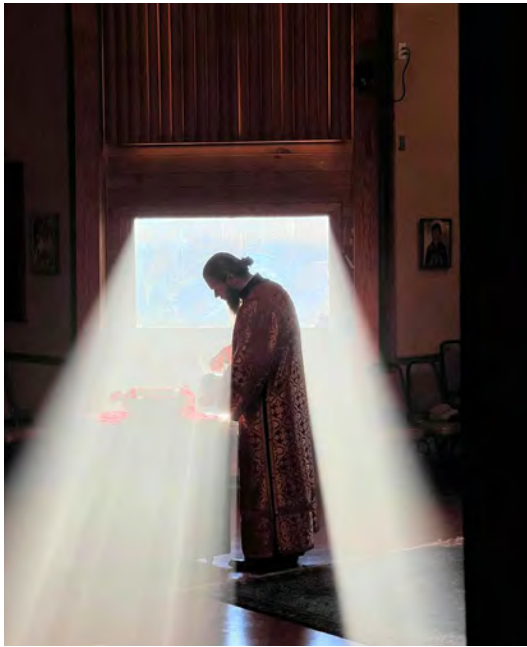
Sophie, and I met very early in my seminary journey, as she is from the area, and we were married in October of 2022. We have lived happily here on campus, in our cozy apartment surrounded by friends and faith. Sophie is a professionally trained artist specializing in illustration and design.

Q: How do you feel your educational/professional background prepared you for seminary?

Fr Peter: When you work in the field of mental health, you encounter Christ very quickly and very bluntly. I witnessed incredibly raw and incredibly human moments during my time, and crisis was a large element of my daily workload. But most importantly, I learned in that field that service to those around you was paramount to sharing the gospel. If you go out and preach to a community, but you do not serve them, it will be a hollow message falling on rightfully deaf ears. In something as secular as the social work field, I was still so poignantly aware of God's operation in my clients' lives, not through proselytizing them but rather through serving their needs in love.

Q: Why did you choose St Vladimir's Seminary?

Fr Peter: I knew early on that St Vladimir's was my choice for seminary. Archbishop Paul, of blessed memory, was very involved in my discernment process, and he was helpful in pointing me to the place where I would benefit the most on my personal journey of spiritual and professional formation. Fr Alessandro Margheritino, an alumnus of this seminary



As a student sacristan Fr Peter has developed a keen eye for the quiet and meditative beauty of the chapel. Above, he captures and shares the beauty he sees with his photography.

and the current Secretary of the OCA, was my parish priest for much of my childhood, and he taught me about the resources St Vladimir's Seminary has to offer: their CPE program, the caliber of their faculty, and the advantage that all us students are learning and struggling in a very tight, very intentional community, together. Campus life was a big draw for me, and I am grateful that Sophie and I were able to start our marriage here.

Q: What is your year of study and degree program, and what have been some particularly impactful experiences during your time at the seminary?

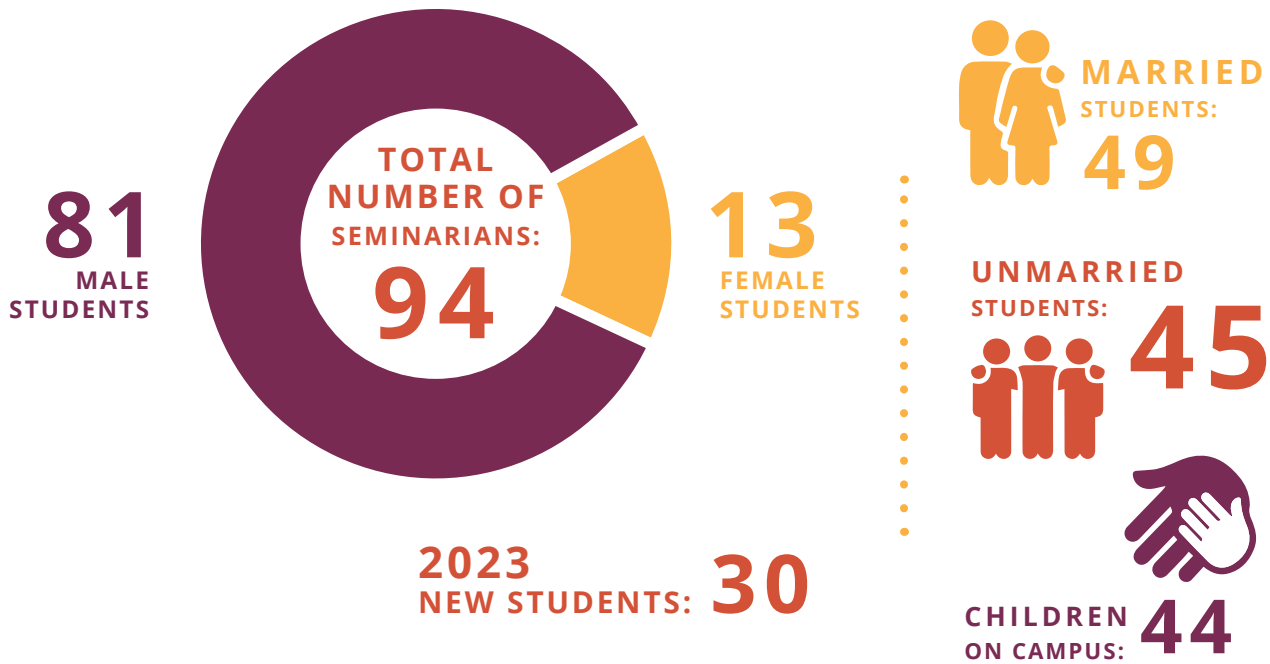
Fr Peter: I am nearing the end of my seminary adventure as a third-year M.Div. candidate. An easy top answer to this question is my marriage to Sophie. We were able to have it at her home parish in New Jersey, attended by many seminarians, faculty, and staff. Sophie and I have always felt very cared for by the married faculty and students, and it has been so useful to be able to model their behavior as Sophie and I learn and grow together. Another memorable event was my recent ordination to the Holy Priesthood. It is a humbling obedience, and it was such a blessing to take on this responsibility

while standing alongside my colleagues, mentors, and friends.

Q: What would you like to say to supporters of the seminary?

Fr Peter: My time here is made possible by those who support this seminary, full stop. Without them, I would have never been able to come out here, I would have never had the opportunity to be formed by God through this institution. If you want to look at it in a schmaltzy way, without them I would have never found myself anywhere near New Jersey, a place where I found a beautiful and faithful woman to go on this journey with me. To those who support this seminary: thank you. Thank you for prioritizing the mission of the Church, and for helping educate the future of Orthodoxy in America and abroad. Thank you for taking the Lord's directive seriously, and truly being a light to the world.

St Vladimir's Seminary at a Glance



STUDENTS COME FROM

11 COUNTRIES

ALBANIA, ROMANIA,
CANADA, SERBIA,
CHINA, UGANDA,
GEORGIA, UKRAINE,
KENYA, THE UNITED STATES
INDIA,

26

STUDENTS
AND ALUMNI
ORDAINED TO
HOLY ORDERS

(SUMMER 2023–SPRING 2024)

EPISCOPATE: 3
MONASTIC ORDERS: 2
PRIESTHOOD (FALL): 7
DIACONATE (FALL): 3
PRIESTHOOD (SPRING): 5
DIACONATE (SPRING): 6

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY DEGREES:

M.DIV. 47

.....

TH.M. 7

.....

D.MIN. 13

.....

M.A. 24

NON-DEGREE 4

M.A. CONCENTRATIONS:

THEOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH 6

SACRED ARTS 3

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL STUDIES 15

STUDENTS REPRESENT 18 JURISDICTIONS

EASTERN ORTHODOX

JURISDICTIONS:

- 32 ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA)
- 14 ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE (AOCANA)
- 4 GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
- 6 SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
- 1 AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA (ACROD)
- 1 GEORGIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
- 1 RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA (ROCOR)
- 1 ROMANIAN METROPOLIA IN THE US
- 1 ROMANIAN PATRIARCHATE
- 1 RUSSIAN PATRIARCHAL CHURCH IN THE USA
- 1 PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA
- 1 UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORIENTAL ORTHODOX JURISDICTIONS

- 5 ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
- 4 COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
- 1 ERITREAN ORTHODOX
- 16 MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH
- 1 MALANKARA SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH
- 1 SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH

OTHER CHURCHES

- 1 FREE METHODIST
- 1 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Alumnus Spotlight

Formation for a Life of Ministry

How the Seminary Prepared Fr Andrew Salvia for Ordained Service to the Church

Fr Andrew Salvia (M.Div. '23) serves as the Assistant Pastor at St Elias Orthodox Church in Austin, TX, under the Antiochian Archdiocese. He and his wife, Alethia, were married in 2012. They have five children, four boys and one girl, and by God's grace, are expecting another girl in June. He describes his time at St Vladimir's Seminary as the most challenging, but spiritually profitable and wonderful three years of his life.



Fr Andrew Salvia
Alumnus (M.Div. '23)



**WATCH
NOW**

During the 2023 Annual Board Dinner, each graduate spoke about their experience at SVOTS. Scan QR code to hear what Fr Andrew had to say (www.youtube.com/@StVladimirsSeminary).

Q: Fr Andrew, how did you discern your calling to the priesthood, and why did you choose St Vladimir's Seminary?

Fr Andrew: We suddenly lost my mother a few months before applying. The priest who received me into the Church, Fr Michael Furry, accompanied me in the ICU room when they were about to remove the life support, and he prayed with me and my family for my mother's peaceful repose. As my mother took her final breaths and we mourned her loss, I became convinced because of the example of this priest, who faithfully and without hesitation brought God's presence in the lowest point of my life, that I wanted to be able to bring Him who overcame death to others, God willing, as a priest.

I trusted my Archdiocese to send me to a place that would prepare me with the tools needed to serve God and His people. I already knew St Vladimir's Seminary had a great reputation for overall formation, not only for the students but their families, as well. The world-class SVS Press being at the forefront of publishing Orthodox Christian works in the English language was an encouragement to the type of education I would receive from the professors at the seminary. The life of the community being centered around the chapel was a very attractive quality as well. Being in

an area of the country with lots of historic Orthodox communities would give me a chance to learn how to serve people from different cultural backgrounds.

Q: What were some particularly impactful experiences during your time at seminary for you and your family?

Fr Andrew: During the summer and fall following our first year, my wife suffered a medical emergency and two miscarriages at different times. It was not something we broadcasted or widely shared, but Fr Bogdan dropped whatever he was doing to come pray with us and talk to us when he found out. Fr Chad helped us to bury the remains of the miscarried children and was a loving witness to fatherly, Christian love. Dr Tudorie brought my son a birthday present because we had to cancel his birthday celebration due to my wife's hospitalization. This is a community that truly cares.

It's hard to express how impactful it was to be surrounded by your best friends who became your brothers and sisters so effortlessly. To greet and be greeted by faculty and staff alike as if you were family was deeply impactful. We leaned on each other and spurred each other on.

Q: What are some ways your seminary formation prepared you for your current ministry?

Fr Andrew: It's the whole thing! The seminary provided an environment that allowed for the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional formation of its students by on the one hand not coddling us through every difficulty, but also not abandoning us on the other. I feel St Vladimir's Seminary did this very well by emphasizing the liturgical life in the chapel while still maintaining

high standards and expectations in the classroom. The things I experienced in seminary were a concentrated form of the daily joys and difficulties that I have so far experienced in parish life. If I couldn't learn to commit to developing spiritual disciplines, form healthy habits and boundaries, serve my family, love my neighbor, and learn to humble myself and roll up my sleeves when it wasn't always convenient, to forgive and ask forgiveness, how could I expect to survive in a parish? St Vladimir's Seminary is an intense microcosm of parish life that was absolutely indispensable for preparing me to serve at my first parish.

Q: Please say a few words of appreciation for supporters of the seminary.

Fr Andrew: Being at St Vladimir's Seminary for three years was the most challenging, but the most spiritually profitable and wonderful three years I have had the joy of experiencing. I know this would not be possible without the hard work of the faculty and staff, the commitment of the bishops of the Orthodox Church in North America, and the many financial donors and benefactors. We are so grateful to have been able to be a part of this special place and cannot thank those enough who have contributed their resources, their time, and their efforts to what the seminary has done for us.

Please continue to pray that this seminary remains a light to the world, a beacon of God's truth, and an oasis in a spiritual wasteland, and that it continues to train and raise leaders to serve the Church. The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. I thank God and pray that St Vladimir's Seminary may continue and flourish to the glory of God.

Please consider a monthly gift to St Vladimir's Seminary

By giving monthly to St Vladimir's Seminary you will be added to our unique group of committed donors called St Vladimir's Society. **Learn more about the society on the next page.**



**ST VLADIMIR'S
Society**



St Vladimir's Society



ST VLADIMIR'S
Society

We are pleased to announce the formation of the St Vladimir's Society, a group of dedicated individuals who give monthly to support the mission of St Vladimir's Seminary.

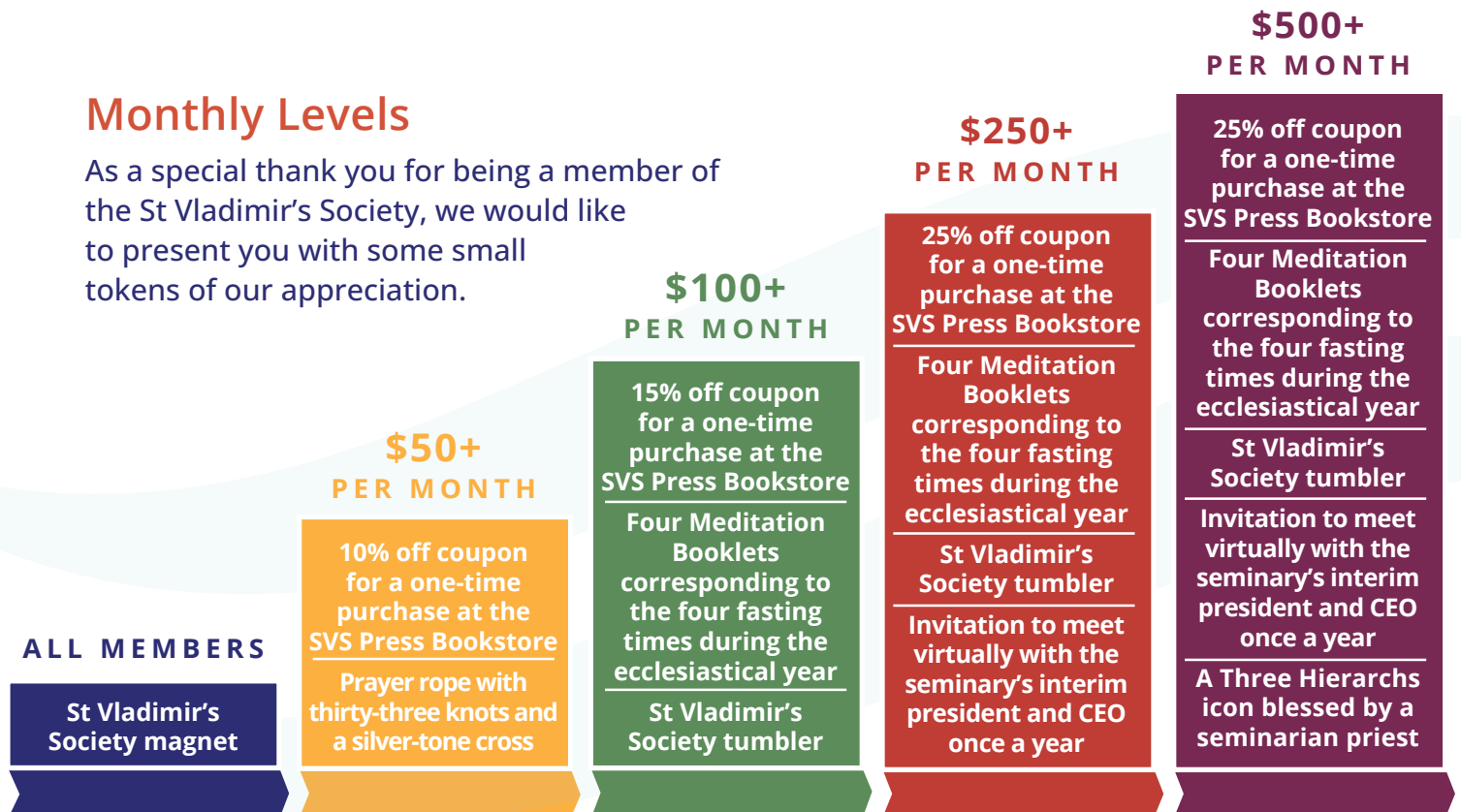
Through the monthly support of these dedicated donors, the seminary is able to train priests, lay leaders, scholars, and missionaries to be active apologists for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Seminarians go on to become the pastors and leaders who will shepherd you, your families, and Orthodox Christian communities around the country.

When you give monthly, you will not only be part of the St Vladimir's Society, but you will ensure the future and stability of Orthodox theological education for years to come.

To learn more about the St Vladimir's Society please visit our website at www.svots.edu/give/monthly-giving, or scan the QR code. You may also use the enclosed envelope to become a member today!

Monthly Levels

As a special thank you for being a member of the St Vladimir's Society, we would like to present you with some small tokens of our appreciation.



SVS Press Author Spotlight

You Are Mine



NOW AVAILABLE

You Are Mine

SISTER ANASTASIA

Paperback • 6x9 • 264 pp.

\$30 • 978-0-88141-756-2

You Are Mine is the story of what happened when I, a modern seeker, who had been willingly swallowed up by the outwardly beautiful and extremely intense elemental traditions of the ancient world in my quest for a spiritual cure, unwittingly ran into the arms of Christ, the divine Healer. I describe it as a memoir, but it is really more an account: a direct and intimate account of the inner experience of encountering the Living God and what happened in my life as a result of this meeting.

At its core, the book is an evangelical proclamation of the gospel truth that Christ alone is God, and that the Cross alone is the path to knowing and experiencing Him, and is thus intended for those who are not aware of this biblical fact. Initially, my primary purpose for writing the book was to tell all those of my former world what I had “found out,” so that they too, could be released from the deception of paganism, in its myriad manifestations, and come and join me in the joy and the peace of the kingdom. Concerned as the book is with the primordial hunt of the creature for the Creator, I hope that it speaks to all those, whether inside the Church, in other Christian

contexts, or outside of either, who are burdened with the human heart’s most primal urge; namely, to return home to the One from whom they came.

As well as a whistleblowing tool, the book is designed to function as an exposition of the practical reality of the unseen, and the holy responsibilities that the children of God have within it, in their roles as Christians. It is thus intended to inform and equip all believers, so that they can effectively minister to those in their care, bound up by some, or all, of the strictures from which Christ released me. Most importantly, I hope that the book can draw readers into the thing that above all else shocked me into conversion, healed me to the depths of my being, and, ultimately, transformed every single element of my life: a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and the volcanic force of His love.

Sr Anastasia Colchester (M.A. '23),
SVS Press author

SVS Press Highlights

Books and Audiobooks Published in 2023

Founded in 1968, St Vladimir's Seminary Press is one of the largest and most active publishers of Orthodox Christian books in the English language, with more than 500 titles in print. SVS Press has achieved a reputation for permitting a free expression of ideas within the breadth of the Orthodox Faith, Tradition, and history, while insisting on works of theological excellence.

500+
titles

25+
audiobooks

160+
ebooks

... and
growing!



BACK IN PRINT

When You Fast: Recipes for Lenten Seasons

CATHERINE MANDELL

This balanced and helpful book was born out of the author's nearly decade-long quest to attain a rule of fasting for her family in accordance with the traditional Orthodox Christian discipline. Her goal was not only abstinence from meat during lenten seasons, but also abstinence from dairy products, and from oils on the strictest of fast days. The resultant 200 recipes provide a variety of easy, nourishing, and appealing meals. Sprinkled among the delicious recipes are sayings from the Mothers and Fathers of the early Church regarding how the body and soul are affected by eating habits—pithy illuminations to accompany the appetizing recipes.

Paperback • 7.25×9.25 • 264 pp. • \$33 • 978-0-88141-262-8

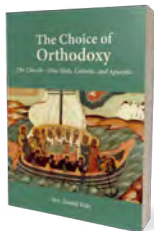


Saint Casilda Brings the Bread

MELINDA JOHNSON; KRISTINA TARTARA, ILLUSTRATOR

In this heartwarming children's book, we see the love and service of a young princess who visited Christian prisoners a thousand years ago in Spain. Miracles can happen when we show our love for others in action.

Boardbook • 5.5×7 • 20 pp. • \$13 • 978-0-88141-728-9



The Choice of Orthodoxy: The Church—One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic ●●

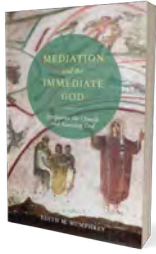
DANIEL DALY

Both Rome and the Orthodox Church claim to be the Church Christ founded—the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of the Nicene Creed. How can we judge between these competing claims? This useful and accessible book helps readers to do just that. For those who are seeking a spiritual home, Fr Daniel Daly can show the way. For those who are seeking the truth, this book makes a compelling case for the choice of Orthodoxy.

Paperback • 5×7 • 132 pp. • \$16 • 978-0-88141-749-4

● ALSO AVAILABLE AS EBOOK

● ALSO AVAILABLE AS AUDIOBOOK

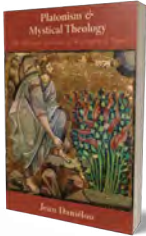


Mediation and the Immediate God: Scriptures, the Church, and Knowing God ●

EDITH M. HUMPHREY

Mediation and the Immediate God pursues a long-debated question: How can we say both that God has a direct relationship with each Christian, and that He uses others in order to bring us to health and glory? Edith M. Humphrey explores the ubiquity of mediation in the Christian life, and in life in general, as well as the paradox of mediation alongside the Christian confidence that each of us can be directly “taught by God” because of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Mediation, says Humphrey, is understood best as an ecclesial matter (showing the nature of the Church) and not as part of a soteriological debate.

Paperback • 5x8.5 • 204 pp. • \$21 • 978-0-88141-744-9

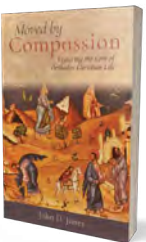


Platonism and Mystical Theology: The Spiritual Doctrine of St Gregory of Nyssa ●

JEAN DANIELÉLOU; ANTHONY P. GYTHIEL & MICHAEL DONLEY, TRANSLATORS

This is Jean Daniélou’s seminal study of the spiritual theology of St Gregory of Nyssa. He acknowledges the Platonic roots and affinities of some of Gregory’s vocabulary and concepts, while arguing that his vision is fundamentally Christian and scripturally grounded. Further, this synthesis served as the foundation of later articulations of spiritual or mystical theology.

Paperback • 6x9 • 444 pp. • \$32 • 978-0-88141-717-3

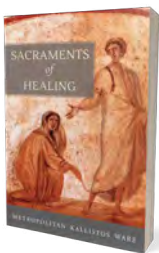


Moved by Compassion: Exploring the Core of Orthodox Christian Spiritual Life ●●

JOHN JONES

Though compassion lies at the heart of the gospel, it has been little studied in its own right. This book, written by an accomplished scholar yet accessible to the lay reader, fills that void by drawing on the broad and ancient tradition of the Orthodox Church.

Paperback • 6x9 • 308 pp. • \$28 • 978-0-88141-711-1

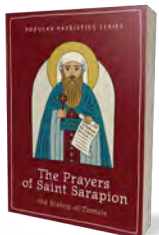


Sacraments of Healing ●●

MET. KALLISTOS WARE

From April 16 to 19, 1999, Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) led a retreat for the Orthodox Peace Fellowship, at the parish of St Étienne and St Germain, in Vézelay, France; this slender book is a transcription of his six profound and moving talks. His Eminence treats of man as microcosm; the proper use of the passions; Christ as Physician (the true meaning of Confession and Anointing); peace and healing in the Divine Liturgy; healing in the parish, the local Church, and the world; and bodily death as an experience of healing.

Paperback • 5x7 • 150 pp. • \$19 • 978-0-88141-741-8



PPS 65, The Prayers of Saint Sarapion the Bishop of Thmuis ●

(GREEK & ENGLISH)

ST SARAPION OF THMUIS; MAXWELL E. JOHNSON, TRANSLATOR

St Sarapion, a friend of St Anthony the Great and St Athanasius, first lived as a monk and abbot in the Egyptian desert before becoming bishop of Thmuis. This is a translation of the *Euchologion* (or prayer book) of St Sarapion, which contains thirty prayers for Baptism, the Liturgy, and several other needs and situations. This edition includes the original Greek along with the translation.

Paperback • 5x7.25 • TBD • \$25 • 978-0-88141-752-4

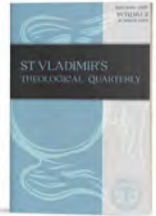


PPS 19, *On the Mother of God* (SECOND PRINT) ●●

JACOB OF SERUG; MARY HANSBURY, TRANSLATOR

Jacob of Serug was born at Curtem on the Euphrates, c. 451. Jacob, “flute of the Holy Spirit and harp of the faithful Church,” has a great love of the Mother of God. In this volume, four homilies have been chosen from the Syriac texts.

Paperback • 5×7.25 • 122 pp. • \$25 • 978-0-88141-184-3



St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly, Volume 66 (2022), Nos. 3–4

IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Winter 2022 issue of the *Quarterly* opens with an exegetical study of the reference to “the sign of Jonah” in the Gospel of Matthew (L. Gore-Jones). There follow two articles on Gregory of Nyssa—one on his reading of the burning bush in *Life of Moses* (T. Buijckx), the second on the relationship between humanity's creation “according to the Image” and St Gregory's use of the imagery of food and hunger (A. Fogleman/Th. Breedlove). A study of Byzantine prayers to the Theotokos ascribed to St Ephrem (M. Constat) and an analysis of Origen's pneumatology (M. Therrien) complete the patristic segment of this issue. A large article follows, comparing the insights of Sergius Bulgakov (and a number of other Orthodox theologians) and Yves Congar on the role of the Holy Spirit in the relationship between the Father and the Son (A. Viver-Mureșan). The last article deals with the ambiguous Orthodox reception of the section on Baptism in the 1982 “Lima Declaration” on Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry (H. Majkrzak). The “Theological Essay” section of this issue contains a short, moving, and refreshing “Orthodox Creed” composed in the late 1980s by the Romanian literate, dissident, and later monastic Nicolae Steinhardt; and a consideration of the nineteenth-century Transylvanian Metropolitan Andrei Țaguna's understanding of synodality as a form of a constitutionalism, in which clergy and laity cooperate (D. Heith-Stade). Reviews of the following books round off this volume of SVTQ: *Θεία Λειτουργία κατά την τάξιν εν Ἄθῳ Μονῆς του Βατοπαιδίου – Ιερατικόν Συλλειτουργιόν* (*The Divine Liturgy according to the order of the Vatopedi Monastery on Athos—Hieratikon for Concelebrations*) 2020 (P. Pruteanu); S. N. Bunta, *The Lord God of Gods: Divinity and Deification in Early Judaism* 2021 (M. Awabdi); S. Brock, trans., *Isaac of Nineveh. Headings on Spiritual Knowledge* (The Second Part, Chapters 1–3) 2022 (J. Scully); D. Costache, *Humankind and the Cosmos: Early Christian Representations* 2021 (Ch. Knight); V. Coman, *Dumitru Stăniloae's Trinitarian Ecclesiology: Orthodoxy and the Filioque* 2019 (P. Maican).

Paperback • 6×9 • 256 pp. • \$60 • PB-SVTQ66 3–4



St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly, Volume 67 (2023), Nos. 1–2

IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The first article of this double issue of the *Quarterly* (SVTQ 67.1–2) assesses recent scholarship on the dating of the Gospel of Mark (Andrejevs). The second article examines the Pauline understanding of conversion to Christ and living in Christ in terms of “indwelling” and “unveiling” (Fanous), while the third explores meaning of the term “Saracene-minded” as used by the Council of Hierieia (Rall); the fourth considers a late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century Novgorodian manuscript's evidence for Byzantine monastic night prayer at the end of the ninth century (Andreev). In the fifth article, Costache argues that Orthodox theology has the resources for a much-needed engagement with science that follows in the footsteps of Lossky, Stăniloae, and Nellas, as well as those of the Fathers. It continues with the fortieth annual Fr Alexander Schmemmann Lecture (2023) by Hans Boersma, titled “God as Embodied Christology and Participation in Saint Maximus the Confessor.” David Heith-Stade's theological essay provides an extended discussion of autocephaly and public law in various Orthodox contexts in the recent past. Among the book reviews, particularly noteworthy is Archimandrite Maximos Constat's critical assessment of four recently published English translations of the Septuagint Psalter. The other reviews include: Nikolaos Loudovikos, *Analogical Identities*, 2019 (Bradshaw); Dario Chiapetti, *The Father's Eternal Freedom*, 2022 (Coman); Rabee Toumi, *Orthodox Christian Bioethics*, 2020 (Vest); Natal'a Bonetskaia, “Tretii Zavet” ottsa Sergiia Bulgakova [“The Third Testament” of Father Sergius Bulgakov], 2023 (Slesinski); Cyprien Kern, *L'Eucharistie*, 2023 (Ladouceur).

Paperback • 6×9 • 264 pp. • \$60 • SVTQ67 1-2



Father Arseny: A Cloud of Witnesses (NEW EDITION) ●●

VERA BOUTENEFF, TRANSLATOR

The stories of Fr Arseny and his work in the Soviet prison camps have captured the minds and hearts of readers all over the world. In this second volume readers will find additional narratives about Fr Arseny translated from the Russian edition. These short stories about the life and impact of Fr Arseny during the cruel oppression of the Soviet years are vivid, stirring, and ultimately inspiring.

Paperback • 6×9 • 246 pp. • \$28 • 978-0-88141-733-3



PPS 2, Sermons from the Life of St John Chrysostom ●

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM; DAVID FORD, TRANSLATOR

These sermons are taken from critical points in the life of St John Chrysostom, revealing his adamant character and his lofty perspective in the often-tumultuous events of his life.

Paperback • 5×7.25 • TBD pp. • \$25 • 978-0-88141-729-6



Prepare, O Bethlehem! (PAPERBACK VERSION)

NIKO CHOCHELI

The Orthodox Church's hymns of the prefeast and feast of the Nativity of our Lord celebrate and proclaim in word and song the celestial joy of the incarnation. These beloved texts, so wonderfully illustrated by Niko Chocheli, are filled with beauty and power.

Paperback • 9×12 • 32 pp. • \$19 • 978-0-88141-754-8



The Woman and the Wheat (PAPERBACK VERSION)

JANE G. MEYER; NED GANNON, ILLUSTRATOR

The Woman and the Wheat is the story of the joy of a farmer as she works to grow the wheat and bake the bread that she will offer back to her Creator in eucharistic celebration.

Paperback • 8.5×11 • 32 pp. • \$19 • 978-0-88141-755-5

Audiobooks

Through a generous grant from the Orthodox Vision Foundation, SVS Press launched a new audiobook program in 2022. **If you are interested in sponsoring an audiobook of your favorite SVS Press title, please contact media@svots.edu.**



A Silent Patriarch: Life and Legacy

DANIEL FANOUS; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

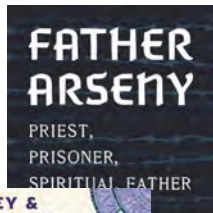
Length: 14 hours and 11 minutes



Father Arseny: A Cloud of Witnesses

FR ARSENY; VERA BOUTENEFF, TRANSLATOR; PETER BOUTENEFF & VERA BOUTENEFF, NARRATORS

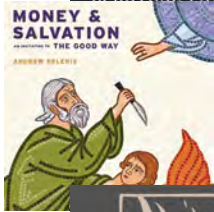
Length: 10 hours and 3 minutes



Father Arseny: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father

FR ARSENY; VERA BOUTENEFF, TRANSLATOR; PETER BOUTENEFF & VERA BOUTENEFF, NARRATORS

Length: 12 hours and 50 minutes



Money & Salvation: An Invitation to the Good Way

ANDREW GELERIS, AUTHOR & NARRATOR

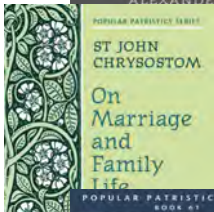
Length: 6 hours and 18 minutes



Our Father

ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN; ALEXANDER HATCHER, NARRATOR

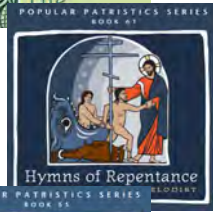
Length: 1 hours and 17 minutes



PPS 7, On Marriage and Family Life

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM; CATHARINE P. ROTH & DAVID ANDERSON, TRANSLATORS; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

Length: 3 hours and 52 minutes



Hymns of Repentance

ST ROMANOS THE MELODIST; ANDREW MELLAS, TRANSLATOR; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

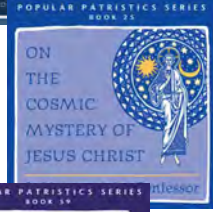
Length: 1 hours and 55 minutes



On Pascha

ST MELITO OF SARDIS; ALISTAIR STEWART, TRANSLATOR; PHILLIP RITCHEY, NARRATOR

Length: 2 hours and 39 minutes



On the Cosmic Mystery

ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; PAUL M. BLOWERS & ROBERT LOUIS WILKEN, TRANSLATORS; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

Length: 5 hours and 53 minutes



On the Ecclesiastical Mystagogy

ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; JONATHAN J. ARMSTRONG, TRANSLATOR; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

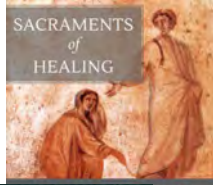
Length: 2 hours and 50 minutes



On the Mother of God

JACOB OF SERUG; MARY HANSBURY, TRANSLATOR; KRISTINA WENGER, NARRATOR

Length: 2 hours and 44 minutes



Sacraments of Healing

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS WARE; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

Length: 2 hours and 36 minutes



Two Hundred Chapters on Theology

ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; LUIS JOSHUA SALÉS, TRANSLATOR; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

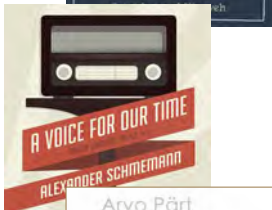
Length: 3 hours and 39 minutes



Headings on Spiritual Knowledge

ST ISAAC OF NINEVEH; SEBASTIAN BROCK, TRANSLATOR; VICTOR CLARKE, NARRATOR

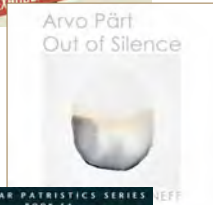
Length: 7 hours and 5 minutes



A Voice for Our Time, vol. 2

ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN; ALEXIS VINOGRADOV & NATHAN WILLIAMS, TRANSLATORS; ZACHARIAH MANDELL, NARRATOR

Length: 16 hours and 29 minutes



Arvo Pärt: Out of Silence

PETER C. BOUTENEFF, AUTHOR AND NARRATOR

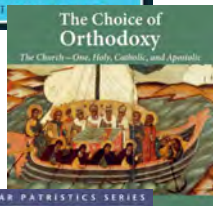
Length: 6 hours and 55 minutes



On the Apostolic Tradition

ST HIPPOLYTUS; ALISTAIR STEWART, TRANSLATOR; ALEXANDER HATCHER, NARRATOR

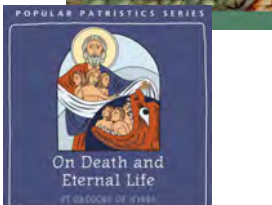
Length: 7 hours and 10 minutes



The Choice of Orthodoxy

DANIEL DALY; ALEXANDER HATCHER, NARRATOR

Length: 2 hours and 56 minutes



On Death and Eternal Life

ST GREGORY OF NYSSA; BRIAN DALEY, TRANSLATOR; JONAH MARTIN, NARRATOR

Length: 6 hours and 39 minutes

Financials

Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

Thanks to the ongoing commitment to financial accountability and transparency of our staff and trustees, the 2023 financial audit of St Vladimir’s Seminary marked sixty years of consistently clean financial audits.

A Word about Finances: It is no secret that over the last four years, the seminary has engaged in a comprehensive assessment regarding the current location of the seminary and its possible relocation to a less expensive area that would provide adequate and affordable space for the seminary to expand and preserve its historical legacy and mission. In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the use of unrestricted funds to make necessary hires in order to increase advancement, tuition, and SVS Press revenues. That decision negatively impacted this year’s operating budget. However, the seminary, having made those investments, is now positioned to work toward the goal of a balanced budget by fiscal year 2026.

TOTAL ASSETS

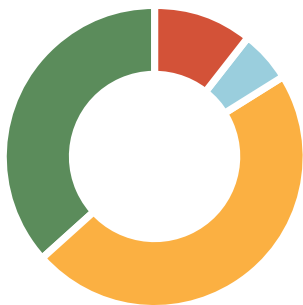
\$25.6 million

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$497,684

TOTAL REVENUE

\$7.9 million



Assets:

● Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,755,273 (10.73%)
● Accounts Receivable	\$473,400 (1.84%)
● Prepaid Expenses	\$8,935 (0.03%)
● Inventory	\$750,065 (2.92%)
● Pledges and Grants Receivable, Net	\$27,971 (0.11%)
● Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	\$193,328 (0.75%)
● Endowment Investments	\$12,103,130 (47.15%)
● Property and Equipment, Net	\$9,355,209 (36.47%)

Total Assets

\$25,667,311

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$475,640
Deferred Revenue	\$22,044

Total Liabilities

\$497,684 (2%)

Net Assets:

\$25,169,627 (98%)

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$25,667,311

“

We are thrilled to mark sixty years of clean financial audits at St Vladimir’s Seminary. It is a significant achievement in our institutional history and underscores our ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. This milestone reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff, faculty, and leadership, who have consistently upheld the values that define our institution.”

—Fr Chad Hatfield



UNRESTRICTED REVENUES

Operating Revenue

Student Tuition and Fees, Net	\$286,453 (4.5%)
Contributions	\$2,411,423 (38.2%)
Grants	\$147,401 (2.3%)
Investment Income	\$61,042 (1%)
Auxiliary Enterprises (Student Room and Board and Apartment Rent)	\$602,169 (9.5%)
SVS Press & Bookstore Revenue	\$1,679,458 (26.7%)
Change in Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	\$20,122 (0.3%)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$1,106,177 (17.5%)
Total Operating Revenue	\$6,314,245



Distribution of Operating Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$3,669,263 (48%)
Depreciation and Facilities	\$1,151,469 (15%)
Service Contracts	\$234,714 (3%)
Other	\$930,710 (12%)
Publication Costs	\$693,496 (9%)
Professional and Consulting Fees	\$778,947 (10%)
Food Service	\$235,528 (3%)
Total Operating Expenses	\$7,694,127

Planned Gifts

Leave a Lasting Legacy

You are a caring person. You care about the future of not only your own parish but also Orthodoxy in America. You know how one priest—rigorously trained, articulate, spiritually mature, and of exemplary character—can change a community and transform the lives of many.

That's why you give to St Vladimir's Seminary. The seminary may even be first in mind when you think about your philanthropy.

Another way to give is to name the seminary as a beneficiary in your will. It's not difficult but an impactful, thoughtful way to show your care for your parish, the Church, and the world.

When you leave a planned gift to St Vladimir's Seminary, you become a member of the *Father Alexander Schmemmann Legacy Society*, a group of mission-minded individuals who invest in the future and stability of Orthodox theological education.

A will is an important part of wise stewardship. Life is full of changes that can affect your will, so if it's been more than a year since you created or looked over your estate plans, it may be time to review them.

As you review your will, please prayerfully consider a planned gift to St Vladimir's Seminary and help seminarians receive a strong theological education.

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9.7).

If you want more information about the Father Alexander Schmemmann Legacy Society and how you can leave a legacy at St Vladimir's Seminary, please contact the **Office of Advancement:**
advancement@svots.edu
914-961-8313 x328

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People are sometimes concerned when they set up a planned gift—they wonder if they can be certain that their money will be well used. That's not something we've ever worried about with St Vladimir's Seminary. Planned gifts offer people, even of modest means, an affordable way to leave 'the gift that keeps on giving' after we repose in the Lord.”

—ANNE VAN DER BERG,
FATHER ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN
LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER



*To whom
will you entrust
your legacy?*

A simple signature you should not forget.

If you've ever opened a bank account, set up a retirement plan, or taken out an insurance policy, you may have completed a form to name who will someday inherit the money in those accounts. Then again, sometimes customer service representatives forget to mention such a form.

But this is too important to forget about or leave unfinished. This is a simple form, done right on the spot, and it keeps your money out of probate—no attorneys, no hassle for your heirs, no extra expenses tacked onto your estate. There is no limit to the amount you can leave someone. And in addition to individuals, you can also name a charity.

As you decide who will inherit your accounts, would you consider including St Vladimir's Seminary along with your loved ones? It's a simple, yet powerful way to provide long-lasting future support for the seminary's mission. (Plus, it saves your heirs up to 65% on your retirement assets.)

It's your money. Your legacy. You should be the one to choose what happens to it.

All it takes is a simple signature.

More simple ways to make your mark on the future:

- » Make a gift through your will or trust
- » Give life insurance you no longer need
- » Donate appreciated stock and save on taxes
- » Consider a gift of real estate
- » Make a gift that gives you fixed payments for life
- » Make a gift that protects your assets

Interested?

For more information about this and other planned giving opportunities, visit:



www.svots.plannedgiving.org

Or contact Office of Advancement:

advancement@svots.edu

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Ordinations

Forming Clergy for Service

Twenty-seven seminarians and alumni of St Vladimir's Seminary were ordained to holy orders during Academic Year 2023-2024 and the summer preceding it. Additionally, three faculty/alumni were elevated in rank.

We keep them all in prayer as they continue in their ministries. AXIOS!





HOLY EPISCOPATE

- 1 Bishop Nikodhim** (Preston; M.Div. '07) • Albanian Archdiocese, Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Consecrated 16 September 2023 • Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese
- 2 Bishop Benedict** (Churchill; M.Div. '10; Former SVS Press Editor) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Consecrated 2 December 2023 • Bishop of Hartford and New England
- 3 Bishop Nektarios** (Papazafropoulos; M.Div. '99) • Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) • Consecrated 13 April 2024 • Bishop of Diokleia, Archdiocese Chancellor

HOLY PRIESTHOOD

- 4 Priest Alexander Gratsias** (M.Div. '21) • Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) • Ordained 2 July 2023 • Servicing Priest, Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, New York, NY
- 5 Priest Dr Mark Therrien** (Th.M. '24) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 22 July 2023 • Rector, St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mentor, OH

- 6 Priest Dr Geevarghese (Renish) Abraham** (Th.M. '24, M.Div. '24) • Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC) • Ordained 29 July 2023 • MOSC Diocese of Delhi
- 7 Priest Spyridon Ickes** (M.Div. '24) • Romanian Episcopate, Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 8 October 2023 • Parish Priest, Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Hermitage, PA
- 8 Priest Njegos Perkovic** (M.A. '21) • Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese of Eastern America • Ordained to the diaconate 14 October 2023 • Ordained to the priesthood 15 October 2023 • St Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church, Aliquippa, PA
- 9 Priest Philip Ritchey** (M.Div. '20) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 22 October 2023 • Assistant Priest at St Symeon Orthodox Church in Birmingham, AL; Project lead for OCA's Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
- 10 Priest Silouan Parchert** (M.Div. '25) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 25 December 2023 • Awaiting parish assignment after graduation



HOLY DIACONATE

- 11 Priest Joshua Birdsall** (M.Div. '24) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 7 January 2024 • St Barnabas Orthodox Church, Costa Mesa, CA
- 12 Priest Gabriel Khoury** (M.Div. '22) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 24 March 2024 • St Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church, Franklin, TN
- 13 Priest Peter Ries** (M.Div. '24) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained to the diaconate 13 September 2023 • Ordained to the priesthood 30 March 2024 • Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church, St Cloud, MN
- 14 Priest Giorgi Lomsadze** (M.Div. '24) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained to the diaconate 13 December 2023 • Ordained to the priesthood 13 April 2024 • St Athanasius Orthodox Church, Nicholasville, KY
- 15 Hieromonk Jacob (Bogdan) Manga** (M.Div. '23) • Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas • Tonsured to the monastic order on 7 June 2024 • Ordained to the diaconate 15 June 2024 • Ordained to the priesthood 16 June 2024 • St Dumitru Romanian Orthodox Monastery, Middletown, NY

- 16 Deacon John (Masatoshi) Shoji** (M.Div. '07) • Orthodox Church in Japan • Ordained 9 July 2023
- 17 Deacon Elias (Elio) Nicolas** (M.A. '19) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 4 December 2023 • Staff member at Antiochian Archdiocese headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey
- 18 Deacon Alexander Nelson** (M.Div. '25) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 25 December 2023
- 19 Deacon Richard Okello** (M.Div. '25) • Holy Diocese of Gulu and Northern Uganda, under the Archdiocese of Kampala of the Patriarchate of Alexandria • Ordained 7 January 2024
- 20 Hierodeacon Stephen Guirgis** (M.Div. '25) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 30 January 2024



- 21 Hierodeacon Cyril Hanna** (M.Div. '25) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 22 April 2024
- 22 Deacon Mark Sultani** (M.Div. '23) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Ordained 27 April 2024
- 23 Deacon Justin Taylor** (M.Div. '25) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Ordained 19 May 2022

MONASTIC ORDERS

- 24 Dayroyo Abrohom Jacob** (M.Div '19) • Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East • Tonsured to the monastic order 9 September 2023

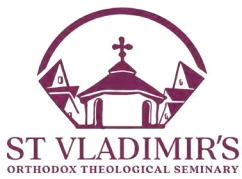
ELEVATION AND AWARDS

- 25 The Very Rev. David Alexander** (Th.M. '11) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Elevated to the dignity of archpriest 4 June 2023 (not pictured)
- 26 The Very Rev. Alessandro Margheritino** (M.Div. '14, D.Min. in progress) • Orthodox Church in America (OCA) • Elevated to the dignity of archpriest 27 August 2023
- 27 The Very Rev. Dr Bogdan Bucur** (Associate Professor of Patristic) • Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (AOCANA) • Elevated to the dignity of archpriest 28 September 2023



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