

Greg Abdalah, a native of the Pittsburgh area, began his college career at Duquesne University studying Music Education during which time he gained theoretical knowledge and practical experience in how children learn, ultimately graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. During that time, he worked in various positions at the Antiochian Village, applying what he was learning at Duquesne. Following graduation, Greg worked as the Deanery Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Deanery, organizing and implementing youth programs for the Antiochian churches in the Pittsburgh area. In 2005, Greg enrolled in St Vladimir's Seminary to gain the education needed to continue work in youth ministry, earning a Master of Divinity in 2008. His thesis is titled: "The Role of Youth Choirs in the Orthodox Church." While there, he was often invited to speak at various camps and youth retreats around the US and Canada. Following graduation, he served as the Pastoral Assistant and Youth Director at St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester, MA until 2014 when he became the Youth Pastor at St George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Phoenix, AZ where he currently serves as the Pastoral Assistant. In 2018 he earned his Doctor of Ministry from St Vladimir's Seminary, focused on teaching the Divine Liturgy to our Youth. In 2020, Greg was appointed to the Doctor of Ministry faculty at St Vladimir's Seminary and named Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology where he focuses on Youth Ministry. He and his beautiful bride Diana are the proud parents of Eleanor and Jonathan.



### Degrees

**St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary**, Crestwood, NY.

*Doctor of Ministry*, January, 2018. Project: On Behalf of All and For All: Our Youth and Our Liturgy.

**St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary**, Crestwood, NY.

*Master of Divinity*, May, 2008. Thesis: The Role of Youth Choirs in the Orthodox Church.

**Duquesne University**, Pittsburgh, PA.

*Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance*, May, 2004.

### Employment History

**St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary**, Crestwood, NY.

*Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology*, June 2020-Present

**St George Antiochian Orthodox Church**, Phoenix, AZ

*Pastoral Assistant and Youth Pastor*, May 2014-Present

**St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral**, Worcester, MA

*Pastoral Assistant and Youth Director*, September 2008-May 2014

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Department of Camping**

*Consultant*, Summer 2008

**Western Pennsylvania Deanery**, Ligonier, PA.

*Deanery Coordinator*, August 2004 – May 2005

## Books

*"Building an Orthodox Marriage" Workbook Companion* – SVS Press 2021

## Articles

"Reclaiming Community: Youth Ministry in Post-Pandemic America" – Word Magazine 2023  
"The Hymnography of John of Damascus" – Word Magazine 2020  
"The Samaritan Woman: A Model for Ministry" – Word Magazine 2020  
"Living the Liturgy: A Practical Guide" – Word Magazine 2019-2020 (10-part series)  
"Grief is a Funny Thing" – Word Magazine 2018 (Reprinted)  
"Grief is a Funny Thing" – Public Orthodoxy 2018  
"Not as Those Who Have no Hope" – Word Magazine 2018  
"Who is my Neighbor (And Who Did They Vote For)?" Word Magazine 2017  
"Our Youth Teach Us" – Word Magazine 2017  
"What is Our Focus?" – Word Magazine 2016  
"Music Education in our Church" – SVS Synaxis 2016 (Reprinted)  
"To Liturgy and Beyond" – Word Magazine 2015  
"Music Education in our Church" – Pan-Orthodox Liturgical Music Symposium 2015 (Updated)  
"Liturgical Discipleship: A Framework for Youth Ministry" – Word Magazine 2015  
"Be Still" – SVS Synaxis 2013 (Updated)  
"Church vs. Church" – CrossRoad 2013  
"Music Education in our Church" – Word Magazine 2013  
"Be Still" – CrossRoad 2009  
"Reflection" – CrossRoad 2008  
"Who's the Boss" – The Basil Leaf 2005  
"A Revelation" – The Basil Leaf 2004

## Retreats and Lectures

Sacred Music Institute, Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July, 2024. "Music Ministry as Youth Ministry"

St George, Washington, DC

April, 2024. "Come, Let us Worship: An Invitation to God's Throne"

St Mary, Hunt Valley, MD

March, 2024. "Don't Stop Believing: A Journey Through the Divine Liturgy"

St Mary, Livonia, MI

January, 2024. "Don't Stop Believing: Leadership Lessons of the Divine Liturgy"

St Haramlambos and Holy Taxiarchi, Niles, IL

November 2022. "Singing the Triumphant Hymn: Joining with the Angels"

OCAMPR – Paper Presentation

November 2022. "Reclaiming Community: Youth Ministry in Post-Pandemic America"

St George Church, Little Falls, NJ

March 2022. "Community Building and You"

St George Church, Little Falls, NJ

March 2022. "For in Him we Live, Move, and Exist: Existing as an Orthodox Christian"

St George Church, Little Falls, NJ

March 2022. "Parenting in a Post-Covid Age"

Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
February 2022. “Angels: Glory to God in the Highest”

Camp St Raphael, WAMP, Ada, OK  
January 2022. “Don’t Stop Believing: A Journey Through the Divine Liturgy”

Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July 2021. Topic: “Most Holy Theotokos Save Us”

St George Church, Toronto, ON  
April 2021. Topic: “Understanding Holy Week”

St George Church, Washington, DC  
April 2021. Topic: “Living and Communicating the Orthodox Faith at Home”

Coffee Hour with Orthodox Young Professionals, Antiochian Archdiocese of North America  
April 2021. Topic: “They Said ‘Yes:’ Lives of the Saints”

Diocese of New England, AOCANA  
March 2021. Topic: “Don’t Stop Believing: A Journey Through the Divine Liturgy”

St Nicholas Church, Grand Rapids, MI  
February/March 2021. Topic: “Come, Let us Worship: Rising to the Challenge in Difficult Times” (3 Parts)

Orthodoxy on Tap, Philadelphia, PA  
March 2021. Topic: “Sacred Arts: Hymnography”

Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
February 2021. Topic: “The Akathist Hymn”

Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
January 2021. Topic: “The Lenten Triodion”

Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
Fall 2020. Topic: “What to Sing and Chant While Singing and Chanting” (7 parts)

Sacred Music Institute, Youth Music Ministry, Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July 2020. Topic: “The Reason for the Season: Part 2 – What’s up with the Royal Hours?”

Sacred Music Institute, Youth Music Ministry, Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July 2020. Topic: “The Reason for the Season: Part 1 – Experiencing Pascha and Christmas”

St Athanasius Academy, Antiochian Archdiocese of North America  
March/April 2020. Topic: “Don’t Stop Believing: A Journey Through the Divine Liturgy” (4 Parts)

St Athanasius Church, Santa Barbara, CA  
March 2019. Topic: “On Behalf of All and for All”

Webinar, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, Crestwood, NY  
May 2018. Topic: “The Church of Today: Youth, Liturgy, and Community.”

St George Church, Little Falls, NJ  
January 2018. Topic: “What is Community? To Whom Do We Belong?”

Camp St Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA  
February 2016. Topic: “Lives of the Saints.”

Camp St Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA  
February 2015. Topic: “Liturgy and Community.”

OCF College Conference, Ligonier, PA  
December 2013. Topic: "What Makes us Orthodox?"

Sacred Music Institute, Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July 2013. Topic: "Youth and Liturgy."

Sacred Music Institute, Department of Sacred Music, AOCANA  
July 2013. Topic: "The Divine Liturgy."

SOYO Leadership Training, Ligonier, PA  
July 2013. Topic: "The Divine Liturgy and Leadership."

Antiochian Village Chanting Camp, Ligonier, PA  
July 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010. Topic: "Learning to Chant."

St George Church, Phoenix, AZ  
April 2013. Topic: "Call to Duty: Answering God's Call."

Holy Apostles Mission, Bowling Green, KY  
October 2012. Topic: "Orthodox Sacred Arts: Purpose and Use"

Holy Apostles Mission, Bowling Green, KY  
October 2012. Byzantine Chant Workshop.

St John's High School Russian Club, Shrewsbury, MA  
March 2012. Topic: "Orthodox Sacred Arts: Purpose and Use"

Assumption College OCF, Worcester, MA  
March 2011. Topic: "Who is God?"

Assumption College OCF, Worcester, MA  
February 2010. Topic: Vocation and Nacho Libre.

Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Orthodox Church in America, Princeton, NJ.  
February 2008. Topic: "J.O.Y – Jesus, Others, Yourself."

Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Ligonier, PA.  
September 2007. Topic: "Vocation."

Camp Transfiguration, Ottawa, CA.  
August 2007. Topic: "Vocation."

St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Worcester, MA.  
March 2007. Topic: "Holy Week in the Orthodox Church."

St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY.  
December 2006. Topic: "Inked or Sealed? To whom do you belong?"

St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, Charleston, WV.  
November 2006. Topic: "True Connections."

St John's Camp, Eagle River, AK.  
August 2006. Topic: "The Liturgy."

CrossRoad Program, Brookline, MA.  
June 2006. Topic: "Vocation in Movies."

St Elian Antiochian Orthodox Church, Brownsville, PA.  
April 2005. Topic: "Holy Week in the Orthodox Church."