



# COMMENCEMENT

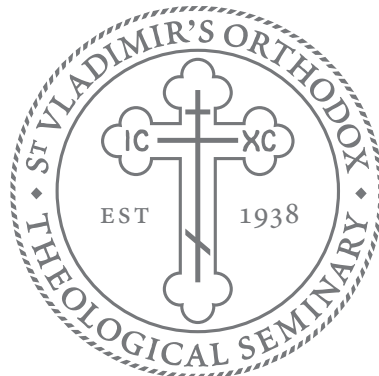
## : 2019 :

ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

YONKERS, NEW YORK



SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019, 2:30 PM @  
METROPOLITAN PHILIP AUDITORIUM





# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

*Please silence all mobile phones  
and other electronic devices.*

*During the Procession: The Troparion of Pascha*

*Opening of the Commencement Exercises*

The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

*Welcoming Remarks*

The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, President

*Conferral of Honorary Degrees*

The Very Rev. Dr. J. Sergius Halvorsen, Faculty Secretary

Mor Ignatius Aphrem II

*Doctor of Divinity (D.D.)*

Alex Machaskee

*Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.)*

*Salutatory Address*

Ms. Laura Zane Wachsmuth

*Commencement Address*

The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel,  
Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America

*Conferral of Degrees on the Graduates of the Class of 2019*

Dr. Ionut Alexandru Tudorie, Academic Dean

*Introduction to the Alumni Association*

The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, President

*Conferral of the St. Macrina Award*

Mr. Daniel Bein,  
President of the Student Council

*Valedictory Address*

The Rev. Herman Fields

*St. Vladimirs' Seminary Chorale*

Gladsome Light, nazo zakkak  
Troparion of Pascha, Georgian chant

*Closing Remarks*

The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All  
America and Canada, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

*Closing prayer:* “Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem”

*Recessional:* The Troparion of Pascha

*A reception follows.*



# THE CLASS OF 2019

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The Rev. Dn. Alexander CALIKYAN  
*[degree awarded December 2018]*

Mr. Daniel Raymond CRIPE

The Rev. Dn. Brian CRIVELLA

Mr. Antwian DAVIS (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. Herman FIELDS (*magna cum laude*)  
*Faithful Fasting: How Can Orthodox Christians Receive the Church's  
Tradition of Fasting in this Particular Day and Age?*  
Dr. Grant White, advisor

The Rev. Dn. Albert HAMBARDZUMYAN  
*(commendation for service to the community)*

Dn. Jake JACOB  
*Does YHWH Desire For His Chosen People to be Endogamous: A Diachronic  
Study of Endogamous and Exogamous Marriages in the Scriptures*  
The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mr. Stefan MASTILOVIC (*commendation for service to the community*)

Mr. Sanjay MATHEW

The Rev. Dn. Simon MENYA  
*[degree awarded December 2018]*

Mr. Angelo NIQUILA (*commendation for service to the community*)  
*Intermarriage in the Patriarchate of Antioch: A Local Issue  
With Universal Implications*  
The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

Dn. Immanuel Amal PUNNOOSE (*cum laude*)  
*A Comparative Study of the Role of Gender in the Liturgical Services  
of the West Syriac Orthodox Church*  
Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

The Rev. Dn. Larry Christopher SOPER  
*(commendation for service to the community)*

Mr. Jithin Jacob ZACHARIAH

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Mr. Elio NICOLAS

*The Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Union of North America: In the Eyes  
of St. Raphael Hawaweeny*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

Mr. Dorde TOMIC (*cum laude, commendation for service to the community*)

*Inner Contemplation and Outward Pastoral Ministry in "Oration II"  
of St. Gregory the Theologian and "The Book of Pastoral Rule"  
of St. Gregory the Great*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

Ms. Laura Zane WACHSMUTH

*(cum laude, commendation for service to the community)*

*The North American Orthodox-Catholic Consultation: A Dialogue of Love,  
Doctrine, and Conversion*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

The Rev. Dn. Stefan DJORIC

*Patriarch Photius' Era and His Mystagogy of the Holy Spirit*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mr Stefan Emil JOHANSSON

*Overlapping Jurisdictions in Ancient Churches*

The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Rentel, advisor

Mr. Alexandru M. POPOVICI

*Hosea 1-3: A Theology of Forgiveness*

The Very Rev. Dr. Eugen Pentiuc, advisor

Ms. Sophia THEODORATOS

*A Seeing Human Being: Sensing Christ and Gaining Sight*

The Rev. Dr. George Parsenios, advisor

The Rev. Sujit T. THOMAS (*commendation for thesis*)

*The Discourse of Orthodoxy and Heresy in the Epistles of Ignatius of Antioch*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

## THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, SEOD is Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and has served for many years as Ecclesiarch, Assistant Professor in Canon Law and Byzantine Studies, and the John and Paraskeva Skvir Lecturer in Practical Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

A faithful priest of the OCA for seventeen years, Fr. Alexander possesses a wealth of experience and knowledge as a professor, liturgist, pastor, and confessor. His expertise in canon law is not only academic, but practical. On many occasions, he has provided canonical guidance and opinions to the Holy Synod on a variety of subjects, and he has been called upon to consult in this area by Orthodox churches around the world. Fr. Alexander is widely known and respected by the many seminarians who have studied under him.

Father Alexander, an alumnus of St. Vladimir's Seminary (SVOTS), received his B.A. in English from The Ohio State University in 1990. He received his M.Div. from SVOTS in 1995, and finished his doctoral dissertation under the direction of Fr. Robert Taft, SJ, at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome in 2004.

Prior to Fr. Alexander becoming an instructor at St. Vladimir's Seminary in 2002, he was a Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. in 2000-2001. He was ordained to the priesthood in July 2001. In October, 2018, the Holy Synod of Bishops confirmed Fr. Alexander as Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America.

Fr. Alexander and his wife, Matushka Nancy (*née* Homyak, SVOTS Class of 1995), are the proud parents of three children, Dimitrios, Maria, and Daniel.

## THE VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian, who delivers the valediction or parting words at commencement, is normally the student who has earned the highest grade point average, with consideration also being given to performance in all other aspects of seminary life. The salutarian, who delivers the salutation or greeting at commencement, is normally the student who has earned the second-highest grade point average, with consideration also being given to performance in all other aspects of seminary life. Commencement speakers must have completed at least 48 credits at St Vladimir's Seminary as full-time degree candidates. Neither the valedictorian nor the salutarian is required to write a thesis.



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Dr. Ionut Alexandru Tudorie

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The Very Rev. Dr. Eric Tosi  
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Dr. Gayle E. Woloschak

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Dr. Paul Meyendorff  
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