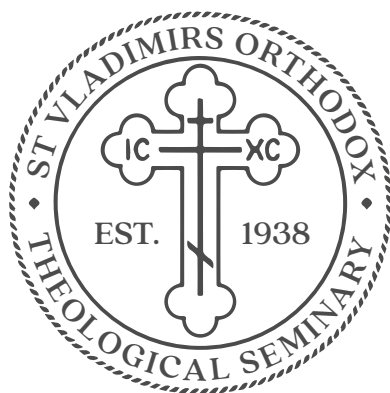




 **ST VLADIMIR'S**   
ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



 2020/2021 

# COMMENCEMENT

 SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021, 1:30 PM 





# 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

*Salutatory Address*

Ms. Natalie Freeborg

*Conferral of Degrees on the Graduates of the Class of 2020  
and the Class of 2021*

Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, Academic Dean

*Conferral of the St. Macrina Award*

Mr. Patrick Russell, President of the Student Council

*Valedictory Address*

The Rev. Hieromonk Michel Mikhail

*St. Vladimirs' Seminary Chorale*

Exapostilarion of Pascha, Alexander Glazunov

*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"*

*A reception follows.*



# The Class of 2020

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The Rev. Dn. Timothy AZNAVOURIAN (*summa cum laude; commendation for thesis, commendation for service to the community*)

*“He Belongs Most of All to the Armenians”: St John Chrysostom in the Symbolic World of Ghewond Alishan*

Rt. Rev. Bishop Daniel Findikyan, advisor

Mr. Daniel Kiflai BEIN (*cum laude, commendation for service to the community*)

*Arise O God, Judge the Earth: The Reception of Psalm 82 in Early Christian Communities and Its Usage on Holy Saturday*

Dr. Grant White, advisor

The Rev. Phillip BEINER

The Rev. Raymond DAVISON (*commendation for service to the community*)

*Witnesses of the Resurrection: Vision of the Father as a Unitive Factor in Athanasius of Alexandria’s Double-Work Contra Gentes-De Incarnatione*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

The Rev. Christopher DILLON (*commendation for service to the community*)

Mrs. Shelby GIOKAS (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. Symeon HALSELL

Mr. Zachariah MANDELL (*valedictorian of the class of 2020; summa cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

*Agents of Unity: Liturgy and the Ministry of Eastern Orthodox Choir Directors*

Mrs. Robin J. Freeman, advisor

Dn. Basil Puthukkunnathu MATHAI (*cum laude; commendation for thesis*)

*From Malankara to America: A Historical Analysis of the Formation of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

Mr. Royce MATHEW

Mr. Loveday OKAFOR

The Very Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostom ONYEKAKEYAH

Mr. Phillip RITCHEY (*summa cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

*The Development of Znamenny Chant and its Relation to the Development of American Orthodox Music*

Mrs. Robin J. Freeman, advisor

Mr. Aaron RUTZ (*summa cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

*Males and Females in the Spiritual Arena: Towards an Orthodox Dialogue on Gender*

Dr. Albert Rossi, advisor

Mr. Cornelius SCHUSTER (*commendation for service to the community*)

*Taste and See: Fostering Christian Unity in the Orthodox Church Through the Teachings of Fathers Sergius Bulgakov and Nicholas Afanasiev*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

The Rev. Dn Armen TERJIMANIAN (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. Todd Nathaniel TREMBLEY

Mr. Theodore WERTHMULLER (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. David WINN

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

The Rev. Peter DIMYAN

*A Pastoral Application of Trinitarian and Christological Theologies for Orthodox Marital Catechesis: Understanding Matrimonial Oneness Through Trinitarian and Christological Archetypes*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

Mr. Mark GENDY

*Earnestly Seeking Eastern/Oriental Orthodox Church Unity: A Reference Point in Christ*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

Mr. Mihajlo GNJATIC

*The Centrality of the Eucharist in the Sacraments*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

Dr. Timm HEINBOKEL (*salutatorian of the class of 2020; summa cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

*Mimetic Perfection: St. Gregory of Nyssa's Hermeneia of Christ*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mr. Andrew Ohannes KAYAIAN (*magna cum laude; commendation for service to the community; commendation for thesis*)

*Historical and Political Cultural Analysis of the 444 Armenian Church Council of Shahapivan*

Dr. Roberta Ervine, advisor

Bathkyomo Asha Susan MATHAI (*cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

*Menstruation and the Holy Eucharist in the Third Century: Analysis of Dionysius of Alexandria's Letter to Basilides and the Didascalia Apostolorum*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mrs Catherine MORFAS [*degree awarded Dec 2019*]

*The Brothers Karamazov: Christian Fiction or Universal Human Drama?*

Dr. Peter Bouteneff, advisor

Mr. Tiberiu-Georgian OPRIȘ (*summa cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

*Church and State in the Byzantine Empire Between the 4th and 6th Centuries: From Eusebius's "Sacramentality" of the Emperor to Justinian's "Caesaropapism"*

Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, advisor

The Rev. Dn. John THETFORD (*magna cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

*Isaiah 40-66 and the Meaning of "Christians" in the 2nd Century*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

The Rev. Giorgi TSKITISHVILI (*cum laude*)

*Converting Death into Life: Maximus the Confessor on Activity and Passivity*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

Mr. Nebojsa VARAGIC

*St. Basil's Ascetic Expectations: Monastics, Marriage, and the Episcopal Office*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

Mr. Jordan WARD (*commendation for thesis*)

*The Divine Sense in Origen's On First Principles*

The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, advisor

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE

Mr. Nathan V. HOPPE

*Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities in Albania and Beyond*

Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards, advisor

The Rev. Ian SHIPLEY

*Experiencing the Orthodox Canon of Scripture as a Parish Community:  
A Study in the Use of a Comprehensive Bible-Reading Plan*

Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions, advisor



# The Class of 2021

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

Mr. Christopher Lee EVANS

Ms. Natalie FREEBORG (*salutatorian of the class of 2021*)

Mr. Mykel GIANNAKAKOS (*commendation for service to the community*)

Mr. Alexander GRATSIAS

Mr. Toby JOHN

Mr. Philip J. MCCLANAHAN

*The Son of Man: Concept and Meaning for Jesus and His First-Century  
Audiences*

The Rev. Dr. George Parsenios, advisor

The Rev. Hieromonk Michel MIKHAIL

*(summa cum laude; commendation for service to the community; valedictorian  
of the class of 2021)*

*From Glory to Glory: The Pastoral Import of the Hymnography of the Feasts of  
the Nativity Cycle*

Dr. Vitaly Permiakov, advisor

The Rev. Dn. Kosmas MORFAS

The Rev. John MORRIS (*commendation for service to the community*)

The Rev. Peter RUNYON (*commendation for service to the community*)

Mr. Rahul THOMAS

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Mr. Daniel Nabil GIRGIS

*Reviving the Coptic Psalmody: A Theological and Hymnological Analysis  
with a Renewed Translation*

Dr. Vitaly Permiakov, advisor

Mr. Theodore George MANT'ZIKOS

*Angels, Bishops, Ladders, or Icons?: The "Greater Things" of John 1.51 in  
Modern Exegesis and Church Tradition*

Dr. John Barnet, advisor

Mr. Miroslav MILJEVIC

*Mark's Crucifixion Narrative According to Apostolic Eye Testimony*

Dr. John Barnet, advisor

Dn. Basil PAUL (*cum laude*)

*Syriac Mysticism: A Voyage with St. Isaac of Nineveh*

The Rev. Dr. Varghese Daniel, advisor

Mr. Njegos PERKOVIC (*cum laude*)

*East Roman Christian Perceptions of the Latins: The Gradual Road toward  
the Great Schism*

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Roeber, advisor

Mr. Patrick RUSSELL (*commendation for service to the community*)

*A Theology of the Gospel of Matthew through the Lens of Matthew 1*

Dr. John Barnet, advisor

Ms. Margaret Julia WACHSMUTH

*The Dormition of the Mother of God: Theological Implications for the Faithful*

Dr. Rossitza Schroeder, advisor

CANDIDATES FOR THE  
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

Mr. Andrew Ohannes KAYALIAN

*Theological and Legal-Cultural Analysis of the Canons of the 444 Armenian Church Council of Shahapivan*

Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, advisor

Bathkyomo Asha Susan MATHAI

*Analysis of the Impurity of the Churching Prayer for the Mother in the Orthodox Churching Rite*

Dr. Vitaly Permiakov, advisor

Mr. Tiberiu-Georgian OPRIS (*commendation for thesis*)

*“Neither Through Fear Nor Through Ignorance That We Refrain...” The History of the Theological Dialogue Between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Jansenists of Sorbonne (1717-31)*

Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, advisor

The Rev. Giorgi TSKITISHVILI

*Melito of Sardis in Georgian (Ath. Ms. 11): A First Edition with English Translation*

The Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur, advisor

## 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 salutatorian, 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 salutatorian is required to write a thesis.

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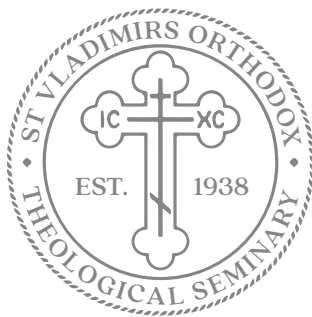
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