



ADMISSIONS

CATALOG 2022–2023



ST VLADIMIR'S
ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT & THE ACADEMIC DEAN



*The Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield and
Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie*

Dear future seminarian,

Theology and education for ministry are not simply academic pursuits. They involve the entire person, not just the intellect. At St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, academic study is important, just as it is at any institution of higher learning. But an Orthodox theological education is more than that. Indeed, there are several interrelated components to a theological education that are necessary to train future leaders and servants of the Church. Yet, before these can even be identified, we must acknowledge a fundamental reality: *there is no formula for what it takes to train a successful and faith-*

ful minister of the Church. Not all good pastors are brilliant academics. Not all church leaders are great orators. Not all ministers are superb liturgical celebrants. Still, this does not mean that any of these skills can be dispensed with. Rather, they all play a complementary role in the cultivation of pastors, educators, and other leaders in the Church, even if the degree to which these skills take root will vary considerably depending on the student.

An Orthodox theological education is far more encompassing and far more demanding than what is offered in a typical divinity school. Members of the Seminary community—faculty, staff, and students alike—are challenged to respect and value each member of our richly diverse community as a unique human person, created in the image and likeness of God. They are challenged to love not just humanity in general but all those flesh-and-blood sisters and brothers whom they meet in daily life, with all their strengths and weaknesses, with all their idiosyncrasies, with all their sometimes hidden charm. At St Vladimir's Seminary, the rich diversity of our community—men and women studying in various programs, coming from many continents, with a wide range of experiences, interests, talents, and goals—places unique demands on all of us. It also offers us unique opportunities for Christian growth.

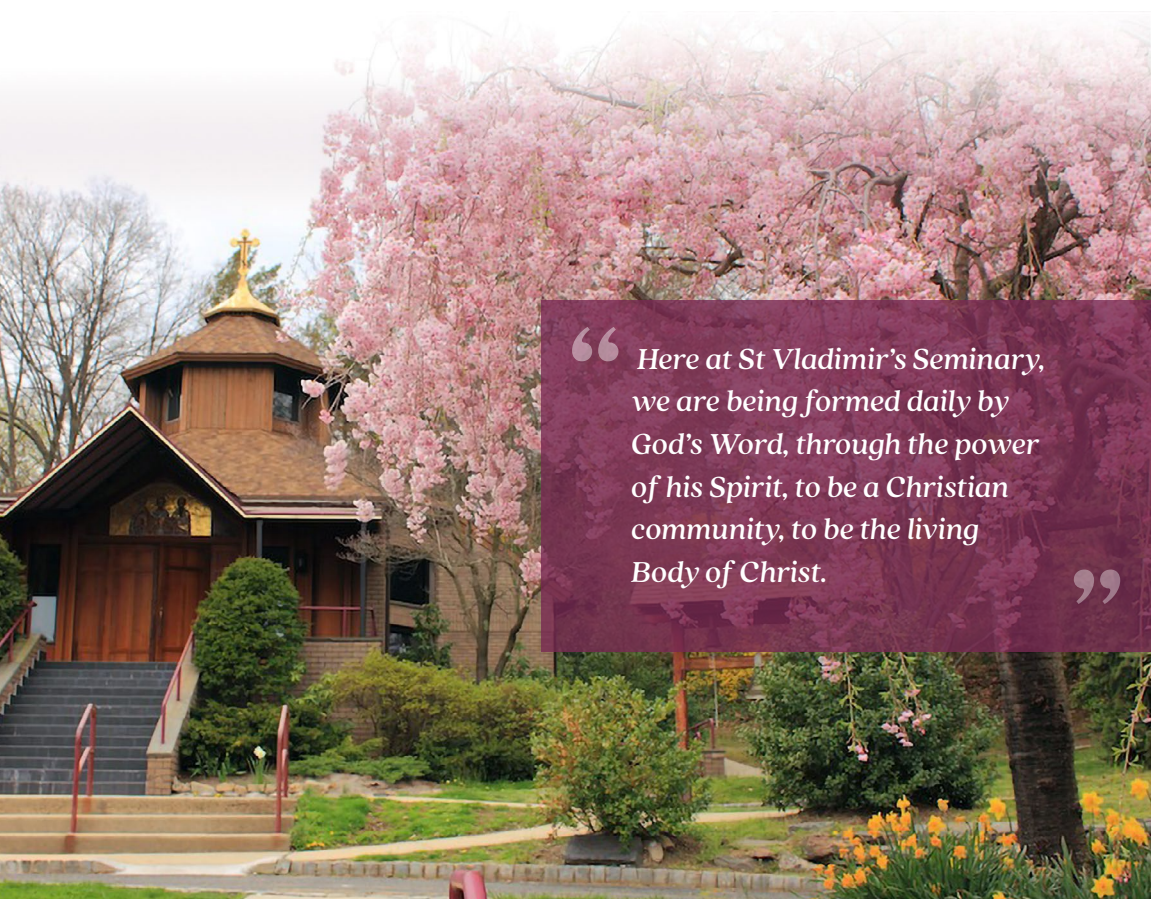
Here at St Vladimir's Seminary, we are being formed daily by God's Word, through the power of his Spirit, to be a Christian community, to be the living Body of Christ. We are trained in obedience and in leadership. We learn how to forgive and how to ask for forgiveness. We discover when to listen and when to speak (preferably calmly and with love). We share our strengths rather than boast in them. We recognize our weaknesses, and we allow God to bring strength out of weakness. In the classroom, we learn what Scripture says about love and how the Fathers have defined it. In every aspect of our life together, we try to show love in action. This understanding of theological education informs all the work of St Vladimir's Seminary. In other words, this is a special place: here, both faculty and seminarians—male and female, single and married—live on campus to worship and study together, providing the best environment for the study of theology and the formation of future priests, theologians, and other co-workers of God.



The Very Rev. Dr Chad Hatfield,
President



Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie,
Academic Dean



“ Here at St Vladimir's Seminary, we are being formed daily by God's Word, through the power of his Spirit, to be a Christian community, to be the living Body of Christ. ”

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Seminary will consider applications for admission to its programs from all qualified Orthodox students who wish to prepare themselves for priestly ministry in the Orthodox Church, missionary work, teaching, or other forms of church service. Qualified non-Orthodox students may also be admitted and receive academic degrees and credit for their work.

In its admissions policy, as in the administration of its programs—educational, financial aid, student activities, and all others—St Vladimir’s Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, gender, disability, or national or ethnic origin.



Deadlines

Saint Vladimir’s operates a rolling admissions procedure **beginning February 1 and ending June 1**. The deadline for all financial aid applications, including need-based grants, need-based scholarships, and merit-based scholarships, is **April 1**. Applications for financial aid submitted after the deadline will be considered only if funds remain available. Notifications of financial aid awards are normally issued with offers of admission.

Application Requirements

All application materials and guidelines are available through the online Admissions Portal at www.svots.edu/apply. All applications and documents must be submitted through the online Admissions Portal.

All applicants must complete and submit the General Application form as well as complete and/or submit the following:

1. A recent photograph (Passport/ID photo);
2. A copy of the applicant’s Baptism/Chrismation certificate;
3. A fully completed and signed background check consent form;
4. Official transcripts from each graduate or undergraduate institution attended (must be sent directly from the institution/s);



5. A letter of recommendation from a pastor or spiritual father;
6. Two letters of recommendation from a professor, employer, or colleague;
7. An interview with the Academic & Recruitment Advisor; and
8. An interview with the designated Program Director.

Please visit www.svots.edu/admissions/requirements for additional requirements for each degree program.

Personal Interviews and Campus Visits

Personal interviews are required for all applicants. Online interviews are possible for those living at great distances from the Seminary. Personal interviews will be scheduled by the Academic & Recruitment Advisor.

Personal interviews may be combined with a campus visit. Campus visits are an excellent opportunity for applicants to attend classes, participate in chapel services, and meet faculty members. Overnight campus visits can be arranged with on-campus housing provided. There are no fees for housing or meals during these visits. Campus visits may be arranged by contacting the Academic & Recruitment Advisor.

Required Deposits

Upon receiving an offer of admission, all admitted students must submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit and a refundable housing security deposit.



*Academic & Recruitment Advisor
Alexandru M. Popovici (M.A. '16;
Th.M. '19)*

If you need more information about the application process or the needed documentation, please email Academic & Recruitment Advisor Alexandru Popovici at admissions@svots.edu





ACCREDITATION

Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, a pan-Orthodox graduate school of theology within the canonical jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), is chartered by the New York State Education Department and accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. The Seminary grants the degrees of Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.), Master of Theology (Th.M.), Master of Divinity (M.Div.), and Master of Arts (M.A.).

The Commission's contact information is:

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

Telephone: 412-788-6505

Fax: 412-788-6510

Website: www.ats.edu





GENERAL INFORMATION

Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary was founded in New York in 1938 to become the "Academy" in North America. In the decades that followed, by the grace of God, the Seminary became home to some of the Orthodox Church's most important leaders and scholars and developed an international reputation as an Orthodox theological academy of the highest standard. Now at its current home in Yonkers, New York since 1962, St Vladimir's Seminary continues to educate and train leaders for the Orthodox Church and serves as an invaluable resource for the Church through activities, publications, and events.

Saint Vladimir—the prince who in AD 988 introduced Orthodox Christianity to Kievan Rus'—was chosen as the perfect patron for this "missional" seminary.

✦ ✦ ✦ 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 21st-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.

“ We need a school of prophets who would have a spiritual and intellectual strength. We have to produce a band of people able and desirous of going abroad into the world, to carry with them the true knowledge, the true understanding, a burning conviction, and a power of persuasion. ”

Fr Georges Florovsky,
The Responsibility of the Orthodox
in America (October 1949)



At St Vladimir’s, the goal of education is not simply the inculcation of knowledge, or even critical thinking skills, but the formation of the whole person. By necessity, the formation of seminarians—as distinct from the formation that takes place in a purely academic environment—considers the entirety of the person, and, as such, focuses on four specific dimensions in which, by the grace of God, all seminarians will grow during their time at St Vladimir’s:

- **Human Formation:** learning to follow in the image of Jesus Christ, the perfect human being, particularly in seeking self-knowledge, love of God, and service to others. The goal of human development is to be an aid in, not a hindrance to, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Spiritual Formation:** becoming committed to a life of both personal prayer and corporate worship, fidelity to the Church, receiving ongoing direction, and showing a spirit of charity. The goal of spiritual development is to live faithfully in intimate and unceasing union with Jesus Christ and as a member of his Body, the Church.
- **Intellectual Formation:** not only completing the demands of a scholarly, rigorous graduate-level program, but also practicing the ability to reflect upon that program of instruction wisely and prudently, as well as the ability to apply it pastorally in service of the Church and others.
- **Vocational Formation:** preparing to execute the duties of their calling, whether as pastor, chaplain, or teacher, or going on to further academic studies. The goal of vocational formation is both to discern one’s calling and to be prepared to answer that calling.

✦ ✦ THE FATHER GEORGES FLOROVSKY LIBRARY ✦ ✦

The Father Georges Florovsky Library at St Vladimir's Seminary is a Pan-Orthodox resource serving all levels of St Vladimir's institutional mission and vision, as well as scholars and researchers worldwide. It is dedicated to providing for the multifaceted research needs of its local and international community—academic, liturgical, pastoral—in order to form and cultivate future leaders and servants in the Orthodox Church and the academy.

The Library's commitment to developing a collection in many languages serves the Seminary's Pan-Orthodox mission. Moreover, while the Library serves the needs of students, faculty, and staff, it also serves researchers worldwide who are studying the Orthodox Church. It is an archival library for the Orthodox Church in America and serves the other Orthodox jurisdictions in North America. It features special collections that include historical materials—books, pamphlets, video and audio tapes, as well as music. Given that the Orthodox Church prioritizes the historical tradition of Scripture and patristics, the Library has extensive holdings and a reputation for its collections in these areas. In addition, the Library offers a service known as “the Lyceum.” The Lyceum is a resource that provides a setting for students to hone and improve their academic thinking, writing, and presentation skills. Its fundamental purpose is to foster a marketplace of ideas and promote intellectual inquiry among the student body, thereby aiding students in their journey to cultivate their own unique contributions to course work, parish life, academic conferences, or publications. For all of these reasons, the Library equitably services all of the Seminary's degree programs: the M.Div., M.A., Th.M., and D.Min.



Main reading room of the Fr Georges Florovsky Library, located on the second floor of John G. Rangos Family Foundation Building



The Fr Georges Florovsky Library holds an extensive collection of approximately 200,000 volumes and receives over 330 periodicals.

Given the Library's commitment to the academic formation of the student body, seminarians will leave St Vladimir's prepared to take on the challenges that face them in the outside world.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY



MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.)



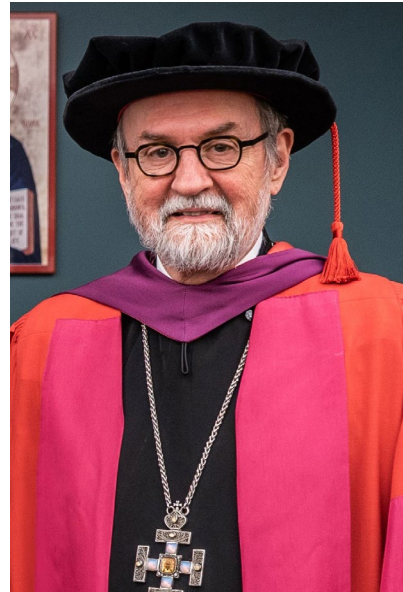
The Master of Divinity is a graduate professional degree designed primarily for qualified Orthodox seminarians preparing for ordination to the priesthood. It is also an appropriate degree for those preparing for hospital chaplaincy with certification in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). The M.Div. prepares individuals for graduate studies in theology and related disciplines.

Seminarians in the M.Div. program come with a variety of undergraduate, and even post-graduate, areas of study.

Saint Vladimir's Seminary is also the only Orthodox seminary in North America that requires CPE as part of the supervised practical experience. This allows the academic courses to be applied in both hospital/clinical ministries and parish ministries. Our Director of Field Education works with the various jurisdictions in the placement of seminarians in area parishes under the supervision of mentors or senior pastors.

Our Spiritual Formation Director is also part of our M.Div. team to help seminarians during their three years of residential life. The balance between high academic standards, pastoral formation, and a healthy spiritual life is a hallmark of our degree's preparation for service in the Church.

Since the fall of 2021 this program has offered concentrations to support personal vocation aspirations and jurisdictional requirements. Courses are divided into core curriculum, specialized courses, and co-curriculars for each concentration with jurisdictionally-oriented courses and electives. The minimum number of credits is 72. A full description may be found on the Seminary's website, www.svots.edu.



*The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield,
President, Professor of Pastoral
Theology, and Director of the Master
of Divinity Program*

VOICES OF ST VLADIMIR'S

Fr Daniel Greeson, M.Div. Graduate



*Fr Daniel Greeson receiving M.Div. diploma from
Metropolitan Tikhon, 2018*


I chose St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary because of its rich past of deep engagement with the Orthodox tradition, as well as its commitment to critically engaging the present challenges facing the Church. This is evident in the work of its faculty. But it is even more evident in the many clergy who call St Vladimir's their alma mater and lead parishes throughout the world. Where else can one be deeply immersed in engaging study with the tradition of the Orthodox faith, on all fronts, from the writings of the Fathers, the iconographic and architectural tradition, the various musical traditions, to the current pastoral situations? There is no place like St Vladi-

mir's, and it is perfectly equipped to train and provide the tools for one wishing to serve the Orthodox Church in the twenty-first century.

As a rector of an Orthodox parish, I am constantly drawing upon all of the various tools given to me by St Vladimir's. For pastoral care, I draw upon so many different classes I had there: classes on the divine Scriptures, the liturgical life of the Church, current pastoral care challenges, Clinical Pastoral Education, and many seminars that gave me the time and space to deeply engage with the works of particular Fathers of the Church. But I also draw upon the many inter-Orthodox experiences, conversations, and friendships that connected me to the broader Orthodox world, especially as I minister to my parishioners who hail from all over the world.

My advice to anyone thinking about the M.Div. program is to first prayerfully discern with those who know you. Prepare yourself through reading and familiarizing yourself with the past works of St Vladimir's Seminary, especially the work of Fr Georges Florovsky, Fr Alexander Schmemmann, Fr Thomas Hopko, and others. If you are not used to deep reading, begin with a serious read through Scripture, some classics of the Orthodox faith, and exemplary Orthodox works of scholarship from contemporary authors. Read things outside of your comfort zone. You will do this for your entire career at St Vladimir's. Ensure that you are deeply engaging in prayer and the liturgical life of your local parish. Prepare to encounter a lot of challenges in a condensed and pressured manner that will probably be entirely new to you. St Vladimir's is a pressure cooker—all normal challenges are increased. You wonder from

the very first time you step foot on to campus, “Will I be ordained? Where will I serve? What am I doing here? Do I belong? How will my family do? Will my wife find friends? Will my children thrive?” Root yourself in prayer. These challenges will follow you into whatever ministry you serve. God is guiding you and is faithful. Listen to those who have guided you and lean on them. Find and develop friendships—they will follow you and strengthen you after St Vladimir’s Seminary.



“Where else can one be deeply immersed in engaging study with the tradition of the Orthodox faith, on all fronts, from the writings of the Fathers, the iconographic and architectural tradition, the various musical traditions, to the current pastoral situations?”

✦ ✦ ✦ MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) ✦ ✦ ✦



*Dr John Barnet, Associate Professor
of New Testament, Director of the
Master of Arts Program*

The Master of Arts program in general theological studies is a good fit for those wishing to explore the major academic areas within the theological curriculum without the professional preparation required of candidates for ordination in the Orthodox Church. The program is designed to meet the needs of students preparing to pursue advanced doctoral studies or who feel called to serve in lay ministry roles in the church. But the program is also intended for those of any profession or occupation who seek to acquire the “mind of Christ,” as the Apostle Paul urged the Philippians, in order that they might engage the world through their profession with that mind. To acquire the mind of Christ is a long process that begins with a daily encounter with God’s word in study, service, and prayer, the components of a genuine Orthodox theological education and the pillars of the Master of Arts program at St Vladimir’s Seminary. Students who are admitted to the Masters of Arts program complete a core curriculum of courses in the arts, history, liturgy, Scripture, and theology, as well as the requirements of a concentration

of their choice. The program offers three concentrations: General Theological Studies (for those wishing to explore theological study on a disciplined basis, whether for personal spiritual development or to supplement a professional vocation); Sacred Arts (for those wishing to explore the sacred arts in a theological curriculum); and Theological Scholarship and Research (for those preparing for further graduate study in theology).

Saint Vladimir’s Seminary seeks to equip students in the Master of Arts program to read Scripture and the Church’s tradition with discernment; to think theologically and pastorally about the world and their cultural context, addressing contemporary realities in a manner faithful to the Church’s tradition; and to research and write at a scholarly level.

VOICES OF ST VLADIMIR'S

Arpi Nakashian, M.A. Graduate

When I applied to get my Master of Arts from St Nersess Armenian Seminary,* I was told that I needed to attend St Vladimir's Seminary. Quite honestly, I had not heard of St Vladimir's Seminary until then, so I researched the school and was in awe of her beauty; I still remember seeing the chapel floating at the top of the hill. But the reason that I fell in love with St Vladimir's Seminary was not only that the sound of her bells resonated with those in my hometown, Jerusalem, but also that the knowledge I was going to attain was rooted in the sacred traditions of the Holy Land, where Christ himself was born, ministered, died, and resurrected. I may not have chosen St Vladimir's Seminary, but I chose to stay at St Vladimir's.

Through my Master of Arts at St Vladimir's Seminary and St Nersess Armenian Seminary, I became equipped to serve in my current position at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in the field of digital ministry. My current Ph.D. advisor, Fr John Behr, was one of my professors at St Vladimir's Seminary, so through the faculty I established a network of connections to broaden and deepen my ministry.

My advice for prospective students would be that they have to be 100% "in." What does that mean? Being part of the SVOTS community is truly a lifestyle: there Christianity is not only taught but lived. There will be sleepless nights and stressful days, but at the end the knowledge of the Son of God attained at seminary makes it worthwhile.



Arpi Nakashian receiving her diploma from Rev. Mardiros Chevian, Dean of St Nersess Armenian Seminary, 2015

**Students of St Nersess participate in a joint program with St Vladimir's Seminary.*

✦ ✦ ✦ MASTER OF THEOLOGY (Th.M.) ✦ ✦ ✦



*Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie,
Academic Dean, Professor of Church
History, and Director of the Master of
Theology Program*

In 1970 St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary received the power to award the degree of Master of Theology from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. During these past fifty years the proposed curriculum for this academic program has been under constant refinement in order to fulfill its major goal: to prepare students for advanced theological research and to pursue a terminal academic degree. This is part of our responsibility toward the Church, and those who become students at St Vladimir's Seminary in particular. Those who have an inclination toward theological research should recognize this as a gift. Saint Vladimir's professors find it imperative that Master of Theology students be encouraged to invest their talent and are given concrete means to do so. The student is definitely the first beneficiary, but theological training is always for the building up of the Church. Whether they will be ordained or pursue an academic career, their local church community and the Church more broadly will profit from their exquisite theological education.

This program primarily targets qualified Orthodox students from the US or abroad with a strong theological background (a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent is a minimum requirement to be admitted to our Master of Theology program along with a strong knowledge of at least one classical language—Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Armenian, etc.). Non-Orthodox students who wish to specialize in Orthodox studies are also more than welcome to apply to this program. The seminars that are led by our carefully selected faculty members focus on research methods that will prepare and equip the Master of Theology students to engage in advanced theological reflection and to do research and write theology at a scholarly level suitable for peer-reviewed publications. The expected step after graduating this program is to continue with a terminal academic degree in different fields of theology, but ordination (for those with a Master of Divinity degree) is always encouraged.

The six mandatory Th.M. seminars (18 credits), which are rotated on an annual basis, concentrate on selected topics of Orthodox studies: church history, canon law, liturgical theology, patristics, biblical studies, and dogmatics. Every seminar includes methodological guidance in the respective area of research and thus the students will be prepared to apply different research methods in their future studies. Addi-

“ Saint Vladimir’s professors find it imperative that Master of Theology students be encouraged to invest their talent and are given concrete means to do so.... Whether they will be ordained or pursue an academic career, their local church community and the Church more broadly will profit from their exquisite theological education. ”

VOICES OF ST VLADIMIR’S Alexander Titus, Th.M. Graduate

From the time when I first became Orthodox in college, I immediately began seeking ways to harness my academic interests to serve the Church. When I discovered the Master of Theology program at St Vladimir’s, I knew that this was the path to which the Lord was calling me. While there are many other programs that can boast of high academic standards, it was obvious to me that a secular or even a non-confessional program would not provide the same foundation when compared to an Orthodox seminary. I had already been exposed to SVOTS by way of their reputation as one of the leading institutions of Orthodox scholarship in the Western world, which made them the most appealing choice. I was also particularly drawn by the merit-based Dean’s Fel-

tionally, these seminars could be complemented with other electives offered by our school, by Fordham University, and by other schools from the New York Theological Consortium (Union Theological Seminary, General Theological Seminary, New York Theological Seminary, and Hebrew Union College). Monthly invitations to academic events that include faculty research seminars, discussing their best final papers in the twice-yearly graduate student conferences, and the final thesis public defense with the participation of their peers and professors are all excellent opportunities to propel our Master of Theology students to the next level of advanced theological research.



Alexander Titus receiving his diploma from
Metropolitan Tikhon, 2016

lowship, which provides a full tuition subsidy as well as an opportunity to gain teaching experience at the graduate level. Since I was already a student in the Master of Arts program, the Th.M. allowed me to continue the research from my first theological degree, working with many of the same faculty with whom I was already familiar, as well as maintaining my on-campus residence with my family.

Having been away from SVOTS for several years now, I have come to appreciate even more how unique it is. The Th.M. program gave me the opportunity to deepen the avenues of research that I had already begun as an M.A. student, and encouraged me to think more critically about the kinds of contributions that I could most effectively make to both Church and academy. Aside from the foundation in patristics, liturgics, systematics, and church history that I had received there as an M.A. student, the Th.M. offered a short-form preparation for what one can generally expect in a North American Ph.D. program in theology, including seminars, teaching opportunities (from the Dean's Fellowship), working closely with a faculty advisor, and writing a final thesis with an oral defense. The contacts I made during my time at SVOTS, particularly with the Press, have been immensely helpful in advancing my current work as a doctoral candidate.

I would suggest keeping in mind that the SVOTS Th.M. is only a single-year program, during which time you will not only be attending classes, but writing your thesis, working with your advisor, attending chapel services, serving as a teaching assistant (if on the Dean's Fellowship), and, if you are going on to doctoral work, applying for Ph.D. programs. Therefore you should work out a good plan for time management and also enter the program with a clear picture of your thesis project already developed. It should ideally be a continuation and deepening of your previous research. That way, you will not have to start something new entirely from scratch.

Finally, even at the more academically rigorous level of the Th.M., SVOTS neither disassociates from ecclesiastical convictions institutionally, nor does it expect the student to disregard such convictions personally, in the name of "objective scholarship." As such, you should expect to be seriously challenged, both academically and spiritually, but in a manner in keeping with the great ascetic tradition, simultaneously honing your intellect and deepening your life in Christ.

✦ ✦ ✦ DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.Min.) ✦ ✦ ✦

The D.Min. program provides priests, chaplains, and other pastoral professionals—both lay and ordained—with advanced knowledge and skills in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering. Graduates complete the program with unique expertise in a specific focus area that enables them to serve the wider Church as leaders in their fields of ministry.

Students who have a passion for ministry, a love of reading and research, strong writing ability, and a desire to be part of a diverse community of teachers and learners are a perfect fit for the program. Qualified applicants demonstrate that they: 1) hold a Master of Divinity degree; 2) have at least three years' experience in ministry subsequent to the first graduate theological degree and are currently serving in a position of ministry; and 3) are capable of doing doctoral-level academic work. Ordained clergy and lay ministers who meet the requirements are equally encouraged to apply.

Our Lord sent his apostles out two by two (Mk 6.7) to preach and minister, and before ascending into Heaven instructed them that he would be present whenever two or three are gathered together in his name (Mt 18.20). Christian ministry, therefore, is defined by Christ himself as a cooperative work. The D.Min. program fosters and strengthens this sense of cooperation with the cohort system in which groups (cohorts) of students progress through the program as members of a team. Members of the cohort develop and grow as Christian ministers while supporting one another in the academic and pastoral elements of the program. In addition to the program objectives, it is hoped that members of the cohort will form lasting bonds that will strengthen and enhance their ministries well beyond graduation.

Integrating doctoral level academic work with pastoral spirituality, students acquire and refine advanced skills in practical theology, research, and writing in order to better minister to those whom God has called them to serve. In addition to developing skills in text-based research, students also develop skills in field research, which enable them to perform ongoing research in their ministry contexts. Students who complete the program will be able to: demonstrate an advanced competency in the practice of ministry in the Orthodox tradition; perform analytical and ministerial research in Scripture,



*The Very Rev. Dr. J. Sergius Halvorsen,
Assistant Professor of Homiletics and
Rhetoric, Director of the Doctor
of Ministry Program*

patristic texts, and contemporary sources; integrate advanced theological knowledge into one's ministry in the local context; and communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ more effectively through oral, written, and other media. Core courses include topics in apologetics, missiology, liturgical theology, preaching, pastoral counseling, youth ministry, bioethics, and ministry to the sick and dying. Each student completes a final project (thesis) that generates new knowledge regarding the practice of ministry.

The D.Min. program, grounded in Scripture, patristics, and the Orthodox Christian tradition, provides students with the knowledge and skills to do advanced theological research in the Christian communities they serve, in order to better build up the Body of Christ.

VOICES OF ST VLADIMIR'S

Dr Gregory Abdalah, D.Min. graduate



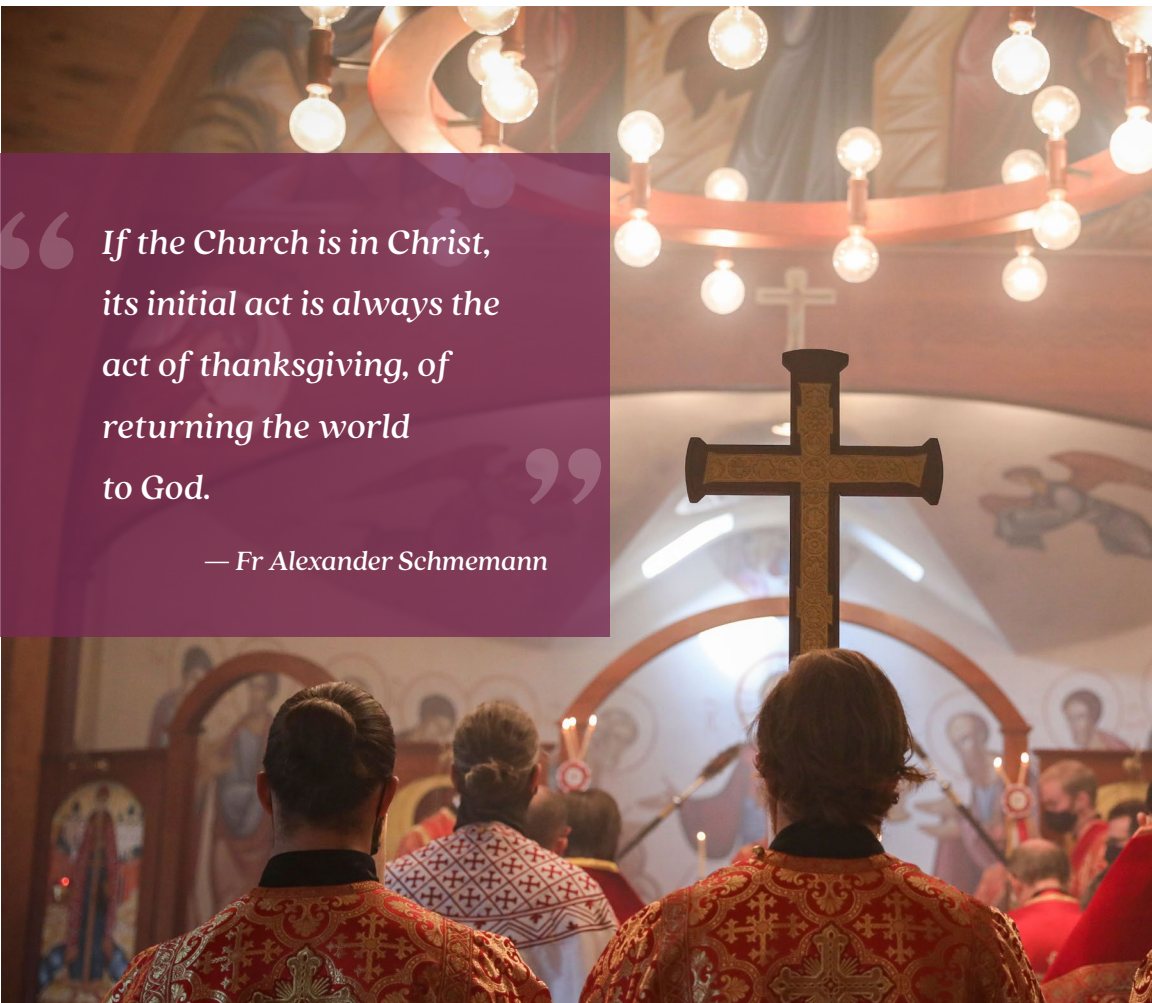
Gregory Abdalah, D.Min., graduated from the Seminary's Master of Divinity program (2008) and the Doctor of Ministry program (2017).

I graduated with my M.Div. from SVOTS in the spring of 2008. After working in a parish for a few years, I felt like my work was lacking. I wasn't as creative as I had been previously, and it was beginning to show. At about that same time, SVOTS introduced the hybrid D.Min. program. I was involved in the Alumni Association at the time and, upon hearing a presentation about the program at one of our meetings, I realized it was exactly what I needed. While the hybrid D.Min. program at SVOTS provides a flexible schedule, it was the interactions with my cohort that really grabbed my attention. Whether virtually or during the on-site intensives, peer interaction provided a wide range of benefits including a sounding board that helped to spark the creativity I was lacking, a much-needed support network of others in ministry, and a broader perspective on various topics. Looking at all of these factors, choosing SVOTS was a must.

Once I began the D.Min., I realized I had made the right choice. The central purpose of this program was application. The offered classes and assignments provided opportunities to develop and retool new goals for ministry and ways to implement those goals. Through our interactions with professors and our fellow students, we could discuss the implementation of our goals, but it was not

through these interactions alone. The feedback from our External Review Committee was irreplaceable, giving those to whom we were ministering opportunities to share how we were doing. It might be tough to hear what they had to share, at times, while providing a chance to sharpen what I was doing so that my goals for ministry would align with the needs of those to whom I was ministering.

I often hear from friends who are in ministry that they would love to get their D.Min. but a wide range of excuses typically follows. I regularly and wholeheartedly recommend the D.Min. program to them. This is the perfect program for anyone who is looking to sharpen their skills, might be feeling like they could be doing more, or need something different but aren't sure what that is, and it is flexible enough to work within your schedule. Throughout the D.Min. process, my outlook changed and my creativity was back. I was refocused and approached each day differently. It was exactly what I needed.



*If the Church is in Christ,
its initial act is always the
act of thanksgiving, of
returning the world
to God.*

— Fr Alexander Schmemmann



✦ ✦ ✦ RESIDENTIAL ✦ ✦ ✦

Saint Vladimir's is committed to being a residential Orthodox Christian community. We believe it's impossible to adequately form priests and church leaders over the internet. We hope you will be numbered among those Orthodox Christians who live in community with us—a rare and challenging opportunity. One of the enriching qualities of St Vladimir's is the diversity of our students: we are single and married, male and female, fresh out of college and coming from established careers, and from many Orthodox jurisdictions in the US and abroad. We are united by our common desire to be formed and shaped for service in Christ's Church.

Our program is structured for intentional intellectual, emotional, and spiritual formation: in classroom instruction; in living the rhythm of the daily cycle of services; in discovering one's strengths and weaknesses by living in close proximity to others; through regular prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, silence, and participation in the sacramental life of the Church; and through the development of pastoral sensitivity.

✦ ✦ ✦ STUDENT INTEREST GROUPS ✦ ✦ ✦

We have a number of student-led and faculty-supervised interest groups. These groups are determined each year by the student council and are subject to change based on the amount of interest. Currently we have the following active groups:



St Ambrose Society

The St Ambrose Society is the Seminary's pro-life student interest group. This group seeks to raise awareness of, to promote, and to obey the Church's teachings by hosting seminars and lectures on vital pro-life issues. Each semester, members gather to pray outside a local Planned Parenthood organization. This group also organizes the Seminary's participation in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



St Demetrios Society

The St Demetrios Fitness and Fellowship Society is a platform in which our community can come together in fellowship and maintain a healthy lifestyle, aiding in the formation we strive to achieve while at Seminary. This society creates an opportunity for regular physical activity on a more communal level so that, in addition to the soul and mind "work-outs" we get through classes, personal prayer, and chapel life, we may maintain our physical health as well.



St Herman Society

The St Herman Society for Orthodox Ecology seeks to encourage environmental stewardship. The group has sponsored campus beautification days and tree-planting ceremonies, public lectures by notable ecologists, and the observance of the Orthodox Christian New Year, with its traditional theme of creation care.



St Innocent Mission Society

The St Innocent Mission Society exists to promote awareness and involvement in Christian mission and evangelism. Taking into account Jesus' call to his apostles to be witnesses locally, regionally, and internationally (Acts 1:8), the society seeks opportunities in these dimensions to love our fellow human beings made in the image of God and to promote the edification and growth of Christ's Church.



St Juliana Society

The St Juliana Society, formed to support future clergy wives, plans a variety of events with a range of speakers who cover topics that have been suggested by former graduates and second- and third-year student wives. Meetings are on alternate Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., generally at the home of our president and his wife, Fr Chad and Mat. Thekla Hatfield. There is

also a more general Women's Group, specifically aimed at facilitating events that encourage fun and fellowship for all women on campus, whether they be staff, faculty wives, or students. Movie nights, "moms' night out," cooking classes, game nights, and other creative special activities draw the women together for times of relaxation and fellowship.



St Moses Society

Taking the Fellowship of St Moses the Black as its inspiration, the St Moses Society endeavors to foster meaningful conversation on race in the Orthodox Church today. The group holds bi-weekly prayers of reconciliation in the St Mark Coptic Chapel on campus.



Orthodox Inter-Seminary Movement (OISM)

OISM typically meets twice a year at a different seminary and seeks to foster prayer, fellowship, and cooperation among seminarians of the Orthodox Church.



✦ ✦ ✦ CHAPEL LIFE ✦ ✦ ✦

Orthodox theological education is uniquely and significantly tied to liturgical worship. Seminarians and their families are enriched, challenged, and instructed in Three Hierarchs Chapel, named for Sts Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom and consecrated in 1983. Our academics are inseparable from our daily worship, which provides the context for everything we do at the Seminary. This worship is the cornerstone of our spiritual formation.

Saint Vladimir's seminarians participate in twice-daily services during weekdays in non-fasting seasons—Matins and Vespers—and thrice-daily services during weekdays in fasting seasons—Matins, Vespers, and Compline. Our worship also includes Saturday evening Vigil and Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, as well as special festal and Lenten celebrations. Students are assigned to take an active part in daily reading, serving, and preaching and to participate in the seminary choirs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

✦ ✦ ✦ TUITION & FEES ✦ ✦ ✦

Charges for tuition, fees, and room & board are due and payable at the beginning of each semester. Full-time students may make arrangements with the Chief Financial Officer to pay these fees in installments, subject to a finance charge, the first of which is due at the beginning of the semester. All accounts must be paid in full for the previous term before the student is permitted to register for a new semester. If payment or other satisfactory arrangements have not been made by the end of the second week of the semester, the student will not be permitted to attend classes until payment or other arrangements have been made.



Tuition and fees are set annually by the Board of Trustees and are subject to change at the Board's discretion. Tuition, fees, and estimates of other expenses for the following academic year are posted online each year in early February.

TUITION & FEES: 2021–22*

Enrollment Deposit	\$500 (<i>non-refundable enrollment deposit applied toward tuition and fees</i>)
Full-Time Tuition	\$6300 (<i>per semester, 4–5 courses [12–15 credits]</i>) \$1575 (<i>per course in excess of 5 courses [15 credits]</i>)
Full-Time Limited Program Tuition	\$6300 (<i>per semester, 3 courses [9 credits]</i>)
Part-Time Tuition	\$1575 (<i>per course [3 credits]</i>)
Audit Fee	\$500 (<i>per course</i>)

Continuation Registration Fee	\$500 (<i>per semester of continuation registration</i>)
Registration Fees	\$160 (<i>per semester, waived for continuation registration</i>) \$30 (<i>per course, auditor</i>) \$50 (<i>late registration, degree candidates only</i>)
Student Activities Fee	\$150 (<i>per semester, degree candidates in residential degree programs</i>)

Application Fees	\$100 \$125 (<i>late application, after June 1</i>)
Change of Program Fee	\$75
Diploma Replacement Fee	\$30
Equivalency Evaluation Fee	\$50 (<i>applied toward subsequent application fee</i>)
Thesis Printing Fee	\$100 (<i>as required</i>)
Transcript Fee	\$10 (<i>per transcript, processed in 5–10 business days and sent by standard mail. Students who request expedited processing will be charged the cost of special mailing.</i>)

***Please visit www.svots.edu for the most up-to-date financial information.**

✦ ✦ ✦ HOUSING & BOARD ✦ ✦ ✦

Saint Vladimir's Seminary provides on-campus housing for students enrolled in full-time residential programs and offers limited accommodations for students enrolled in hybrid courses during their one-week onsite sessions.

APARTMENT RENT, ONSITE FEE, & ROOM & BOARD: 2021–22*

Accommodations for D.Min. Onsite Visit:	\$425 (<i>per visit, when staying on campus</i>)
Apartment Rent:	\$875–\$1045 (<i>per month, depending on apartment</i>)**
Board (dormitory):	\$2100 (<i>per semester</i>)
Room (dormitory):	\$1415 (<i>per semester</i>)***

***All apartment residents are responsible for a refundable security deposit of \$1000. The deposit, minus damages and/or unpaid rent, is refunded when the student vacates the apartment. Moving from one apartment to another or from dormitory to apartment requires a new security deposit.*

****All dormitory residents are responsible for a refundable security deposit of \$250. The deposit, minus damages, is refunded when the student vacates the dormitory. Moving from one dormitory room to another or from apartment to dormitory requires a new security deposit.*



Residential Housing

Married Student Housing. Married students may move into their apartments after August 15. Married students are responsible for monthly rent and utility bills. Apartments range in size from one- to three-bedroom facilities and include a kitchen with stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher. Coin-operated laundry facilities are available in the basement. Apartments are unfurnished.

*Most up-to-date information can be found at www.svots.edu/admissions/housing.

Dormitory Housing. Dormitory students may move in the day before orientation begins. Each room is supplied with a twin (long) bed, a dresser, a desk and chair, and closet space. Bathroom facilities in each residence hall are shared. Male and female students are housed in separate areas and floors.

Off-Campus Housing Restrictions. On-campus residency is mandatory for all students enrolled in the M.Div. program and for all students receiving financial aid from the Seminary. Should a situation arise that requires a student to live off campus, the student must petition the Director of Residential Life and outline the reasons why his or her request should be granted. If a blessing is given, the student is responsible for the market rate of the rental as well as for all seminary responsibilities.



✦ ✦ ✦ **FINANCIAL AID** ✦ ✦ ✦

Saint Vladimir’s Seminary awards and distributes its financial resources with a view toward Christian charity and stewardship. Most seminary students receive some form of financial assistance, and students should be mindful that such aid is a privilege to be enjoyed thanks to many benefactors who have graciously given funds to the Seminary.

All students are considered financially independent. Therefore, parental information is not required to determine need. The Seminary does, however, require financial information from spouses of married students and full disclosure of grant and scholarship assistance from outside sources, such as, but not limited to, parish, diocesan, and archdiocesan education funds.

Each semester’s financial aid is applied toward the student’s seminary account at the time of registration. Seminary awards are given with the understanding that the student will be in attendance for the full semester.



Eligibility for Financial Aid

To be eligible for financial aid from St Vladimir's Seminary, a student must normally 1) live on campus (if enrolled in a residential program); 2) be enrolled at the seminary on a full-time basis as a degree candidate; and 3) be making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree. To be considered full-time, students must be enrolled for at least twelve credits per semester; D.Min. students must be enrolled for six credits per term while registered for course work and three credits per term during their final project registration. To be eligible for US Government loans, students must be degree candidates and enrolled for at least six credits per semester.

Types of Financial Aid

Grants and Scholarships

The Seminary administers need-based tuition grants, need-based scholarships, merit scholarships (Th.M. program only), and continuing education grants (D.Min. program only). Awards are made annually but are distributed one semester or term at a time to eligible students, as defined above. The amount given per semester or term will normally be one half the total award for the year.

Matching Grant Opportunity

Need-based tuition grants (M.Div., M.A., and Th.M. programs) consist of two components: 1) an outright tuition grant and 2) a matching grant opportunity. Outright grants are applied directly against a student's tuition; matching grant funds are awarded on a dollar-to-dollar basis with funds received from outside ecclesial bodies or organizations, such as dioceses, parishes, parish organizations, church aid organizations, or church scholarship funds. Funds received from private individuals do not qualify for matching grant funds.

US Government Loan Programs

The Seminary participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. This program allows students to borrow funds to help meet their educational costs at the post-secondary level, and is available to US citizens and permanent-resident aliens. Applicants must be in good academic standing and enrolled at least half time, and they may not be in default on any previous loans.

***Please visit www.svots.edu for complete information.**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Students come from all over the world to attend St Vladimir's Seminary. The international student body provides a unique and rich blend of different people, cultures, and educational experiences. This international presence helps to encourage dialogue, valuable exchange, and a tangible sense of unity in Christ among students of all nations.

International applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as the visa process may take additional time due to backlogs at embassies.

Academic Requirements

Transcripts are required from all post-secondary accredited institutions attended in the original language and with a certified English translation. Applicants may be required to obtain a US equivalency of their international degrees from a US-based company (Morningside, etc.).

Language Requirements

In order to undertake a program of study at St Vladimir's Seminary, international students must demonstrate that they have attained a level of proficiency in English that is sufficient for graduate-level studies. The usual basis for evaluation is the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of the Educational Testing Service (www.ets.org/toefl). The Seminary's TOEFL Institute Code is 2804. The minimum TOEFL iBT scores required are 96 (M.Div.), 100 (M.A.), and 104 (Th.M. and D.Min.). TOEFL waivers will be considered for applicants who have earned a degree from a college or university in the United States, or from a non-US university where the primary language of instruction is English, as long as there is sufficient evidence that the applicant has attained the level of proficiency in English required for graduate-level studies.

Legal Requirements

A certified English translation of the applicant's criminal record, issued by the competent authority, is required.

Immigration Requirements

Upon receiving an offer of admission all international applicants must complete the Application and Certification of Financial Support for Form I-20 and pay the required deposits. The Seminary will then be able to issue Form I-20, the document that allows them to apply for an F-1 student visa at a US embassy or US consulate. As part of the visa application, international students must demonstrate that sufficient funds are available to cover academic and living expenses incurred during the duration of their presence in the United States. Students will be able to travel to the United States to begin their studies only after their F-1 visa has been issued by the US Embassy.

FACULTY DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT



V. REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD
President of the Seminary; Rector of the Chapel; Interim Director of the Master of Divinity Program; Professor of Pastoral Theology

914.961.8313 x339
hatfield@svots.edu

ACADEMIC DEAN



DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE
Academic Dean; Professor of Church History

914.961.8313 x314
iatudorie@svots.edu

FULL-TIME TENURED FACULTY



DR JOHN BARNET
Associate Professor of New Testament

914.961.8313 x313
jbarnet@svots.edu



DR PETER C. BOUTENEFF
Professor of Systematic Theology

914.961.8313 x371
pcb@svots.edu



REV. DR BOGDAN G. BUCUR*
Associate Professor of Patristics

914.961.8313 x326
bucur@svots.edu

FULL-TIME SESSIONAL FACULTY



V. REV. DR J. SERGIUS HALVORSEN*
Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric

914.961.8313 x367
shalvorsen@svots.edu



REV. DN VITALY PERMIAKOV
Assistant Professor of Liturgical Theology

914.961.8313 x331
vpermiakov@svots.edu



DR HARRISON RUSSIN
Assistant Professor of Liturgical Music

hrussin@svots.edu

PART-TIME FACULTY



REV. DR SILVIU N. BUNTA
Associate Professor of Old Testament

sbunta@svots.edu



REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL
Assistant Professor of Malankara Studies

vdaniel@svots.edu



V. REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL*
Assistant Professor of Canon Law

arentel@svots.edu

*Faculty members labeled with an asterisk are also Doctor of Ministry faculty.



REV. DR ANTHONY G. ROEBER
Professor of Church History
aroeber@svots.edu



DR JOHN MARK REYNOLDS
Professor of Philosophy
jreynolds@svots.edu



DR ROSSITZA B. SCHROEDER
Associate Professor of Art History
rschroeder@svots.edu



V. REV. DR NICHOLAS SOLAK
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
nsolak@svots.edu



V. REV. DR ERIC TOSI
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
etosi@svots.edu

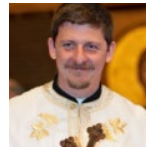
INSTRUCTORS OF THE PRACTICE



V. REV. VLADIMIR ALEANDRO
OCA Liturgics
valeandro@svots.edu



DR MATTHEW SCOTT VEST
Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics
mvest@svots.edu



REV. NICHOLAS BELCHER
Antiochian Liturgics
nbelcher@svots.edu

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY FACULTY*



DR GREGORY J. ABDALAH
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
gabdalah@svots.edu



V. REV. ADRIAN BUDICA
Clinical Pastoral Education
abudica@svots.edu



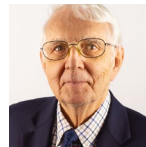
DR JEFFREY P. BISHOP
Professor of Philosophy and Theological Studies
jbishop@svots.edu



REV. JOHN EL MASSIH
Antiochian Liturgical Music
relmassih@svots.edu



REV. DR GREGORY EDWARDS
Assistant Professor of Missiology
gedwards@svots.edu

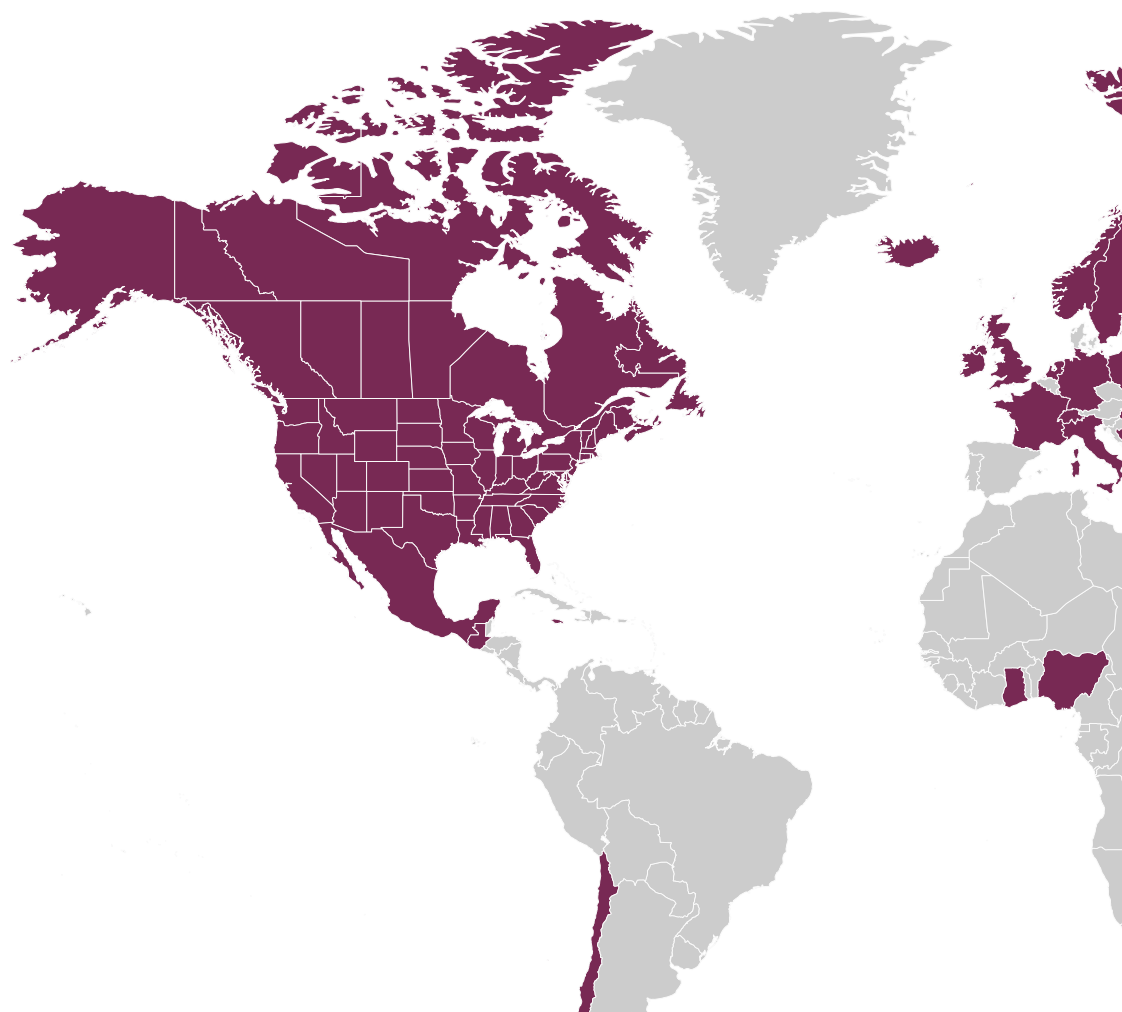


DR ALBERT S. ROSSI
Counseling & Psychological Services
arossi@svots.edu



DR ANA S. ILTIS
Professor of Philosophy
ailtis@svots.edu

ALUMNI ALL OVER THE WORLD



WHERE
ARE OUR
ALUMNI

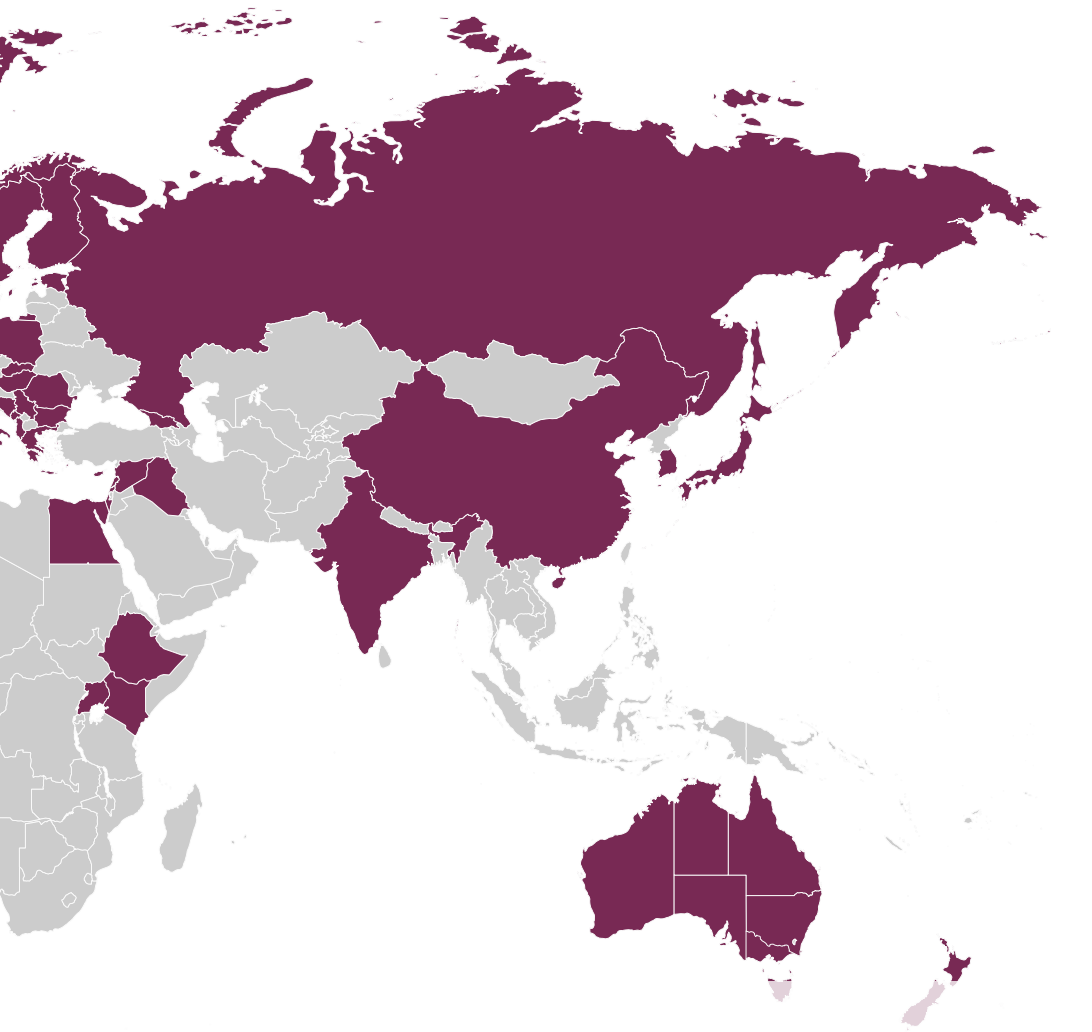


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Since 1938, St Vladimir's Seminary has trained more than 1,500 hierarchs, priests, deacons, church leaders, chaplains, and missionaries. Our alumni can be found in many countries around the world—on every continent except Antarctica. But there's still time to get them there!



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ST VLADIMIR'S

ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

575 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, New York 10707

www.svots.edu/admissions

admissions@svots.edu

914-961-8313 x342

