

Christ is risen!

Christos anesti! (Greek)

Christus resurrexit! (Latin)

Hristos a inviat! (Romanian)

Khristos voskrese! (Slavonic)

Khristos voskres! (Ukrainian)

Pchristos aftooun! (Coptic)

Kristos haryav ee merelotz! (Armenian)

El Messieh kahm! (Arabic)

Kriste aghsdga! (Georgian)

Christu uyirthezhunnettu! (Malayalam/India)

Christos t'ensah em' muhtan! (Ge'ez/Ethiopia & Eritrea)

Cristo ha resucitado! (Spanish)

Indeed He is Risen!

We are sending you joyful Paschal greetings from each of the cultures, languages, and jurisdictions represented in our current student body. And we thank you again and again for your faithful prayers, commitment, and dedication to St Vladimir's Seminary and to the Church.

Because of you, we celebrate the redemptive work being done in parishes around the world led by St Vladimir's graduates.

You are enabling trained priests to bring about transformation in individuals, families, and communities everywhere. One such mission parish in North Carolina, led by **Fr Christopher Foley** (class of 2006) has experienced a great influx of recent chrismations and baptisms.

"We have people from all walks of life and all stages in their spiritual journey. Many are people who left the church years ago and are now finding Orthodoxy through online Orthodox talks and live streams."

During the pandemic Fr Foley's parish, like so many, experienced a drop in attendance at the beginning but is now seeing an influx of seekers coming to the Church.

"Many people have been so miserable in their search for truth over the years, and when they find Orthodoxy, it's like they can finally rest. Our parish is 80% converts, so we are especially welcoming and hospitable to these seekers—we all know what it was like going to an Orthodox church for the first time and want to make sure that these people feel welcomed."

You've made it possible for ministries like Fr Christopher's to take shape and help welcome seekers home to the Orthodox Church—where they can begin actively participating in the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.



Fr Christopher Foley ('06) is the priest at Holy Cross Mission in High Point, NC, where "people from all walks of life and stages in their spiritual journey" are coming to Orthodoxy.

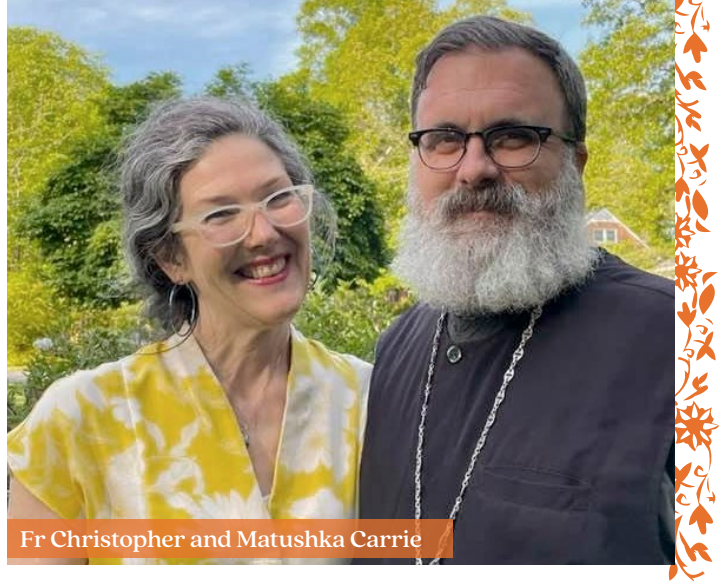
Father Christopher has spent the last 15 years putting what he learned at St Vladimir's into action. He's developed a six-week inquirer's class for those wanting to learn about Orthodoxy, as well as a 12-class catechumen course for those who are ready to convert. There is a constant stream of 20 catechumens on average taking this course, and Fr Christopher recently baptized and chrismated 15 people!

*"I rely on SVS Press books like *For the Life of the World*, *The Incarnate God*, *The Living God*, *Sweeter than Honey*, and many from the *Popular Patristics Series*. These texts are immensely helpful in teaching seekers, but **my time at St Vladimir's has prepared me for things that I could never have learned in a book.** Being immersed in the culture of St Vladimir's taught me to have a vision for the beauty of the services, serving well, and working hard to create that same beauty in my parish. My academic classes serve as a lifeline for answering people's deeper theological questions—I may not know the answers but I know where to point people. Most of all, the pastoral care I experienced is what I lean on the most. Many people say that St Vladimir's is where the "academics" go and the "pastors" go elsewhere, but that wasn't true for me. Saint Vladimir's gave me the pastoral tools that I use now through my classes, through confession and one-on-one time with my confessor, the faculty, and the other students. You cannot learn these things in books or just in classes, and certainly not online."*

Your generosity provides the tools Fr Christopher needs to grow disciples of the Risen Christ and inspire them to participate as one Body, united.



Fr Christopher recently baptized and chrismated 15 people!



Fr Christopher and Matushka Carrie

The missionary work that you support continues on in the South, where **Fr David Wooten** (Class of 2012) leads a historic and diverse parish in San Antonio, Texas: St Anthony the Great Orthodox Church. Like Fr Christopher in North Carolina, Fr David is also seeing an influx of seekers finding and joining the church.

"We have never been without a constant stream of seekers. Right now we've got a few mother-daughter pairs, a few young couples, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Jewish people—all looking for the same groundedness in our mixed-up world. They have found groundedness in Orthodoxy. We will bring several of these folks into the Church on Holy Saturday, by baptism and chrismation."

Your generosity helps Fr Wooten reach out to the lost, the overlooked, and the forgotten so they might discover eternal love and hope through Christ.

To demonstrate the compassion of Christ to the hurting, Fr David's parish joined forces with five other Orthodox parishes in the area—Greek, Antiochian, OCA, ROCOR—hosting each other at their parishes, rotating each week of Lent, to worship together in unity.

"It's a bit strange to only host Presanctified Liturgy at my parish once or twice over Lent. But it's been encouraging to see all of us priests and our parishioners working together. Worshiping together. Moving beyond our jurisdictional differences."

They have also come together to serve Moleben for the Ukrainian and Russian conflict, weighing heavily on the hearts of every person around the world, and especially every Orthodox Christian.

"We have several Ukrainians and Russians that worship here at St Anthony's, and we have all come together to pray for peace."

"Being immersed in the culture of St Vladimir's taught me to have a vision for the beauty of the services, serving well, and working hard to create that same beauty in my parish."

“All looking for the same groundedness in our mixed up world. They have found groundedness in Orthodoxy...”

Your generosity helps Fr David provide authentic community—the type that can only come through the work of the Holy Spirit and always results in genuine unity in the Church.

At St Vladimir's, seminarians undergo a rigorous three years of academic work and spiritual formation focused on transforming each individual. Through their required credit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), seminarians learn how to minister to those dealing with pain, sickness, and the death of loved ones. Father David cites this training as invaluable to his current ministry:

“Through the CPE requirement, I learned one of the most valuable skills that I lean on constantly as a priest: how to sit with people in their pain, whatever the pain might be. I learned how to be present and non-reactive. I learned how to put my own thoughts aside and to let people give me their thoughts.”

You ensure compassionate, well-trained seminarians are sent forth to shine the love of Christ into the darkness of human suffering, just as His glorious resurrection shines into our fallen world.

The redemptive and renewing work being done in Fr Christopher's and Fr David's parishes reminds us of Hebrews 12.26–29—that even in our shaken world, the Kingdom of God remains:



Fr David, Matushka Natalia, and their children Hope, Katie, Laura, & Robbie

His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” 27 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Because of you, we can celebrate the brave and courageous individuals who have responded to God's call to serve His church so that all might be redeemed through Christ's glorious resurrection.

Today, St Vladimir's continues to prepare priests to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,” as commissioned in Matthew 28. And the work is not easy! Father David reminds us that this redemptive work will be carried out through the unity of the Body of Christ.

You make it possible for priests to raise up the next generation of Christians to continue the celebration of the triumph of Christ's empty tomb.

Today, we have emptied ourselves to make room for the Feast. “We have completed forty days which profit our souls. Now let us beg of the lover of man: ‘enable us to see the Holy Week of your Passion, that we may glorify Your mighty work, Your wonderful plan of salvation for us, singing with one heart and one voice: O Lord, glory to You!’” (Sixth Friday Vespers).



Fr David Wooten's ('12) parish is seeing an influx of seekers finding and joining the church

**Through your generosity,
St Vladimir's can
continue to prepare
men and women called by God
to be ready and equipped to
serve His Church.**

Every parish needs clergy and lay leaders who are prepared to take on today's toughest ministry challenges—and to effectively proclaim that Christ is Risen!

Through your faithful support, St Vladimir's continues to prepare men and women to proclaim this joy into the world. It is your generosity that is ensuring the future of Orthodoxy, the strength of individual parishes, and the ability to continue to send priests on mission to be catalysts for the gospel, until the whole world hears and knows the hope that is eternal and the light that will never grow dim.

Will you join us by making a donation to St Vladimir's—and the future of the Church? Every dollar you give will be matched up to \$100,000.

We need your financial support. Your generosity and God's blessing have allowed us to continue to grow our ministry, reach, and impact beyond what anyone might have ever imagined.

Please prayerfully consider how God wants you to be part of His plan to redeem the world through the ministry of St Vladimir's. Your generosity will support the transformational work for which God has called us to participate with Him in bringing to completion.

Through your generosity, St Vladimir's can continue to prepare men and women called by God to be ready and equipped to serve His Church.

We can't do this without you. The need is so great, and your gift will change people, families, communities, and countries by inspiring others to pray, pursue, and proclaim that which is eternal.



Visit www.svots.edu/compelled, call 914-961-8313 x328, or simply use the enclosed envelope to return your generous gift in the mail.

Your generosity will change people, families, and communities forever.

May God enable you to see his mighty work and his wonderful plan of salvation. And may His unwavering Truth compel you to cling to Him and proclaim with joy the Hope of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen!

Compelled to Pray, Pursue, and Proclaim,

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

P.S. Your generosity will help us send more trained priests into parishes to provide hope, leadership, and light for all to see. This year, every dollar given during the Paschal season will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000. Please consider St Vladimir's as part of your Paschal almsgiving and help us reach our goal of \$200,000.



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