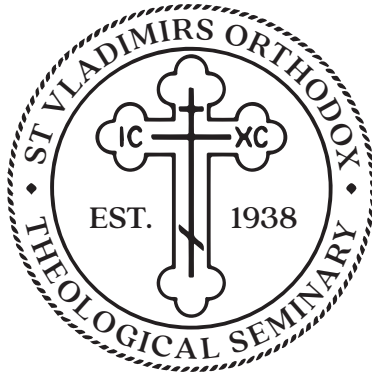




ST VLADIMIR'S



ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



2023

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023



1:00 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

Conferral of Honorary Degrees

Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, Academic Dean

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II

Doctor of Humane Letters

Honoris Causa

Salutatory Address

Mother Cassiana Colchester

Conferral of Degrees on the Graduates of the Class of 2023

Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, Academic Dean

Conferral of the St Macrina Award

Mr Mark Sultani,

President of the Student Council

Valedictory Address

The Rev. Anthony Gilbert

Paschal Stichera, “Let God Arise”

St Vladimir’s Seminary Byzantine Choir,
directed by Fr Nicholas Fine

Exapostilarion of Pascha

by Alexander Glazunov (arr. by Jaime Rall),
St Vladimir’s Seminary Women’s Choir,
directed by Naomi DeHaan

Troparion of Pascha

by Alexander Kastalsky (arr. in English by Vladimir Morosan),
St Vladimir’s Seminary Chorale,
directed by Harrison Russin

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 SVS Press Bookstore will remain open after Commencement.
Directions are posted on campus.*



2023 Honorary Doctorate Recipients



THE HON. ALEX M. AZAR II has committed his professional career to protecting and enhancing the health of all Americans. He has had an illustrious career, most recently serving as the 24th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2018-2021), leading over 85,000 employees. Azar led the historic transformation of the healthcare system in the United States and HHS's response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. He also served for five years (2012-2017) as president of Lilly USA, LLC.

A devoted Orthodox Christian, Alex Azar was awarded the St Innocent Medal, gold class, by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon in Spring 2022.

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 forty-eight credits at St Vladimir's Seminary as full-time degree candidates. Neither the valedictorian nor the salutatorian is required to write a thesis.

The Class of 2023

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

THE REV. JOHN BLACK (*commendation for service to the community*)

THE REV. IOANNIS CAPONES

MR JOHN THOMAS CORBIN (*commendation for service to the community*)

THE REV. ALEXANDER EARL (*magna cum laude; commendation for thesis*)
*Divine Henads and Uncreated Energies? Procline Henadology in Dionysius
the Areopagite*

THE REV. DR BOGDAN G. BUCUR, advisor

THE REV. NICHOLAS FINE

MR NICHOLAS FONG (*commendation for service to the community*)

THE REV. DAVID GALLOWAY

THE REV. ANTHONY GILBERT (*Valedictorian of the Class of 2023; summa
cum laude; commendation for thesis*)

The Practice of Ecclesial Life: Toward a “Lived Theology” of the Parish

THE VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD, advisor

MR BOGDAN MANGA (*summa cum laude; commendation for service to
the community*)

*The Spiritual Characteristics of the Paisian Coenobium Within the Context
of Romanian Orthodox Monasticism of the 18th–20th Centuries*

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, advisor

MS MITCHELL SOPHIA MATIAS

THE REV. ANDREW SALVIA

MR MARK JOHN SULTANI (*commendation for service to the community*)

THE REV. JOSEPH THORNBURG (*magna cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

A Thousand Eyes: An Orthodox Christian Appraisal of and Pastoral Response to Transgenderism

THE REV. DN DR MATTHEW VEST, advisor

MR THOMAS TROOP (*commendation for service to the community*)

THE REV. JOHN VAZQUEZ (*summa cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

Theophany in History: An Investigation of Psalm 77 LXX (78 MT) and the Implications of Sharing in Narrative History

THE REV. DR SILVIU BUNTA, advisor

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

SISTER ANASTASIA COLCHESTER (*magna cum laude; commendation for thesis; commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in Theological Scholarship and Research

Apocalypse: Toward an Ascetic Reading of Song of Songs

DR MICHAEL LEGASPI, advisor

MOTHER CASSIANA COLCHESTER (*Salutatorian of the Class of 2023; summa cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in Theological Scholarship and Research

Eating the Word: Scripture as Sacrament in John Cassian

DR MICHAEL LEGASPI, advisor

MR UGRIN JEVTIC

Concentration in Theological Scholarship and Research

Saint John Vladimir

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, advisor

SUBDEACON MICHAEL MESHREKI (*summa cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in General Theological Studies

An Embedded Tome and the Healing of the Chalcedonian Divide

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, advisor

MR KRZYSZTOF NOWIK

Concentration in General Theological Studies

Life and Activity of Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, advisor

MOTHER DEVORAH SALAMON (*summa cum laude; commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in Theological Scholarship and Research

Righteous Deborah as Prophetess, Mother and Judge of Israel;

An Overcomer of Eve's Curse and a Type of the Theotokos

DR MICHAEL LEGASPI, advisor

MR STEPHEN SUTIONO (*commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in General Theological Studies

The Origins of the Phenomenon of 'Service' in the Coptic Church

THE VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD, advisor

MS NINO TSKITISHVILI

Concentration in General Theological Studies

The Orthodox Church and the Tax Farming System in the Ottoman Empire

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE, advisor

MR ADARSH PAUL VARGHESE (*magna cum laude*; commendation for service to the community)

Concentration in Theological Scholarship and Research

Exploring the Depths of “Blood and Water” of Christ’s Side: An Examination of St John 19:34 in the Syriac Patristic and Liturgical Tradition

THE REV. DR BOGDAN G. BUCUR, advisor

MR JOSHUA WILLIAMS (*magna cum laude*; commendation for service to the community)

Concentration in General Theological Studies

The Lenten Fast: An Itinerary to Recover the Porous Self

THE REV. DN DR VITALY PERMIAKOV, advisor

THE REV. DN CHARLES YOUNGBLOOD (*commendation for service to the community*)

Concentration in General Theological Studies

The Ben Lomond Crisis: An Isolated Incident, Indicative of a Latent Problem

THE VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD, advisor

CANDIDATE FOR THE
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

DEACON TESHAY REZENE

The Visible Holy Trinity: The Origin and Development of Trinitarian Reading of Genesis 18-19 in the Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox Täwahedo Churches and Its Influence

THE REV. BOGDAN G. BUCUR, advisor

The Faculty

President

THE VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD

Academic Dean

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE

Full-Time Faculty

DR JOHN A. BARNET

DR PETER C. BOUTENEFF

THE REV. DR BOGDAN G. BUCUR

DR MICHAEL LEGASPI

THE VERY REV. DR J. SERGIUS

HALVORSEN

THE REV. DN DR VITALY

PERMIAKOV

DR HARRISON B. RUSSIN

Part-Time Faculty

THE VERY REV. ARCHIMANDRITE

DR MAXIMOS CONSTAS

THE REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

THE RIGHT REV. DR VAHAN

HOVHANESSIAN

DR ALEXANDER LINGAS

THE VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER

RENTEL

THE REV. DR ANTHONY G. ROEBER

DR ROSSITZA B. SCHROEDER

THE VERY REV. DR ERIC TOSI

DR MATTHEW SCOTT VEST

Doctor of Ministry Faculty

DR GREGORY J. ABDALAH

THE REV. DR GREGORY EDWARDS

DR ANA S. ILTIS

DR RYAN (SAMPSON) NASH, M.D.

DR JOHN M. REYNOLDS

Instructors of the Practice

THE REV. NICHOLAS BELCHER

THE VERY REV. ADRIAN BUDICA

THE REV. JOHN EL MASSIH

DR ALBERT S. ROSSI

Emeritus Faculty

THE VERY REV. DR JOHN BRECK

DR DAVID DRILLOCK

THE VERY REV. DR JOHN H. ERICKSON

DR PAUL MEYENDORFF

THE VERY REV. DR PAUL NADIM TARAZI

Librarian

MRS DANIELE EARL

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of St Vladimir's Seminary.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Board Chairman

THE MOST BLESSED TIKHON (MOLLARD),
Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan
of All America and Canada, Orthodox
Church in America

THE VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL,
Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in
America

THE VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD,
President, St Vladimir's Seminary

DR IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU
TUDORIE, Academic Dean,
St Vladimir's Seminary

Appointed Hierarchs

HIS GRACE, METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH
MAR NICHOLOVOS (POOTHIYOTU),
Metropolitan of the Northeast American
Diocese, Malankara Orthodox Syrian
Church

Appointed Alumni Association Representative

RICHARD AJALAT, Chair, St Vladimir's
Seminary Alumni Association Board;
Pastoral Assistant at St Michael Antiochian
Orthodox Church, Van Nuys, CA

ELECTED MEMBERS

JEFFREY D. HOFF, Treasurer

DAN ABRAHAM

DR FRANK B. CERRA, M.D.

ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY (DAVIS)

THE. REV. MIHAI FAUR

THE HONORABLE CATHERINE R. FULLER

DAVID HICKS

ANA S. ILTIS, PH.D.

K. NICHOLAS PANDELIDIS, M.D.

DAVID SOLHEIM

CARLA ANN NEWBERN THOMAS, M.D.

WESLEY J. SMITH, J.D.

EMERITI TRUSTEES

MICHAEL BRESS, J.D.

THE REV. PROTODEACON PETER M.

DANILCHICK, HON. D.H.L.

BRIAN GERICH, HON. D.H.L.

GLENN R. KUBINA, M.D.

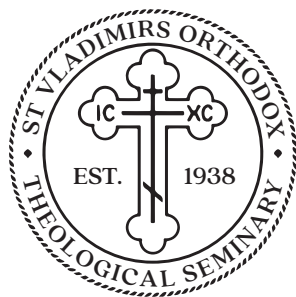
ALEX MACHASKEE, HON. D.H.L.

ERIC S. NAMEE, J.D.

THE VERY REV. PAUL SHAFRAN

DONALD J. TAMULONIS, JR., M.D., F.A.C.P.

THOMAS S. ZEDLOVICH



ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

575 SCARSDALE ROAD, YONKERS, NY 10707

WWW.SVOTS.EDU