

Very Rev Dr John A Jillions

Sessional Associate Professor of Religion and Culture
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The Very Rev. Dr. John A. Jillions has served as [Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America](#) since 2011. Prior to that, he was Associate Professor at the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, where he was a member of the Faculty of Theology since 2003. He taught courses in Orthodox Theology, 20th Century Orthodox Thought, New Testament, East-West Ecumenism, and Pastoral Theology. He also directed the DMin program there for several years.

Throughout his priestly and academic career he has taken an active interest in promoting inter-Christian and interfaith understanding, most notably as a vice-president of the Canadian Council of Churches and in the UK as a member of the Cambridge Theological Federation.

Father John was born in Montreal in 1955 and is a life-long member of the Orthodox Church. He has a B.A. in Economics from McGill University, and theological degrees from St. Vladimir's Seminary (M.Div. '80, D.Min. '05), and the University of Thessaloniki (Ph.D., New Testament, '02). Ordained a deacon in 1981 and priest in 1984, he served parishes in New York City, New Jersey, Australia (Brisbane), Greece (Thessaloniki), the UK (Cambridge), and Canada (Ottawa and Brockville, ON). He is currently rector of St. Sergius Chapel at the OCA Chancery in Oyster Bay Cove, New York.

Father John was founding director of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge and served as its first Principal (1997–2002). Early in his career, he served as administrator of Ss. Cosmas and Damian Adult Home and as a bank officer. In 1990–92 he served a brief stint as a chaplain (Captain) in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He is married to Denise (Melligon) and has three adult sons, Andrew (Alice and granddaughter Eloise), Alexander and Anthony.

EDUCATION

- DMin, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary 2005
 - Dissertation: *The Language of Enemies*
- PhD New Testament, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, 2002
 - Tyndale House Centre for Biblical Research, Cambridge, 1995-98
 - Dissertation: *Divine Guidance in Corinth: Greco-Roman, Jewish and Pauline Views*
- MDiv, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY, 1980
 - Thesis: *Russian Biblical Scholarship Before 1917: the Work of Mitrofan Muretov*
- BA Economics, McGill University, Montreal, 1977

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (2016)

- Ministry in a Secular Age (DMin)

Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Saint Paul University/University of Ottawa (2003-2011)

- The Paris School of Russian Orthodox Thought (MA)
- 20th Century Orthodox Theology (MA)
- Foundational Texts in East-West Ecumenism (MA)
- The Eastern Christian Fathers and the Writings of Paul (MA)
- Foundational Texts in Eastern Christian Church History (MA)
- Resources and Methods for the Study of Eastern Christianity (MA)
- Classical Texts in Eastern Liturgy from Chrysostom to Schmemmann (MA)
- Hermeneutics and Exegesis in Eastern Christianity (BTh)
- Eastern Christian Pastoral Theology (BTh)
- Eastern Christian Doctrine I-II (BTh)
- The Seven Ecumenical Councils in Eastern Christian Tradition (BTh)
- Ecclesiology and East-West Ecumenism (BTh)
- Foundations of Eastern Christian Theology (BTh)
- General Introduction to the Eastern Christian Churches (BTh)

University of Sherbrooke (2004)

- Modern Orthodox Ecclesiology

The Cambridge Theological Federation and Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK (1999-2003)

- Pastoral Theology: An Eastern Orthodox Approach (MA)
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity (BA)
- Seminars in New Testament Texts (BA)
- Seminars in Orthodox Christian Studies (BA)

CHURCH SERVICE

- Ordained Priest, 1984, Holy Protection Cathedral (OCA), NYC (+Abp Peter L'Huillier)
- Ordained Deacon, 1981, Holy Protection Cathedral (OCA), NYC (+Abp Peter L'Huillier)

Pastoral Employment, 1981-present

- Chancellor, Orthodox Church in America
 - Rector, St Sergius Chapel, OCA Chancery, Syosset, NY
- Rector, Ascension Greek Orthodox Church, Brockville, Ontario (Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto), 2010-2011)
- Dean, Annunciation Cathedral (OCA), Ottawa, 2003-2009
 - Dean of Ontario
 - Member of Archdiocesan Council
- Rector, Saint Ephraim Church, Cambridge, England, 1995-2003 (Diocese of Sourozh, Moscow Patriarchate)
- Priest (attached), Saint George Church, Panorama, Thessaloniki, Greece, 1994-95
- Rector, Holy Trinity Church (OCA), Rahway, New Jersey, 1987-94
 - Pastoral fieldwork supervisor for students of Saint Vladimir's Seminary
 - Chaplain (Captain), USAF Reserve, 1990-92
 - Secretary, New Jersey Deanery

- Rector, Holy Annunciation Church (OCA), Brisbane, Australia, 1984-87
- Deacon, Holy Protection Cathedral (OCA), New York City, 1981-84

Academic Employment

- 2014-present, Sessional Associate Professor of Religion and Culture, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- 2003-2013, Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Saint Paul University/University of Ottawa
 - 2009-2013 Associate Professor
 - 2008-10 Director, Doctor of Ministry Program
 - 2004-09 Assistant Professor
 - 2003-04 Sessional Lecturer
- 2004-2009, Adjunct Professor of Orthodox Theology, University of Sherbrooke
- 1999-2003, Lecturer, The Cambridge Theological Federation
- 1997-2002, Principal, The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK

OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Treasurer, Bankers Trust Corporation, New York, 1982-84
- Administrator, Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home, Staten Island, New York, 1980-82

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Decisions and Divine Guidance: Believers and Skeptics in the Greco-Roman, Jewish and Christian World of St Paul's Corinth* (in preparation)
- *My Strength and My Song: Reflections on the Psalms* (submitted for review)

Books Edited

- Michael Plekon and John A. Jillions, editors, *The Way: Religious Thinkers of the Russian Emigration in Paris and their Journal*, English translation of Antoine Arjakovsky's, *La generation des penseurs religieux de l'émigration russe*, Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 2013.

Chapters in Books

- "Methodology," in Paul McPartlan and Geoffrey Wainwright (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ecumenical Studies*, Oxford University Press, 2016 (forthcoming).
- "Spiritual Guidance in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition," in John Mabry (ed.), *Spiritual Guidance Across Religions: a sourcebook for spiritual directors and other professionals providing counsel to people of differing faith traditions*, Woodstock, Vermont: Moorehouse, 2014.
- "How Do You See? Towards an Eastern Orthodox Approach to Practical Theology," in Karlijn Demasure and Luc Tardif (Eds.), *Théologie Pratique, Pratiques de Théologie*, Quebec: Mediaspaul, 2014.
- "Bishops, Pentecost and Orthodox Identity," in William Mills (Ed.), *Church and World: Essays in Honor of Michael Plekon*, Rollinsford, NH: Orthodox Research Institute, 2013.
- "Can These Bones Live? Ezekiel, Jesus and the Challenge of the 'Other,'" in Vahan Hovhannessian (Ed.), *Festschrift for Fr Paul Tarazi* (forthcoming 2016).

- “Orthodox Christianity in the West: the Challenge of Ecumenism,” in Mary Cunningham and Elizabeth Theokritoff (Eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Orthodox Theology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- “An Orthodox Reading of 1 Cor 1:18-31: Any Room for the Methodists?” in ST Kimbrough (Ed.), *Orthodox and Wesleyan Ecclesiology*, Crestwood, NY: Saint Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2008.
- “What is Orthodox Christianity?” chapter 2 in David Hilborn (ed.), *Evangelicalism and the Orthodox Church*, Acute/Paternoster, 2001.

Papers in Refereed Journals

- “The *Amerikanskii Pravoslavnyi Vestnik* (The Russian Orthodox American Messenger) 1917-18: in the Aftermath of Revolutions in Russia,” (2016, submitted for review)
- “The Servant Church: Nicholas Zernov’s Rethinking of Christian Unity,” *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 51:3-4 (Winter 2011)
- “Three Orthodox Models Christian Unity: Traditionalist, Mainstream, Prophetic,” *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 9:4 (November 2009): 295-311.
- “The Language of Enemies,” *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 50:3-4 (2009).
- “Ecumenism and the Paris School of Orthodox Theology,” *Theoforum* 39:3 (2008).
- “Review Essay: Patrick Viscuso, *A Quest for Reform of the Orthodox Church: the 1923 Pan-Orthodox Congress, An Analysis and Translation of Its Acts and Decisions*, Berkeley, CA: InterOrthodox Press, 2006,” in *Studia Canonica* 41:2 (2007), 507-514.
- Connecting Liturgy and Spirituality: Notes from Eastern Christian Experience, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
- Review Essay: “Communion in the Messiah: Lev Gillet and Jewish-Christian Relations,” *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 47:3-4 (2006), 111-129.
- Mary Among the Catholics and Anglicans: An Orthodox Response, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 47:1-2 (2006), 313-319.
- Prospects for Catholic-Orthodox Relations: Toward a New Beginning, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 46 (2005):3-4, 501-512.
- Review Essay: “Symeon Rodger, *The Five Pillars of Life*, in *Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity* 1:1 (2005).
- “Pastoral Theology: an Orthodox Perspective,” *The British Journal of Theological Education*, 13:3 (Winter, 2003).
- “I kathodigisi tou anthropou apo to theo stin anthropologia tou apostolou Paulou” [“Divine Guidance in the anthropology of the Apostle Paul”], in Proceedings of the International Conference, *O anthropos kata ton Apostolou Paulo [The human being in the anthropology of the Apostle Paul]* Veroia, Greece, 2002
- “Jesus and Nature,” *In Communion*, Issue 26 Spring 2002.
- “Theological Education in the Orthodox Tradition: Personal Reflections,” *The British Journal of Theological Education*, 10:2 (Winter 1999).
- “Religion and Social Values in Russia and the New States,” *St. Catherine’s Conference Papers*, June 1999.
- “Love and curses: searching St. Paul for a new vision of ecumenism,” *Sobornost*, April 1998; condensed and re-printed in *Theology Digest*, May 1999.

- “Self-love,” *Sourozh: A Journal of Christian Life and Thought*, No.65, August 1996 (and reply to responses, *Sourozh*, No. 67, February 1997).
- “Review Essay: The Greek New Testament, Fourth Edition,” *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 39:2 (1995).

Other Papers, Presentations and Publications

- “The *Tomos* of Autocephaly: 46 Years Later,” <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/the-tomos-of-autocephaly-forty-six-years-later> (March, 2016)
- “The Book of Acts: A Guide for Orthodox Mission in the 21st Century,” Montreal Institute for Orthodox Theology (May, 2015)
- “50 Years After ‘The Letter from Birmingham Jail’: an Orthodox Response,” Christian Churches Together, Conference in Birmingham, Alabama (April 2013)
- “Church Burnout,” <http://ocawonder.com/2012/06/19/volume-3-number-6/>. (June, 2012)
- “St Alexis: Courage, Confidence and the Cross,” Annual St Alexis Toth Lecture, St Mary’s Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN, 2012 (May, 2012)
- “The Future of Ecumenical Studies: an Eastern Orthodox Perspective,” keynote address at WCC consultation, Sibiu, Romania (November, 2010).
- “‘Thicket of Idols’: Alexander Schmemmann’s Critique of the Orthodox Church,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (October, 2010).
- “Jesus: Myth, Metaphor or Messiah?” Sheptytsky Institute Study Days, Edmonton, July 31, 2010 (revised and given as well in Ottawa, July 30, 2011).
- “Reconciling Mary’s Quarrelsome Children: the Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos Among Orthodox and Catholics in Ukraine and Canada,” The Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lancashire, UK, July 20, 2010.
- “The Changing Face of Eastern Orthodox Families in North America: Participant Observations By a Married Priest With Children,” International Conference on the Family, Saint Paul University, May 2010.
- “Integrating Orthodox Theological Education into the University: Case Studies from Cambridge (UK) and Canada,” Orthodox Theological Society of America, Chicago, June 12-14, 2008.
- “Faith and a Sustainable Economy: an Eastern Orthodox Perspective,” Canadian Council of Churches consultation, Ottawa, 2009.
- “Liturgy and Spirituality: Reflections on the Orthodox Experience,” Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame University (2006).
- “An Orthodox Response to ‘Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ’,” Conference at Saint Paul University (2006).
- “Time for the Lord to Act: the experience of time in Eastern Orthodox worship,” AAR Regional Meeting, McGill University, Montreal (2005).
- “Orthodox and Anglicans: learning from each other?” Conference on Orthodox and Anglicans, Trinity College, Toronto (2004).
- “The Orthodox Churches Today,” Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland (2004).
- “The language of war, enemies and violence in the Eastern Orthodox tradition of baptism,” AAR Regional Meeting, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (2004).
- “Decision-Making and Divine Guidance: Greco-Roman, Jewish and Pauline Views,” International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Cambridge, UK (2003).

- “Reading *Acts* in the Twenty-first Century,” Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK (2003).
- “Foreword in Philip Boobyer (Ed.), Henry Drummond, *The Changed Life* (Russian edition), 2002
- “The Russian Orthodox Tradition,” *Majestas: Great St Mary’s Newsletter*, July 1999
- “In the Flesh: the Body in Christ’s Life and Ministry,” *Again Magazine*, May 1997
- “A Sign That is Spoken Against: the Witness of the Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe,” *Great St.Mary’s Papers* 4, 1997

Book Reviews

- Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev, *Orthodox Witness Today*, Geneva: WCC, 2006, in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
- Peter Bouteneff, *Sweeter than Honey: Orthodox Thinking on Dogma and Truth*, in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
- Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev, *The Mystery of Faith*, in *The Canadian Orthodox Messenger* (Spring 2007).
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *Acts* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible Series, Volume 1), in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 46 (2006):1-2.
- John Binns, *An Introduction to The Christian Orthodox Churches*, in *The Ecumenical Review* (April 2004.)
- Archimandrite Macarius (Christopher Hookway, tr.), *The Synaxarion: the Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church, Vol 3*, in *Friends of Mount Athos Annual Report 2002*

Translations (from Russian)

- Alexander Schmemmann, *The Virgin Mary*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995 [translation of selected essays]
- Alexander Schmemmann, *The Church Year*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1994 [with introduction]
- Alexander Schmemmann, *I Believe*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1991
- Nicholas Afanasiev, “Presbytides or Female Presidents: Canon 11, Council of Laodicea,” in T. Hopko (Ed.), *Women and the Priesthood*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1983.

Newspaper columns and blogs

- “Chancellor’s Diary,” <http://oca.org/reflections/fr.-john-jillions> (2012-2015)
- “Ask the Religion Experts,” *The Ottawa Citizen*, (2005- 2010). Weekly column. The editors chose a question each week and asked a group of writers from eleven religious traditions to respond: Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Sikh and Christian: Roman Catholic, Anglican, United Church, Evangelical and Orthodox.

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES

- “50 Years since the Letter from Birmingham Jail,” Christian Churches Together, Birmingham, Alabama, 2013
- Vice-President, Canadian Council of Churches, 2009-2011
- “The Future of Ecumenical Studies: an Eastern Orthodox Perspective,” keynote address at WCC consultation, Sibiu, Romania (November, 2010)
- WCC Central Committee Meeting (February, 2011)

- Orthodox-Methodist Consultations on Spirituality, Bristol (2000), Crete (2002), Crestwood, NY (2006)
- Orthodox “Ecumenical Visitor,” Synod of Anglican Diocese of Quebec (October, 2003)
- Consultant, Church Mission Society (Anglican), project with Orthodox and Evangelical church partners in Alaska and Siberia (2003)
- Steering Group on Orthodox Theological Education (WCC, 2001-2002)
- Consultation on “Civil Society,” Conference of European Churches, Hanover, Germany (2002)
- Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools, Belgrade (2001)
- Consultant, Conference of Anglican Church Missionary Society, Moscow (2001)
- Governing Council, Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius (1998-2001)
- Steering Committee (with Keston Institute), Conference on “Religion and Social Values in Russia and the New States” (Windsor, UK 2000)
- Panelist, Conference on “Diplomacy and Divinity,” University of Westminster (1999)
- Evangelical-Orthodox Dialogue in the UK (with the Evangelical Alliance, 1999-2001)
- Cambridge Theological Federation, 1997-2003
- Queensland (Australia) Council of Churches (1984-87)
- Faith and Order Commission (NCCUSA, 1982-84)
- Church World Service, (NCCUSA, 1980-82)
- International Orthodox Consultation on Social Justice (WCC, Kiev, June 1982)