The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

JUNE Bulletin Sponsor– OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, June 14
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

Wednesday, June 17
7:30 PM: Final Public City Meeting until September

Saturday, June 20
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, June 21
9:15-9:45 am AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Father's Day

CROSSES SOLD

Stephen Simko has been selling crosses in Church lobby. He has collected $465 to date. Thank you all and thank you Stephen.

JUNE READER SCHEDULE

June 14– Dc. Jimmy Hyrb
June 21– Proto. Dc. David Gemmel
June 28– Natalia Simko

Social Schedule: *JUNE*

June 14 - OPEN
June 21 - Father's Day Brunch
June 28 - Sisterhood

JUNE CHARITY

St. Vladimir Seminary

Synaxis of the Saints of North America Commemorated on June 14

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near ***Con't Next pg***

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

Mrs. Mary Fredericks
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Matushka Helen Psinka
c/o Concordia Villa St. Joseph
1030 W State Street / Room 1B49
Baden, Pa, 15005

Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla
8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

Joan Cross
97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear
Brooklyn , NY 11201

Mildred Wilfong
153 Runnemede Dr
Boardman, OH 44512

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis
c/o Assumption Village
9800Market Street / Room 1402
North Lima, OH 44452

Emilia Yannitto
8017 Salinas Tr.
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

George Horodnic, Sr.
c/o Briarfield Manor
461 South Canfield-Niles Rd / Room 101
Austintown, OH 44515

Mrs. Julia Simko
c/o Woodlands @ Hampton Woods
1525 E Western Reserve Rd /
Room 1101
Poland, OH 44514

Carol Ruff
2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Youngstown, OH 44515-4910

Sue Kennedy
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

Ann Cvercko
1875 Mallard Land
North Lima, OH 44452

Schedule Available for 2026 Saint Herman Pilgrimage

The Diocese of Sitka and Alaska has released the schedule for the 56th Annual Saint Herman Pilgrimage, to be held August 7–9, 2026, in Kodiak, Alaska. Faithful from across the Orthodox Church in America are invited to gather in prayer and fellowship as the Church honors the memory of Saint Herman of Alaska.

The pilgrimage will begin on Friday evening, August 7, with an Akathist to Saint Herman at 6:00 PM at Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral, followed by a soup meal and fellowship. Boat details for the pilgrimage to Spruce Island will also be provided that evening.

On Saturday, August 8, pilgrims will depart for Spruce Island, weather permitting, where a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Sts. Sergius and Herman of Valaam Chapel. After the Divine Liturgy, pilgrims will enjoy in a beach picnic before returning to Kodiak. The day will conclude with the All-Night Vigil for Saint Herman, beginning at 5:00 PM at Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

The pilgrimage will conclude on Sunday, August 9, with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM, followed by a banquet at the Afognak Center.

Additional pilgrimage information, including packing details, accessibility information, service locations, and donation information, is available from the Diocese of Sitka and Alas-
news/2026sthermanpilgrimage

Questions may be directed to the Communications Secretary of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska at commsecretary@odosa.org.

North American saints con't from Pg 1

Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox ***Con't Pg 4***

JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

Bulletin: OPEN
Wine: OPEN
Incense: OPEN
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN
Altar Candles: OPEN
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my family & friends– Given by AP Andrew Bartek
St. Herman Candles: Commemorating all who participate in the maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers and those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.– Given by Anonymous
St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: In celebration of Sue Kennedy's 93rd Birthday– Given by Children & Grand children
Protection Icon Candles: Im memory of the Ruff Family– Given by Carol Ruff
St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN
Monthly Flowers: In memory husband Kurtis Shunk – Given by Mrs. Athanasia-Trudy Shunk-Ellmore

$50 per month	$30 per month	$25 per month
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	Flowers– **NEW UPDATED PRICE / DECREASED**
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*Protection Icon candles	
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Celebrates Pentecost Services at St. Nicholas Cathedral

On Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated services for the Feast of Pentecost at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC.

On Saturday evening, His Beatitude presided at the Festal Vigil. The following morning, May 31, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by the Vespers of Pentecost with the Kneeling Prayers.

Concelebrating with His Beatitude were Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America and Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral; Priest David Bozeman, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America; and Archpriest Valery Shemchuk. The responses were sung by the cathedral choir under the direction of Mr. Kevin Basil Fritts.

During the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude delivered the homily, reflecting on the descent of the Holy Spirit bringing the "the end of time, the fullness of the ages."

He said, "According to the Book of Acts, 'divided tongues, as of fire' came to rest upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. They all received the same fire – and yet the tongues were divided: each received the gifts of the Spirit suited to his particular mission and vocation. So it is with us. Each of us has received a portion of the Spirit according to our need: choir member, reader, deacon, priest, monastic, parent, child, witness for Christ in the world."

During the Liturgy, His Beatitude, on behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops, elevated Priest David Bozeman to the dignity of Archpriest and awarded Archpriest Valery Shemchuk the right to wear the jeweled cross.

Following the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude presided at the Vespers of Pentecost with the Kneeling Prayers.

Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)

but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

JUNE Celebrations

Birthday

1- Anthony Jesko, Sr.
2- Sue Kennedy
5- Peter Adzima / Michael Simko / Ryan Konik / Alex Vansuch
11- Elaine Johnston
13- Fr. Nick Mihaly / Sarah Wilson
15- Emily Kusinski / Aijire Dardovski
19- Emily Sarisky / Victoria Elash
22- Donna Chiarelli
24- John Koval III
25- Ron Zenko
26- John Rusnak
28- Vincent Cavaliere

Anniversary

10- Joey & Mary Ruth Mico
14- Sub-deacon Donald & Susan Tamulonis (80)
21- V.R. Archpriest Dave Lis priestly ordination (41 years 2021)
27-2009- AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh & Western, PA
29-2021- His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

Names Day

3- Fr. Andrew Bartek
4-Martha Centofanti
24- Gianna Hryb / Joann Biros
27-Joan Cross / Heidi Kuzemchak / Joann Sirilla
29- Pauline Fesz / Mat. Pauline Gemmel

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *JUNE*	2025	2026
1st– All SAints		
Vespers	6	7
Liturgy / Communion	56 /37	34 / 28
2nd Week– N. Am. S.		
Vespers	9	
Liturgy / Communion	50 / 36	
3rd Week– 3rd Sunday		
Vespers	5	
Liturgy / Communion Nativity Vespers St. John Nativity Liturgy	58 / 30 9 7 / 6	
4th Week – 4th Sunday		
Vespers	No Vespers	
Liturgy / Communion Peter & Paul Vespers Peter & Paul Liturgy	59 / 29 No Record Canceled	
5th–		
No 5th Week in June		

North American Saints con't from pg 2

Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

JUNE Reposed List / © Parishioner

Mary Churinsko ©
1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) © / Michael Nosik, Sr. (2015) © / Lambos Trangos (1930) ©
Eli Roman (1951) © / Infant La Bruno (1 day old) (1962) ©
3- Irene Leso (2002) / George Gozur (1972) © / Vasil Babinec (1920) © / Mary Korchniak (1934) ©
4- Marilynn Kidd (2007) © / Steve Bosak (1933) ©
5- Mildred Paproski (2018) / Kathryn Howard (2021) / Margaret Urchak (2014) ©
6- Fr. Stephen Shutack (2008) / George Konik (2006) ©
7- Martha LaVallee (2005) / Eleotherios Pagonis (1923) ©
8- John Toth (2000) ©
9- John Sutko (2020) / Elizabeth Gozur (1979) © / Andrew Sarisky (1938) © / Evtimios Tsangaris (1953) ©
10- Joseph Korchinack (1925) © / Mary Furin (1943) ©
11- Catherine O'Shanie (1982) © / Nicholas Nedostup (1933) ©
12- Ann Sanders Rusnak (2017) © / Margaret Timkovich (2002) © / John Dubosh (1947) ©
John Holibonic Jr (1964) ©
13- Harry Sveda (1998) © / Edward Graban (2016) ©
14- Fr. Justin Foster (2016) / Ronald Thomas Moore- (2024) ©
15- Vera Berzowsky (1984) © / Mary Sykola (2005) © / George Kushma (1962) © / Pearl Petrosky (2005) ©
16- Fr. Michael Prevas (2018) / Mary Petrusovich (1920) © / Dora Kravec (1924) © / Baby Mastoridis (1939) © / John Zambetis (1958) ©
17- James Hryb (2017) ©
18- Eleanor Dussling (2020) / Vasil Holowatyk (1969) © / Vasili Haudziuk (1942) © / Nicholas Caubouris (1944) © / Steve Dratar (1956) ©
20- Fr. John Yurcisin (2003)
21- Ronald Basala (2016)
22- Nicholas Sveda (1954) © / Mike Psaromatis (1959) ©
23- Nick Pavlos (1960) ©
24- Margaret Stahara (2006) © / Green Still born (1928) © / Evangeline Maravelas (1929) © /
Olga Berdie (1963) ©
25- Peter Goban (1975) © / Frank Woychik (1979) © / Stephan Elash, Sr (2022) © / Vasil Kovach (1922) ©
26- John Konik (1969) © / Helen Colaluca (2025) ©
27- Anna Lebo (1975) © / Anna Simko (1993) © / Mary Cole Simko (2011) © / Sevasti Arfaras (1961) © / Anna Serilio (1993) ©
28- Fr. Charles Kovich (2005) / Andrew Leso (2000) / Matthew Lajcharoff (1936) © / Peter Pantos (1936) ©
29- John Travers (2001) © / Eugene Simko (2007) © / Susanna Stepancevich (1921) © / Zachary Maximor (1947) © / Catherine Vansuch (1965) © / Mary Helen Feltovich (1987) ©
30- Zoopegy Lambrianos (1960) © / Nomikos Grikilis (1960) ©

His Eminence Archbishop Michael Meets with Serbian Patriarch Porfirije During St. Nikolai Pilgrimage

On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Porfirije at the St. Sava Cathedral in Belgrade for the feast of Ss. Constantine and Helen.

Following the Divine Liturgy, His Holiness hosted His Eminence and the clergy and faithful traveling with him at the parish house for a reception.

Archbishop Michael is currently in Serbia for a pilgrimage sponsored by St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, which traces the life, ministry, and legacy of Saint Nikolai Velimirovich, who spent the final years of his life at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, where he served as professor and rector.

His Eminence expressed his gratitude for the blessing to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Primate of the Serbian Orthodox Church and conveyed the personal greetings of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. He also spoke with His Holiness about the pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Holy Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich," taking place from June 2–13, 2026, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the repose of St. Nikolai Velimirovich.

Continued page 7

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong

CLERGY: Fr. Basil Duesenberry / Fr. Andrew Gall / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Michael Rustic / Fr. Peter Simko / Fr. Theophanes Kamau & family & parishioners at St. Joachim & Anna in Nairobi, Kenya

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mat. Melanie Adamcio / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Erin (Willison) / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Conner (Sabo) Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Miranda & her unborn baby / Lindsey & her unborn baby

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Kyle Grabovoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky) / Kenneth (Simko) / Brandon Rader (Middle East)

MISCELLANEOUS: The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Festal Weekend at the Diocesan Cathedral

Saturday, May 30 through Monday, June 1, festal services were held honoring the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost, the altar feast of the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest presided over the celebration of the divine services.

Saturday, June 7, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, served Divine Liturgy for Soul Saturday. Later that evening, the Archbishop presided over the Vigil service for Pentecost and was assisted by the Cathedral Clergy.

The next day, the feast of Pentecost, Archbishop Daniel presided over the hierarchical liturgy. Serving with His Eminence were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Fr. Alexander, Archpriest Tarasiy Maxim, Deacon Paul Garklavs, and Deacon Timothy Heinbokel. The Cathedral Choir was directed by Reader Vladimir Lymar.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Great Vespers was served with the Kneeling Prayers.

On Monday June 1, the Day of the Holy Spirit, His Eminence concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Bishop Spyridon of Chicago and Mid-America (ROCOR), and Bishop Serafim of Kostajnica (Serbian).

The hierarchs were assisted by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Mitered Archpriest Vladimir Kovalchuk, Archpriest Athanasios Chulakov, Archpriest Tarasiy Maxim, Archpriest Michael Volzhanskii, Priest Antony Alekseyenko, Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Priest John Kennerk, Priest Daniel Greeson, Priest Joseph Whittaker, Protodeacon Alexander Kichakov, Deacon Paul Garklavs, and Deacon Timothy Heinbokel.

A cross procession was held following the Divine Liturgy.

The Archbishop welcomed the visiting hierarchs to the Cathedral and thanked them for attending the feast. This was Bishop Spyridon and Bishop Serafim's first time serving at the Cathedral. The Archbishop also honored Protodeacon Thomas Keith on the occasion of his 20th anniversary of ordination.

After the Prayers of Thanksgiving a festival meal was held in the Cathedral courtyard.

Social

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the candle desk if you plan on attending the social for Father's Day, or contact Nancy.

Donations Sought for July Fundraiser

As you can see from the flyer on page 8 of the bulletin, ng a major fundraiser is scheduled for the week after the 4th of July. Donations are needed to off set the cost of the event.

This ***Festival of Foods*** has the potential to be a big event and will be a vital infusion of funds to our budget. Everyone's help is needed to make it successful. The week prior, the Parish Council will be asking for help to prepare food and the hall.

All hands will be needed the day of the event as well. When you are asked, please say YES!

Please post it to your social media and tell your family and friends.

Donations are also needed to help cover the:

- Interactive games
- Bounce House
- Money to defray the costs of the food
- Money to defray the cost of the entertainment
- Money to defray the cost of the police
- Money to defray the cost of the beer & wine

Nancy Tusinic is in charge of the Bake Sale .

Anything anyone can do will be for the Glory of God.

Thank you in advance from Father Andrew and the Committee and the Church Council.

Archbishop Michael con't

During the reception, His Eminence also spoke about the steady growth of Orthodox Christianity in North America. His Holiness and His Eminence emphasized the common calling of Orthodox Christians to bear authentic witness to the Gospel of Christ, and noted that dialogue marked by truth and love remains one of the most important expressions of that witness.

Also present at the meeting were Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, Archpriest Danilo Degyansky, Archpriest John Vitko, Archpriest Josiah Trenham, Protodeacon Ephrem Rivers, Protopresbyter Đorđe Stojisavljević, Head of the Office of the Serbian Patriarch, Deacon Nikola Kostić, Secretary of the Patriarch's Office, Deacon Vladimir Jović, and Mr. Boris Sekulić.

St. Tikhon's Seminary Appoints New Assistant Professor of Church History / Historical Theology

South Canaan, PA — It is with great pleasure that St. Tikhon's Seminary announces the appointment of Justin Smith as the Seminary's new Assistant Professor of Church History / Historical Theology. Professor Smith will take up his position at the Seminary on 1 July 2026. Professor Smith's appointment comes at the conclusion of the long-standing tenure of Professor Emeritus, Dr. David Ford, who stepped down from the full-time faculty at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year after 37 years of faithful service to the Seminary community.

Justin Michael Smith is an Orthodox scholar, husband, and father of six, who hails from middle Tennessee and specializes in Church History and East-West Christian relations. He graduated with honors from Wheaton College, where he majored in Bible, theology, and early Christian studies. After Wheaton, Justin attended a small Protestant seminary in the Reformed tradition where his studies in the biblical languages brought him to Greece—and to an awareness of the Orthodox Church. This trip precipitated an intense and thorough engagement with the history of the Church and relations between Western and Eastern Christians, an engagement which culminated in his departure from the seminary and his family's conversion to Holy Orthodoxy. Shortly thereafter, Justin completed a Th.M. with highest honors at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology under Archimandrite Maximos Constas with a thesis on the theology of St. Basil the Great. He then continued his studies at the doctoral level in the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame, where he studied theology, classics, and history, specializing in Late-Byzantine Church History. His doctoral thesis on the life and work of St. Mark of Ephesus (1394–1445) is being advised by Protopresbyter Alexis Torrance and is in its final stages of completion.