



Before His Ascension, Our Lord commissioned His disciples to “teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS!

■ While all of God’s People are called to **proclaim the Good News**, our clergy have been given the **special task** of “equipping the saints for ministry” by planting the seeds of faith and nurturing spiritual growth. ■ For three quarters of a century, our seminaries have devoted themselves to imparting **information** about our faith and to pursuing the **formation** of those called to the ordained ministry. ■ Our **diocesan seminarians** have chosen a truly **difficult and selfless path**, especially in terms of **funding their studies** and **related living expenses**. ■ **September 2015** has been designated “**Support Our Seminarians Month**” in the Diocese of the Midwest, culminating in “**SOS Sunday**” on **September 27**. Please be generous as we join together to help lighten our seminarians’ financial burdens.

■ **All funds will be given directly to our seminarians!**



**SEPTEMBER 27
IS SOS SUNDAY!**

Please send your donations to the
Diocese of the Midwest
927 North LaSalle Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60610

MEET YOUR SEMINARIANS / Diocese of the Midwest



Mark Chenoweth, Holy Assumption, Canton, OH—Mark was born into a Protestant family, and first encountered Orthodoxy through a college professor. Upon graduating, and during an internship in Washington DC, his Catholic roommate showed him the riches of the Church Fathers. After navigating through the differences between Orthodoxy and Catholicism, he began attending an Orthodox parish in Virginia. He returned to school to study theology after immersing himself in Orthodoxy for a few years, finally being Chrismated in 2012. Mark hopes, by God's grace, to bring everything he encounters at St Vladimir's back into parish life and into academic life and to strengthen the church in any way he can.

Basil Ferguson, Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, MI—Basil attended an evangelical liberal arts college where he met his wife, Marina, a foreign student from St. Petersburg, Russia. They were married, and Basil began attending an evangelical seminary in Chicago. Basil briefly served as an associate pastor at an evangelical church. Questions about evangelicalism and the historical Church that emerged in college, however, had expanded and intensified. Eventually, Basil resigned from the evangelical church so that he and Marina could become catechumens; they were eventually received into the Church. Spurred by a seminarian's visit to their parish, Basil and Marina received a blessing to attend seminary.



Megan Haak, Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL—Megan attended Wheaton College, a non-denominational Protestant liberal arts college, where she majored in Christian Formation and Ministry. There she encountered Orthodoxy through a friend, and was increasingly drawn to the Church. After graduating, Megan moved to Chicago and found Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, where she was Chrismated. Megan's desire has always been to devote all of her time to ministry. With the guidance of her priest, she finally decided to pursue that call by applying to St. Tikhon's Seminary. She hopes to become more fully grounded in Orthodoxy, better equipped to facilitate the growth of the Church, and more strongly fortified to reach those outside the Church with Christ's love.

John Kennerk, Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL—John attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he met his wife Michelle. He continued his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He worked in the auction industry as a fine art specialist, and Michelle worked for a textile design company. During the Baptism of their daughter, Inez, John and Michelle were received into the church. They are overjoyed to be at St. Tikhon's, where their son Anthony George was baptized in 2014.



William Rettig, Holy Trinity Church, Saint Paul, MN—William studied theology and philosophy at Bethel University, where he became aware of Orthodoxy through the study of church history, reading of the church fathers, and a trip to Turkey and Greece. William began attending Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in St. Paul along with Jillian, whom he met in a college tutoring program, ultimately being received into the church, and marrying. William worked as a retail buyer before realizing the need to do something different with his life. After discussions with trusted mentors, including his priest, Fr. Jonathan Proctor, he pursued a blessing to attend St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Jonathan Lincoln, Holy Assumption Church, Canton, OH—Jonathan graduated from Malone University, where he began to reexamine his faith more closely. He embarked on a spiritual journey which led him to study in Israel and England. After a friend's invitation to visit an Orthodox church, he quickly fell in love with the rich theology, deep reverence in the services, and liturgical singing. Jonathan was Chrismated, worked for three years, continued to read about Orthodoxy, and visited St. Gregory Palamas Monastery whenever possible. He desired a future of helping others along their spiritual paths. Jonathan looks forward to possibly becoming a teacher or chaplain.



Christopher Stoops, Holy Apostles Church, Normal, IL—Chris graduated with a BA in Journalism from Eastern Illinois University, and began attending Orthodox services in 2002 at Holy Apostles Parish in Normal, IL. Two years later, he was received into the Orthodox Church. After moving with his wife to Champaign, IL, they began attending services at the Three Hierarchs Church, where Chris served in the altar. In 2014, they went to St. Vladimir's, being drawn to its pan-orthodox nature, as well as field education opportunities leading to institutional chaplaincy. This summer Chris will complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at NYU Langone Medical Center in Manhattan.