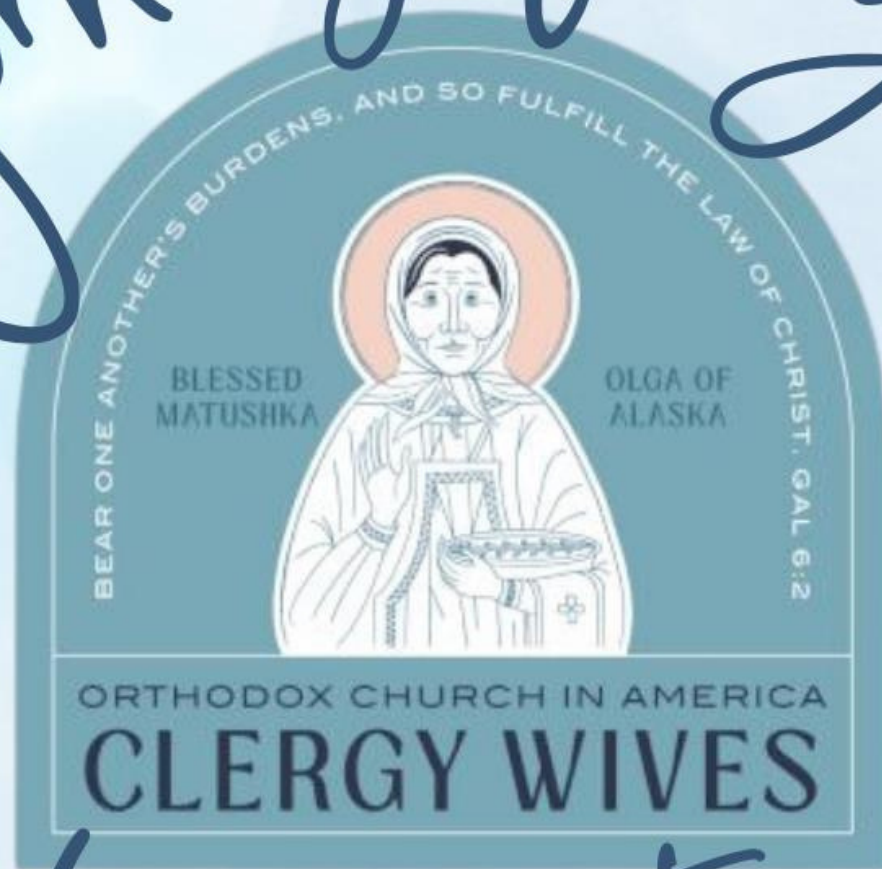


The Clergy Wives Advisory Group  
Part of The Office of Pastoral Life

*Working for you!*



*Working with you!*

Honoring your blessed role as you uphold your husband's ministry. After three years of service, we want to share with you what we've accomplished, what lies ahead, and learn how we can continue to connect, encourage and support you.

**Sat. Sept. 30th @ 1pm Eastern Time**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**OR**

**SCAN  
ME**



*We want to hear from you!*



# Meet the Clergy Wives Advisory Group



Alexandra Safchuk, RN, MA

Alexandra Lobas Safchuk has been a Matushka in the Orthodox Church in America since 1984. She is a Registered Nurse and a graduate of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. She taught at St. Herman Seminary in Kodiak, AK, has served on the Departments of Christian Education and Lay Ministries for the Orthodox Church in America and is currently a facilitator for clergy wives for the Thriving in Ministry program. She is married to Archpriest Gregory Safchuk, who is rector of St. Mark Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. They have three grown sons, three wonderful daughters-in-law and two beloved grandchildren.

Valerie Zahirsky, a native Clevelander, holds degrees from the Claremont Graduate University (MA) and Saint Vladimir's Seminary (MDiv) where she was elected Alumni President. She was Director of Christian Education in the Armenian Church's Eastern Diocese and has served in the OCA's Departments of Christian Education and Lay Ministries. Through World Vision and the World Council of Churches, Valerie has taught and written curriculum in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. She has represented the OCA at various international conferences. Valerie's husband is Father Michael Zahirsky (retired.) They have two grown children and two lively grandchildren.



Valerie Zahirsky, MA, MDiv



Wendy Cwiklinski, B of Mus.Ed., MA in Rel.Ed.

Wendy Cwiklinski was born and raised in Vicksburg, MS. Her education achievements include a Bachelor of Music Ed. And a MA of Religious Education. She has served on OCMC Mission Teams to Albania and Kenya, as well as working in the area of ministry to Orthodox Families with Special needs family members. She and Fr. Jerome were married at SVS in 1984. Fr. Jerome retired as a military chaplain in 2014, a shared ministry that took their family to places all over the US, including Alaska. They currently live in California, where they still serve military chapels. They have 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

Jennifer Levine, a native Texan, converted to Orthodoxy as an adult. She has a Master's of Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Christian Education. She worked as a counselor and college adjunct-lecturer until she chose to become a stay-home mother. She's homeschooled her two boys for the past 20 years due to the frequent moving of her family's active duty military (chaplain) lifestyle. She currently works as the Secretary of the Office of Pastoral Life for the Orthodox Church in America, facilitates a Thriving in Ministry small group for military chaplain clergy wives, and is a trained instructor for the Peace of Mind program through the Assembly of Bishops. She also spends her time caring for her grandson, her parents, and her extended family while she lives near them. Fun fact: She didn't realize central air conditioning wasn't automatically built into every existing home in the United States until she moved from south Texas to upstate New York as an adult. Since then, she's lived in at least two other states without central air conditioning.



Jennifer Levine, MS



Miho Ealy, MA, MTh

Miho Ochiai Ealy is originally from Hakodate, Japan. She grew up in an Orthodox Christian household, and her family is a part of the parish community established by St. Nikolai of Japan. Miho has lived in several different places, including Ottawa (Canada), Kyoto (Japan), Berkeley (USA), Chicago, Minneapolis and currently resides in Dayton, Ohio with her husband, Fr. Gregory Ealy and two daughters, Nino and Mila. Miho holds degrees in Master's of Theology and Master's of Art in Pastoral Studies. She has worked as a hospital chaplain for many years. She enjoys classical music and Japanese comics (manga).

Elizabeth Powell grew up in Toronto, Canada in the Serbian Orthodox Church. She met her husband at St. Vladimir's Seminary and began serving the Orthodox Church in America by his side. She has a Bachelor of Management Degree and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is a school nurse working at a Classical Christian School in Redmond, Washington where her three children attend. She enjoys travelling with her family, in particular to National Parks and the holy sites of Serbia where her Father's family is from.



Lela Powell, B of Mgnt, BSN, RN