



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Thursday, 11 June 2026
Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
№. 106

**ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE ST. JOHN OF CHICAGO PASTORAL INSTITUTE
OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST**

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

It is with gratitude to Almighty God and confidence in the future of Orthodox Christian formation within our diocese that I announce the establishment of the [St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute](#), a new educational ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America.

The St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute will assume and expand the educational work previously carried out through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute. As we continue to strengthen the formation of clergy and lay leaders throughout our diocese, this new institute will provide a unified structure for pastoral education, catechetical formation, and continuing Orthodox Christian learning.

The Institute will initially offer three primary areas of formation:

- **A Diaconal Training Track** for men preparing to serve the Church in the holy diaconate.
- **A Catechist Training Track** for those called to teach and instruct others in the Orthodox Faith.
- **Adult Enrichment Courses** designed to provide clergy and parishioners with opportunities for deeper study and growth in Orthodox theology, spirituality, liturgical life, Scripture, and Church history. These courses will also serve as a reliable resource to which rectors may direct parishioners seeking further education and formation in the Faith.

I am pleased to announce that **Priest Daniel Greeson** has been appointed as the founding Director of the St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute. Under his leadership, the Institute will work closely with the clergy of the Diocese of the Midwest to provide accessible, faithful, and academically sound formation for those seeking to serve Christ and His Church.

Students currently enrolled in programs through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute will continue their course of study without interruption and will be supported through the completion of their educational requirements.

Individuals interested in applying to either the Diaconal Training Track or the Catechist Training Track for the upcoming academic year beginning in **August 2026** are invited to contact Fr. Daniel Greeson at institute@domoca.org to begin the admissions process and receive additional information.

I ask your prayers for the success of this new endeavor, that it may help form faithful servants of Christ, strengthen the ministry of our parishes, and contribute to the growth of Orthodox Christian witness throughout the Midwest.

Invoking God's blessings upon all of you, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a crossbar that extends to the left.

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest