



*Mother of God Orthodox Church & St. Vladimir's Seminary present*

**THE MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA**

# **225TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

*Join us to celebrate one of the greatest missionary  
endeavors in the history of the Church*

**Guest Speakers:**

*His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon*

*Archpriest Chad Hatfield*

*Dr. Paul Meyendorff*

*Jim Winkler*

---

**MAY 11-12, 2019**

Mother of God Orthodox Church & The Nassau Inn  
Princeton, NJ

[SVOTS.edu/events](http://SVOTS.edu/events) • [MOGOCA.org](http://MOGOCA.org)

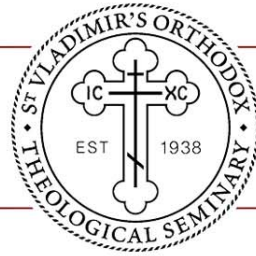
RSVP by May 3 via [tfilippini@verizon.net](mailto:tfilippini@verizon.net) or 908.231.1960





## Mother of God Orthodox Church

904 Cherry Hill Road • Princeton, NJ 08540



## St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: David Figueroa (609) 818-0342

### **MAY 11-12 CONFERENCE MARKS 225<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORTHODOX CHURCH ARRIVAL IN AMERICA**

Princeton, New Jersey, April XX, 2019 – Prominent speakers and church leaders from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, including His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, will convene in Princeton for an incredible weekend of spiritual fellowship and rededication as more than 100 people celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orthodox Church's arrival in America.

It is refreshing, when living in a world of chaos and destruction where terrorism reigns in our schools, churches, entertainment venues, transportation and the streets of our cities, to feel secure that God is still with us. To that end, the Mother of God Orthodox Church & St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary present the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of one of the greatest missionary endeavors in the history of the Orthodox Church, its mission to North America.

September 2019 marks the anniversary of the missionaries being sent to North America by the Valaam Monastery in Russian Karelia with the sole purpose of bringing the Gospel to the indigenous people of our nation. Among their seminal contributions was providing a written language and expanding their mission from Alaska to all of North America. And, in 2020, the Orthodox Church of America (OCA) will undertake a momentous year-long celebration of the historic event of Autocephaly granted to the OCA in April 1970.

In honor of both these occasions, Mother of God Church in partnership with St. Vladimir's Seminary will host a conference, at Mother of God Church, the weekend of May 11-12, 2019. The speakers include: **Father Chad Hatfield**, who will speak on the *History of the Mission*. He is the Eastern Orthodox Archpriest and President of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary where he also teaches missiology and evangelism courses. In addition, he is the editor of the Orthodox Christian Profiles Series, published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, and a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America.

**His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon**, will present his vision: *Of What Life Do We Speak? Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church*. He is an Eastern Orthodox bishop and the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, holding the rank of Metropolitan of All America and Canada. Previously, he was the ruling bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

-more-

**Father Peter Baktis • (609) 466-3058 • pabaktis@gmail.com**

**[www.mogoca.org](http://www.mogoca.org)**

**Mission Statement:** To cooperate with the Holy Spirit in witnessing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible;  
"that the Kingdom of God may be known" (Mark 12:29-34)

**Rev. Dr. Jim Winkler**, speaking on *the contributions of the OCA in ecumenical and interfaith work in the USA*, is the President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches.

The conference will culminate with a banquet at The Nassau Inn, 10 Palmer Square in Princeton, following the Divine Liturgy services on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. During the banquet, **Dr. Paul Meyendorff**, Professor Emeritus of St. Vladimir's Seminary, will speak on *Continuing the Legacy as it Informs Theological Education to North American Priests, Educators, and the Church Workers*.

All conference Events are free and open to the public -- with the exception of the Sunday banquet. Banquet reservations are \$55.00 per individual and are made through Teresa Filippini: [tfilippini@verizon.net](mailto:tfilippini@verizon.net).

**The Orthodox Church in America** traces its origins to the arrival in Kodiak, Alaska of eight Orthodox missionaries from the Valaamo Monastery in the northern Karelia region of Russia in 1794. The missionaries made a great impact on the native Alaskan population and were responsible for bringing many to the Orthodox Christian faith. Today, the Orthodox Church in America numbers some 700 parishes, missions, communities, monasteries and institutions throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Engaging the world with Orthodox Christianity since 1938, on June 18, 1948, **St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary** was granted a Provisional Charter by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, thus officially establishing it as "an institution of higher learning." Acknowledging its progress, the Board of Regents then granted St. Vladimir's an Absolute Charter in April 1953. Located in Yonkers, New York, the Seminary prepares students for ministry as bishops, priests, deacons, lay leaders and scholars so that they may build up Orthodox communities, foster Church growth through mission and evangelism, teach the Orthodox faith, and care for those in need.

**Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Church**, founded in 1998 in Rocky Hill, New Jersey, by a dedicated group of lay people is a local parish of the Orthodox Church in America which by virtue of the Holy Spirit and continuing in the teaching and experience of the Apostles is a visible and historical continuation of the early church of Christ. The parish members see themselves as a community of believers called into unity by the Holy Trinity to become "saints" (1Cor. 1:2); to be the "Body of Christ" (1Cor. 12:27) and to manifest the Kingdom of God here and now.

On January 29, 2016, they moved into their permanent worship space at 904 Cherry Hill Road in Princeton. Father Peter A. Baktis is the rector.

###