

PASTORAL CHANGES

Official No. 702

January 2026

ORDINATIONS

DEBELAK, Isaac was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on December 10, 2025 by Archbishop Alexander at the Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael, Cañones, NM. He is under the omophorion of Archbishop Alexander and attached to the Diocese of the South. (Diocese of the South)

HODGES, Joshua was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on January 6, 2026 by Archbishop Daniel at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. He is under the omophorion of Archbishop Daniel and attached to the Diocese of the Midwest. (Diocese of the Midwest)

HUFFMAN, Deacon Jarrod was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on January 6, 2026 by Archbishop Daniel on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. He is under the omophorion of Metropolitan Tikhon and on the roster of Stavropegial clergy. (Stavropegial)

JOVEL, Deacon John was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on January 24, 2026 by Archbishop Michael on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon at St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church, South Canaan, PA. He is under the omophorion of Metropolitan Tikhon and on the roster of Stavropegial clergy. (Stavropegial)

STICKLES, Michael was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on January 3, 2026 by Archbishop Melchisedek at Holy Trinity Church, State College, PA. He is under the omophorion of Archbishop Melchisedek and attached to the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania. (Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania)

ASSIGNMENTS

BIRTHISEL, Priest Joseph, in addition to his other duties, was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Christ the Saviour Mission Station, Amherst, VA, effective January 8, 2026. (Diocese of the South)

BRELAND, Priest Micah was released from his assignment as Acting Rector of St. Innocent of Alaska Mission, Oneonta, NY, and assigned Acting Rector of St. John Chrysostom Church, Woodside, NY, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)



P.O Box 31409
Alexandria, VA 22310
516.922.0550
www.oca.org

BUTLER, Archpriest Michael, was released from his assignment as Rector of Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI, and granted retirement, effective January 1, 2026. In his retirement, he was attached to SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI. (Diocese of the Midwest)

(CALIN), Archimandrite Christopher was released from his assignment as Cathedral Dean at Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York, NY, and granted retirement, effective January 10, 2026. In his retirement, he was attached to St. Athanasius Chapel, Bronxville, NY. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

COOLMAN, Priest Joshua was released from his assignment as Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen the First Martyr Mission, Lima, OH, and from his attachment at St. John the Forerunner Church, Indianapolis, IN, and from the omophorion of Archbishop Daniel and the Diocese of the Midwest, effective January 1, 2026. He was transferred to the omophorion of Archbishop Alexander and the Bulgarian Diocese, and assigned Acting Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral, Fort Wayne, IN, effective January 1, 2026. (Bulgarian Diocese)

DEBELAK, Deacon Isaac was attached to All Saints of North America Church, Albuquerque, NM, effective December 10, 2025. (Diocese of the South)

DEGYANSKY, Archpriest Daniel was released from his assignment as Rector of St. John Chrysostom Church, Woodside, NY, and granted retirement, effective January 1, 2026. In his retirement, he was attached to the Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, Brooklyn (Williamsburg), NY. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

FETSKO, Archpriest Paul was released from his assignment at SS. George and Alexandria Mission, Fort Smith, AR, and from the omophorion of Archbishop Alexander and the Diocese of the South. He was transferred to the omophorion of Archbishop Mark and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, and assigned Rector of St. Herman of Alaska Church, Gradyville, PA, effective January 19, 2026. (Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania)

HECKERT, Deacon Innokenty was released from his attachment at All Saints of Alaska Chapel, Kodiak, AK, and attached to St. Innocent Cathedral, Anchorage, AK, effective January 16, 2026. (Diocese of Alaska)

HODGES, Deacon Joshua was attached to St. Stephen the First Martyr Mission, Lima, OH, effective January 6, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

(HUMPHREY), Hieromonk Nathanael was released from his assignment at Hermitage of the Annunciation, New Germany, Nova Scotia, and attached to All Saints of North America Monastery, Dewdney, BC, effective January 12, 2026. (Archdiocese of Canada)

KETZ, Priest Jason was released from his attachment at St. Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN, and assigned Rector of Holy Myrrhbearers Church, Saint Cloud, MN, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

KOPRIVICA, Archpriest Dusan, in addition to his other duties, was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

KOSTOFF, Archpriest Steven, in addition to his other duties, was assigned Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen the First Martyr Mission, Lima, OH, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

KRAUS, Archpriest Martin, in addition to other duties, was appointed Dean of the New York City Deanery, effective October 29, 2025. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

KRAWCZUK, Archpriest Wiaczeslaw was released from his duties as Dean of the New York City Deanery, effective October 29, 2025. All his other duties remain the same. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

LICKWAR, Archpriest Vasily was released from his duties as Administrator of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, MA, effective January 2, 2026. All his other duties remain the same. (Diocese of New England)

MIRONKO, Archpriest Arkady was released from his assignment as Associate Priest at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA, effective January 5, 2026, and from the omophorion of Bishop Vasily and the Diocese of the West. He was transferred to the omophorion of Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and assigned Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Rahway, NJ, effective January 9, 2026. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

MYERS, Archpriest Michael was released from his duties as Administrator at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Fort Wayne, IN. He remains attached in retirement to the same. All his other duties remain the same. (Bulgarian Diocese)

NELSON, Priest Alexander was released from his assignment as Assistant Rector at St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls, NY and assigned Acting Rector of Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York, NY, effective January 10, 2026. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

PATTERSON, Archpriest Justin, in addition to his other duties, was assigned Priest-in-Charge of St. Nina Mission Station, Berea, KY, effective January 22, 2026. (Diocese of the South)

RETTIG, Priest William was released from his assignment as Rector of Holy Resurrection Church, Fargo, ND, and from the omophorion of Archbishop Daniel and the Diocese of the Midwest. He was transferred to the omophorion of Bishop Benedict and the Diocese of New England, and assigned Acting Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, MA, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of New England)

RIES, Priest Peter was released from his assignment as Rector of Holy Myrrhbearers Church, Saint Cloud, MN, attached to Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH, and granted a leave of absence, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

STICKLES, Deacon Michael was attached to Holy Trinity Church, State College, PA, effective January 3, 2026. (Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania)

SUVAK, Archdeacon Michael W was released from his assignment at Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York, NY, and granted retirement, effective January 10, 2026. In his retirement, he was attached to St. Athanasius Chapel, Bronxville, NY. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

WESCHE, Archpriest Paul, in addition to his other duties, was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Holy Resurrection Church, Fargo, ND, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

(BILLY), Igumen Ioasaph was granted an extension of his leave of absence through April 14, 2026. The initial leave of absence originally ended January 14, 2026. (Diocese of Alaska)

RIES, Priest Peter was granted a leave of absence, effective January 1, 2026. (Diocese of the Midwest)

ON LOANS

ARMATAS, Archpriest Daniel, who is attached to Holy Trinity / Holy Resurrection Church, Tacoma, WA, and was previously placed On Loan to the omophorion of Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America from April 11, 2025 through December 31, 2025, remains On Loan through June 30, 2026. He remains attached to Holy Trinity / Holy Resurrection Church, Tacoma, WA. (Diocese of the West)

RELEASED

ONOFREY, Archpriest John, in his retirement, had his suspension lifted, effective January 7, 2026, and was released from the omophorion of Archbishop Mark and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. He was transferred to the omophorion of Metropolitan Tikhon, and subsequently granted a canonical release to the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America, effective January 12, 2026.

RETIRED

BUTLER, Archpriest Michael was granted retirement, effective January 1, 2026.
(Diocese of the Midwest)

(CALIN), Archimandrite Christopher was granted retirement, effective January 10, 2026. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

DEGYANSKY, Archpriest Daniel was granted retirement, effective January 1, 2026.
(Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

SUVAK, Archdeacon Michael W was granted retirement, effective January 10, 2026. (Diocese of New York and New Jersey)

DEATHS

MOULTON, Archpriest Andrew, in his retirement, reposed on January 9, 2026.
(Bulgarian Diocese)

PAWELCHAK, Archpriest John, in his retirement, repose on January 17, 2026.
(Diocese of the Midwest)

PLUMLEE, Archpriest Stephen reposed on January 14, 2026. (Diocese of the South)

PARISHES

Romanian Episcopate

Elevation to cathedral status, effective July 27, 2025.

St. George Church, Toronto, ON was elevated to cathedral status and is now known as St. George Cathedral, Toronto, ON, effective July 27, 2025.

Diocese of the South

New mission station, effective January 8, 2026.

Christ the Saviour Mission Station, Amherst, VA
Meeting at: 194 Second St
Amherst, VA 24521.
Priest-in-Charge: Priest Joseph Birthisel

(This replaces the formerly inactive St. Herman of Alaska Mission, Charlottesville, VA.)

New mission station, effective January 22, 2026.

St. Nina Mission Station, Berea, KY
Meeting at: 213 Pauline Dr Ste 5
Berea, KY 40403
Priest-in-Charge: Archpriest Justin Patterson

NOTE: * indicates non-OCA clergy.

Approved for distribution:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Alessandro Margheritino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

//Signed March 21, 2026//

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino
Chancellor of the OCA