



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

September 1, 2021

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be! By the grace of God, our seminarian, Dn. John Black completed his first year St Vladimir's Seminary in NY. Dn. John served Holy Trinity in Pottstown and his parents worked with St. Tikhon's Summer Camp for years. Dn. John and Matushka Alexandra have four children, Evyn, 22; Lydia, 18; Joshua, 11 and Noah, 9.

Seminarians are responsible for raising half their tuition money each semester, approximately \$3,155, as well as cover costs of books, supplies, rent, utilities, groceries, etc. As Evyn is in college, Dn. John also has that expense as well. Rent is not cheap and housing keeps getting more costly. St Vladimir's has a matching Grant Program which requires the students to raise half their tuition money. Holy Trinity, Pottstown offered to coordinate this effort and checks may be mailed to Holy Trinity, 1230 N Hanover St, Pottstown, PA 19464. Please earmark the check, Dn. John Black.

Our parishes and faithful have been very generous in supporting our seminarians and I pray you will continue to do so. There is a shortage of priest in our Diocese as well as the OCA. We need to show our support for our seminarians so that they will want to return to serve one of our parishes. A one time gift or monthly support would also be greatly appreciated. If you would like to assist Dn. John and Matushka Alexandra and their family as they prepare for parish ministry, you may send a check directly to them at:

Dn. John M. Black
St Vladimir's Seminary
575 Scarsdale Rd
Yonkers, NY 10707-1699

Once again thank you for your generosity and support of our seminarians.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine