

CURRICULUM VITAE

Archpriest John Kowalczyk

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Academic Appointments:

Director of Vocations & Pastoral Formation – St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary:

2025–present

Director of Field Education & Prison Ministry – St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary:

1987–present

Adjunct Faculty in Pastoral Praxis – St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary:

1986–present

Interim Chair of Pastoral Theology – St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary:

2022–2025

Other Professional Appointments:

Director of Training and Spiritual Care – Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM):

2022–present

Ecclesiastical Appointments:

Pastor of St. Michael’s Church, Jermyn, Pa.: 1985–2023

Chancellor of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pa.: 2004–2012

Veterans Administration Chaplain, Philadelphia, Pa. 1981–1985

Pastor of St. Mary’s Church, Philadelphia, Pa.: 1980–1985

Pastor of St. Mark’s Mission Church, Buckingham, Pa.: 1977–1980

Associate Pastor, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Minneapolis, Minn.: 1975–1977

Ordained to the Orthodox Priesthood: Dec. 14, 1975

Higher Education:

C.Sc. (Candidate of Science in Theology), Moscow Theological Academy, 1996

Moscow, Russia

Certification in Counseling and Privileges for Psychotherapy, Farview State Hospital, 1993

Waymart, Pa.

M.S. (Religious Education), Marywood University, 1981

Scranton, Pa.

Diploma, St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, 1975

South Canaan, Pa.

Personal:

Married to the former Kathy Labick, October 12, 1975.

Children: Sophia, 41 and Nicholas, 36

Ecclesiastical Awards:

The Miter, presented by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, and Metropolitan of All America and Canada

The Order of St. Mary Magdalene, presented by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Vasily of Poland

The Jeweled Cross, Order of St. Innocent, and Synodal Gramota, awarded by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America

The Jeweled Cross, presented by His Holiness, Patriarch Alexei II of Moscow

Professional Activities:

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections – Crisis Intervention Training (CIT): 2016.

University of Pennsylvania – Supportive Care at the End of Life: 2012.

Pioneered work providing cognitive realignment for inmates who are in the Restricted Housing Unit in the “Out of Cell Program” at the State Correctional Institution (Waymart, Pa.): 2005–present.

FTC Chaplain, working with the Treatment Team at the State Correctional Institution (Waymart, Pa.), completing over 8,000 religious assessments for inmates housed in the Forensic Treatment Units: 1987–present.

Annual March for Life, Washington, D.C., co-founder and annual organizer of Orthodox participations: 1986–present.

Represented St. Tikhon's Seminary at SYNDESMOS International Theological Conferences in Finland (1998), Moscow (1992), and Boston (1986).

Editorial Work:

Editor of *Alive in Christ* magazine (Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, Orthodox Church in America): 1987–2011.

Editor of *The journal of the All-American Church Council* (Orthodox Church in America): 1983.

Publications:

“Healing through forgiveness: giving our whole lives as an offering to God.” With Corina Gheorghiu, in *Suffer with you: lessons on forgiveness from prison*, edited by Luke Taylor Gilstrap with Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. South Canaan, Pa.: St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press, 2026.

“The canonization of Fr. Alexis Toth by the Orthodox Church in America.” *St. Vladimir’s theological quarterly*, 38(1994):424–431.

“Diocesan pilgrimage to Russia”. *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*, 11(1989):20–23.

An Orthodox view of abortion. Minneapolis, Minn.: Light and Life Publishing, 1977.

Prison Ministry Lectures, Addresses, Workshops, and Presentations:

“On the road to strengthening Orthodox prison ministry,” at Holy Transfiguration Church, Washington D.C., March 22, 2025.

“OCPM and the Ministry of Voice and Face Recognition,” at the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America (Baltimore, Md. : July 18–22, 2022).

“Family losses and the mental health inmate,” at the 26th Annual Forensic Rights Conference, Drexel University College of Medicine and Behavioral Healthcare Education (Grantville, Pa. : November 28–29, 2018).

“How to Minister and Navigate with the Religiously Fixated Mentally Ill Inmate.” Presentation for the 25th Annual Forensic Rights and Treatments Conference, Drexel University College of Medicine and Behavioral Healthcare Education (Grantville, Pa. : November 29–30, 2017).

Miscellaneous Lectures, Addresses, Workshops, and Presentations:

“Vocation and discerning your calling in Christ.” Keynote address for Crossroads, Pompano Beach, Fla., March 18–22, 2026.

“Brokenness and healing in Christ.” Emmaus Retreat, St. John’s Camp Program, Martinsville, Ind., October 10–11, 2025.

“Healing and repentance,” at St. Constantine Christian School, Houston, Tex., February 20, 2025.

Everyday Orthodox Podcast, Ancient Faith Radio, April 14, 2024.

Other Prison Ministry Lectures, Addresses, Workshops, and Presentations:

“A look into prison ministry,” given in Chicago, Ill., June 21, 2025.

Plenary session address, at the 19th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America (St. Louis, Mo. : July 25, 2018).

Representative for OCPM at the Greek Orthodox Clergy and Lay Congress (Nashville, Tenn. : July 3–8, 2016).

“Preparing clergy and laity for Orthodox prison ministry.” Video tape release sent to over 3000 Orthodox churches produced from the Leadership 100 Grant from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Churches in America, Jacksonville, Fla., September 22–24, 2015.

Workshop presenter on Orthodox Prison Ministry at the 18th All-American Council (Atlanta, Ga. : July 20–24, 2015).

Presentation on the Prison Ministry Program at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, at the Regional Chaplains’ Training Conference (Long Branch, N.J. : April 27–29, 2015).

Presentation on the Prison Ministry Program at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, at the Board of Directors’ Meeting of Orthodox Christian Ministry, Houston, Tex., February 19–22, 2014.

Address on behalf of OCPM at the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese National Convention, Houston, Tex., July 25, 2013.

Interview regarding the Prison Ministry Program at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, for Ancient Faith Radio, Houston, Tex., July 25, 2013.

“Religiosity and spirituality,” at the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Convocation (Minneapolis, Minn. : July 26–28, 2012).

“The Ministry of Presence as a means of integrating inmates into family, church, and society,” at Prison Fellowship International, Toronto, Canada., July 30, 2011.

Guest lecturer offering several presentations detailing chaplaincy work done at the State Correctional Institution (Waymart, Pa.), at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., April 13–14, 2010.

Other Lectures, Addresses, Workshops, and Presentations:

Sunday of Orthodoxy Homily for the Twin Cities Clergy Association, St. Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, Minn., March 24, 2024.

Speaker for the annual Ancient Faith Retreat, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, Pa., November 12, 2023.

“The sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb.” Lecture at the 24th Annual Moses the Black Conference, at the Mother of God, Joy-of-All-Who-Sorrow Church (Princeton, N.J. : October 6–8, 2017).

“The miraculous icon of Our Lady of Sitka and the role of the Theotokos in salvation history,” at Villanova University, Villanova, Pa., March 20, 2016.

“Witnessing the role of the Theotokos and Her intercessory role in the lives of the saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church,” at Marywood University, Scranton, Pa., October 25, 2015.

“The concept of healing as found in the dynamic of the Treatment Team Model,” at St. Tikhon's Clergy Continuing Education Symposium (South Canaan, Pa. : June 16–28, 2015).

Guest Homilist for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, Minneapolis, Minn., March 1, 2015.

Speaker at the Lenten retreat at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis, Minn., February 27–28, 2015.

“The ministry of those who are incarcerated and response to the Last Judgment,” given at Pan-Orthodox Clergy of Cleveland, Archangel Michael Orthodox Church, Broadview Heights, Ohio, February 13–14, 2015.

“The greeting of Mary and Elizabeth: the sanctity of life,” at St. Tikhon's Clergy Continuing Education Symposium (South Canaan, Pa. : June 17–19, 2014).

Interview on the Ministry of Presence, for the Orthodox Christian Network (OCN), Houston, Tex., July 22, 2013.

“The exploration and development of the Ministry of Presence,” at St. Tikhon's Clergy Continuing Education Symposium (South Canaan, Pa. : June 18–20, 2013).

“The sanctity of life from womb to the tomb,” for the retreat at St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis, Minn., March 15–16, 2013.

Speaker at the enthronement of Metropolitan Tikhon, Washington, D.C., January 27, 2013.

“The icon of St. Elizabeth greeting Mary and the sanctity of life.” Panel discussion for the exhibit “Icon: The Way to the Kingdom,” Villanova University, Villanova Pa., November 28, 2012.

Gave the benediction, covered by C-Span, CNN, and EWTN across the nation, for the annual March for Life, Washington, D.C., January 22, 2011.