

New Pastor at City Orthodox Parish

Woonsocket - After six months of commuting from Virginia, Fr. Anthony Perkins has finally taken up full-time residency as pastor of St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket.



With him come his wife, Pani Tina, three children, two dogs, two cats, and an enthusiasm that has brought a new spirit to the gold domes on Harris Avenue.

Perkins received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Georgia (UGA). While there he met and married his wife of seventeen years, Pani Matka Tina Marie. He then went on to receive his M.A. in Political Science from the Ohio State University (OSU). A former Methodist, Fr. Anthony received his Orthodox theological training through St. Sophia Orthodox Seminary (graduated in 2004), the St. Stephen's program in Theological Studies (graduated in 2005), and several years of apprenticeship to Fr. Robert Holet at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Charlottesville, VA.

Perkins has served in a variety of parish positions to include parish lay president, treasurer, and subdeacon. He was ordained a deacon at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Charlottesville, VA, in May of 2004 and served there until his ordination to the priesthood on June 2nd of this year. He and Pani Tina have three children: Nicholas (12), Warren Zachariah (4) and Helen (2).

Perkins spent twenty years in the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer in Military Intelligence. His assignments included a tenure as the platoon sergeant of an airborne interrogation platoon and several years as a strategic intelligence analyst. After 9/11, he left his full-time position at OSU to spend two years on active duty providing state-side intelligence support to operations in Afghanistan; a tour that concluded with a deployment to Afghanistan (the first of two) in support of the 10th Mountain Division. He elected to continue this work after leaving active duty, and spent the last few years as a civilian intelligence analyst and instructor for the government in Charlottesville, VA.

It was this work that kept him commuting to Woonsocket until the end of December, when he was finally able to resign. He has received multiple awards for his academic, teaching, military, and government service, and peppers his sermons and discussions with anecdotes from his diverse background.

In addition to his position at St. Michael's, Fr. Anthony currently serves on the faculty of St. Sophia Orthodox Seminary, South Bound Brook, New Jersey. He has published and presented numerous articles and conference papers, and is currently writing a dissertation in the field of comparative politics and religion. While in Virginia, Fr. Anthony offered several popular talks on topics ranging from "Orthodoxy, Pacifism, and War" to

"Orthodoxy and Islam". An enthusiastic and sincere speaker, he plans to continue this tradition at St. Michael's starting in the Fall of this year.

Saint Michael Ukrainian Orthodox church was organized in the early 20th century. The church was founded by many early Ukrainian immigrants that came to the United States from Europe starting in the 1880s. St. Michael's continues to share its rich liturgical, sacramental, and cultural tradition with the faithful throughout the region. Visitors are welcome at all their services, and especially to the weekly liturgy that is celebrated each Sunday beginning at 9:00 AM. See their website, www.stmichaeluoc.org, for more information about the parish, its services, and its new pastor.

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