

San Diego Parish Reader, Mateusz Ferens, Completes M.A. degree

Mateusz (Matthew) Ferens, a parishioner and Reader at the Church of St. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, CA, was awarded a Master's Degree in Art History at the University of California, Riverside, at graduation ceremonies on June 13, 2015. An iconographer and student of the history and theory of Iconography, his M.A. thesis was entitled, "Dionysius of Fournas: Artistic Identity Through Visual Rhetoric." The Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies hopes to publish a revised version of his thesis as a book in the near future.

Reader Matthew received his B.A. degree at San Diego State University. Having completed his M.A. degree, he will now continue his studies at the doctoral level. He was born in Poland, speaks Polish, Russian, and English, and reads Greek. His wife is also a graduate student, and she, too, will be pursuing doctoral studies.

Reader Matthew's father is a retired Orthodox Priest, his brother, Hierodeacon Photii, is a monk at the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA, and his mother and three sisters are active in the San Diego parish. The diocesan clergy and faithful congratulate Reader Matthew on his significant accomplishment and wish him every success in his future scholarly activities and career. (*See photograph below.*)

