

ST. ATHANASIUS ORTHODOX CHURCH 2020 GRADUATES HALL OF FAME

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

THOMAS BALLEW

I am graduating from Dos Pueblos High School. I have decided to spend my gap year traveling to different monasteries across the country. I hope to find the right monastic community that will receive me as a postulant. I wish follow in my brother Joe's footsteps and maybe stay with him for awhile until God sees fit to move me forward or wills my stay. God bless you all.

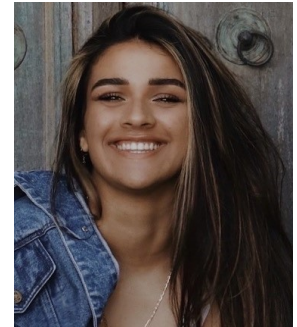


ANNA GRACE BUTLER

I'm graduating from La Cuesta High School and will continue at SBCC in the automotive technology program in which I'll get my two-year degree and then continue to work in the automotive field.

YSABELLA SOPHIA (BELLA) MADRIGAL

I am graduating from Providence High School. I plan to attend Santa Barbara City College for two years and then transfer to Westmont College.



PETER SOLOMON SPEIER

I am graduating from Dos Pueblos High School. I ran Cross Country and Track and was a Cross Country Captain and a leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I will attend Santa Barbara City College in the fall and will major in Biology and run cross country. I plan to eventually teach high school biology and coach. Awards: National Honor Society, National Merit Scholar, Dos Pueblos Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year

SABINA SHACKELFORD

I am graduating from Dos Pueblos High School. While in high school, I was a starting Varsity Water polo player all 4 years and earned all Channel league and all CIF honors. I am thankful to have earned a scholarship to my top choice college, UC Irvine, to continue my education and water polo career.



COLLEGE GRADUATIONS



JOHN BUTLER

I graduated from Westmont College with a B.A. in Music and plan to continue to pursue my musical endeavors in both performance and music technology/recording.

(We have been blessed to have John as our Assistant Choir Director for the past 7 years, and as a chanter and tonsured reader.)

ISABEL KOSIC

I graduated from Westmont College with a B.S. in Physics. Other than being a full-time official nerd, I was involved with the Women's A Cappella group on campus, the St. Athanasius Choir, and enjoyed hiking and exploring the Santa Barbara area, and immediately perked up at any mention of soccer. My plan right now is mainly job-searching.



MADELEINE MAYI MEYER

I graduated with a BM in popular music performance with a Minor in music industry. My plans are to continue pursuing music and other art forms via my personal project. Things have been altered due to Covid-19 in terms of live performances, but I plan on finding creative ways to connect with people through art. I also teach piano lessons via FaceTime (if anyone is interested!)

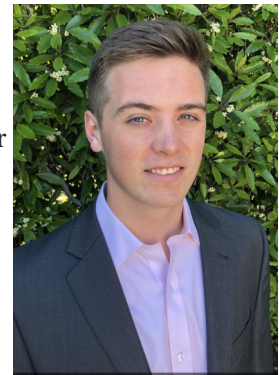
CORIE SIECK

It always bothered me that I never finished college. It was something that always felt incomplete, so I decided to finish it. I just received an Associates Degree in Behavioral and Communication Sciences from Santa Barbara City College. I am very happy to be able to say it is finished!



JESSE SPEIER

I am graduating from Santa Clara University, Summa Cum Laude, with a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the Leavey School of Business. In the next 6 months I’m planning to move back to Santa Barbara, to continue my job search for a marketing position in the Santa Barbara or San Jose Area.



JORDAN WILLIAMS

I am graduating from Sonoma State University with a BA in mathematics. I currently work at Santa Barbara Orthopedic Associates. I have just started my online credentialing program, working toward my credential to teach math at the high school level. While in college, I was on the SAAC (student-athlete advisory committee), Vice President of community service, and a 2 Time All-American and 3 Time All-Conference WWPA (water polo).

GRADUATE DEGREES

FR. CHRIS DILLON

Seminary has truly been a humbling and spiritually enriching experience. By the grace of God, I have completed three rigorous years and have been ordained to the Holy Priesthood. I look forward to serving Christ and his Holy Church in this new capacity. We have been assigned to SS. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Ben Lomond, CA and begin our ministry there next month. Words fail to express my gratitude to my family who went through the process along with me, as well as all of you for your love, support, and prayers.



MARK KERN

I recently received my Masters Degree in Theology from Antiochian House of Studies. Back in about 2005, then Bishop Joseph asked me to enroll in the St. Stephen’s Course. I did, but I had to drop out, since I couldn’t work full time and keep up with the reading. Once I retired in 2017, I had time for the reading so I re-enrolled. I specialized in Church History and found the history and my Thesis was on the Seventy Apostles. I will be presenting a talk on this topic whenever the St. Barbara Monastery Friends gatherings resume.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

CHEYENNE WILCOX BRAUN

I recently graduated from the Allan Hancock Fire Academy and was voted most improved by the instructors and training cadre. I felt very honored being one of two females to graduate out of 21 cadets in the academy. My goals for the coming months/years are to get hired as a full time professional firefighter. Before COVID, I was offered an internship with Santa Barbara City Fire Department where I was “working” with a crew and getting to learn all of the ins and outs of the everyday tasks an firefighter does. That’s been put on hold due to this virus. I hope to earn a degree in Fire Technology through Allan Hancock College. I thank first and foremost God for blessing me with all of the opportunities He has presented in front of me.



GARY BRAUN, JR.

On May 1st I graduated from the Santa Barbara County Fire academy. Now that it is over, I will be spending the next year training and being evaluated while I work as a firefighter paramedic.

GARRETT GISH

I graduated with 14 other peace officers from the Law Enforcement Academy at the Allan Hancock College Public Safety Training Complex on Wednesday, May 20 after completing a rigorous 751-hour training program. I was sworn in by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department as a Sheriff's Deputy that day and I am already on the job working in our community.



LAUREN KING

After graduating basic training in October, I was sent to Keesler Air Force Base for weather tech school. Throughout the past eight months I’ve learned about what causes different types of weather to occur, how to understand satellite and radar, and the basics of forecasting. It was a very tough and fast paced course that was a struggle to get through at times. After graduation from weather tech school, I’ll head to Offutt Air Force base in Nebraska where I’ll be forecasting for the next few years. Due to the current travel bans I won’t be able to come home as planned, so my fiancé and our wonderful families will be coming to Nebraska where Fernando and I will get married!