

## **The Rubrics Nudge: The Priest as Eucharistic Celebrant**

VRev Andrew Morbey

Archpriest Andrew Morbey has been a priest of The Orthodox Church in America for 30 years. He has served communities in British Columbia, California, northern Alberta, England, Ottawa and Minneapolis. Although he originally wanted to be a marine biologist, in college he turned to mediaeval studies, and then from literature in grad school to a growing interest in theology. This in turn led him to St Vladimir's Seminary and on to further theological studies. He is married to Alexandra, with three adult children: Simeon, Rowan and Vera. He admits to being a crunchy conservative, and he enjoys travel, cooking, and gardening as well as murder mysteries, world music and foreign films. He is a Canadian married to a Virginian and takes pleasure in some of the inner cultural continuities between the True North and The South.

This talk reflects on key aspects of priestly character in light of the Offertory Prayer in the Anaphora of the Liturgy of St Basil. A close reading of this prayer, paying attention to both structure and content, especially the Old Testament types of Christian priesthood, offers a compelling vision of not only the priest as eucharistic celebrant, and the meaning of the eucharist, but of the priestly character and ministry of the Church itself. Such a reading can also lead beyond the text and the liturgical theology to surprising reflections on the paradoxes, texture and personal idiosyncrasies of a lived priesthood.