

Preface

This volume is dedicated to the memory of one of its co-editors, Fr. Matthew Baker. A priest of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston and promising young theologian, Father Matthew died in a car accident on March 1, 2015, while driving home from church in wintry weather. He was thirty-seven and leaves behind his wife and six children, who will receive all proceeds from the sale of this volume.

Before his untimely death, Father Matthew served as the main intellectual force behind the Fr. Georges Florovsky Orthodox Christian Theological Society at Princeton University and was instrumental in the conception and planning of this volume. In truth, it was but one project of many that he had completed or was in the process of completing, despite his relative youth. His intellectual interests were broad—music, poetry, philosophy, and theology—and the expertise he had developed often astounded his peers and professors alike.

We cannot help but wonder how he might have finished this volume. His gift was creative synthesis, both with ideas and with people. He was able to see connections where others could not, and to bring together people who otherwise might never have interacted for a common cause and stimulating discussion. Some of his remarkable eclecticism is evident in this volume: it takes a rather unusual approach, as discussed in the introduction, and features theologians of varying ages and professional pedigrees. As it was Father Matthew's hope, so is it ours that the array of contributions in this volume will help fill in a notable gap in contemporary reflection on Scripture.