

CATHEDRAL DEAN REPORT – ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHEDRAL – ALLISON PARK  
ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – 27 FEBRUARY 2021

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the transfer of Cathedral Dean Archpriest Michael Senyo effective August 1, 2020, I was charged as chancellor by His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK to assume the role of “Acting Cathedral Administrator” until a new dean/rector is appointed at the Allison Park cathedral. We thank Fr. Michael for his efforts there during his tenure and pray that the Lord will bless his new ministry at the Saints and Methodius Church in Jeannette, PA, with much success.

Since August I have met monthly with the laity council, conducted the required clergy administrative duties, dialogued often Deacons Michael Wusylko and Stephen Boyd, communicated frequently with council president Roy Glisan, coordinated the church school planning with Ann Hershey, worked with Fran Balog often concerning maintenance concerns, coordinated the rectory projects with Mat. Mary Wusylko and Frank Namisnak, plus other laity leaders as required on a variety of subjects. I have personally visited the cathedral periodically during weekdays to monitor the building status while working in the dean’s church office with the metrical records.

I am greatly indebted to Archpriest David Vernak and other retired diocesan priests who have assumed critical roles in providing a regular liturgical schedule despite the absence of an assigned priest. Fr. David, especially, has been a “critical piece of the puzzle” during this transition period. This sense of stability must be regarded as having been especially essential considering the pandemic that has complicated the spiritual lives of all of us. I also worked with the cathedral council on establishing clear COVID-19 safety protocols both during services and at other times when people are on the cathedral property.

Despite all of this, the life of the cathedral has continued during 2020 – examples: the cathedral continues its outreach work with Women’s Choice Network, an organization that empowers abortion-vulnerable women to choose life. The St. Alexander Nevsky Women’s Association had to scale back activities due to COVID but through two email and phone campaigns it raised several thousand dollars to support Orthodox seminarians as well as St. Tikhon’s Seminary through a sustained giving program. The church school program, as with all such programs in our parishes, was forced to curtail regular sessions after March 15 but had met regularly prior to that date and continued regularly associated activities. Materials were also provided to parents to conduct “home-school” church school when classes were not viable.

I thank all members of the cathedral council for their cooperation – likewise, all members of the cathedral parish. We pray for the Lord’s guidance as His Eminence proceeds with the search for a new cathedral dean in 2021.

*Fr. Bill*

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