

Northwest Deanery Report, November 2022

V. Rev. William J Evansky, Dean
V. Rev. Thomas Soroka, Associate Dean

We are grateful for the many deacons and priests who are leading the Divine Services in the parishes that are vacant or are in need of assistance. We thank God for the remarkable recovery of Igumen Patrick (Carpenter), Rector of St Mary Church in the Southside of Pittsburgh. He now serves the liturgical services unassisted. Thank you to everyone who helped out over the past year.

St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

Allison Park, Pennsylvania

sanocpgh.org

V. Rev. John Mikita, Dean

Protodn. Michael Wusylko, Attached

Dn. Stephen Boyd, Attached

The Cathedral has come up on one year since our arrival. A major milestone was the retirement of Lory Nescott after nearly 40 years of service as our choir director. We hired John Barrett, a recent graduate of the St. Tikhon's Monastery music program, to step into her place. This Fall we implemented a regular Wednesday evening Vespers service followed by both a book study as well as choir rehearsal. On Thursday morning we implemented a regular weekday Liturgy. We continue to offer Children's Church School and Adult Ed. on Sunday mornings at 9 before Liturgy. Our average attendance is about 85.

St. Andrew Church

Lyndora, Pennsylvania

standrewlyndora.com

V. Rev. William J Evansky, Acting Administrator

Dn. Seraphim Truckley, Attached

St Andrew Church has been serviced by various Orthodox clergy of the Archdiocese and is having weekly services and activities.

Holy Ghost Church

Ambridge, Pennsylvania

holyghostoca.org

V. Rev. William J Evansky, Rector

Rev. Gregory Thompson, Attached, (Leave of Absence)

Dn. Peter Ilchuk, Attached

Dn. Matthew Stahoviak, Attached

- In addition to his pastoral duties, Fr Bill continues as Archdiocesan Chancellor/ Northwest Dean / FOCA Pittsburgh District Spiritual Advisor
- Additional church leadership roles from the Ambridge parish:
 1. Dn. Matthew Stahoviak – Active in providing liturgical coverage for the diocesan parishes without an assigned priest / Frequent deacon for the Archbishop during Sunday Archpastoral visits
 2. Dn. Peter Ilchuk – OCA Corresponding Secretary for the Metropolitan / Deacon for the Metropolitan / All-American Council Manager
 3. Mat. Danielle Ilchuk - FOCA National Executive Board Recording Secretary
 4. Mat. Danielle Ilchuk - Pittsburgh District FOCA Lieutenant Governor
 5. Mat. Debbie Evansky - Pittsburgh District FOCA Recording Secretary / Parish Church School Coordinator
 6. Omelan Mycyk - Archdiocese of Pgh and W PA Administrative Assistant at the chancery
 7. Nicole Yakich - Archdiocesan Youth Committee member
 8. Joseph Lear - Pittsburgh District FOCA Auditing Committee member
- Church School/Teen Group 2021-2022 academic year has begun with 18 children enrolled (K-12th Grade)
- Parish metrical records for calendar 2021 include: (1) new member; (5) Baptisms; (1) convert; (4) funerals
- Parish again participated in the Ambridge Festival of Churches at the downtown borough park with an expanded food booth and a parish “float” in the parade
- Continued monthly “Sunday Dialogue” education sessions for parish teens and adults with Fr. Bill to discuss questions about the Orthodox Faith, comparative religion studies, and current moral issues
- Continued outreach dinners at the community’s Center for Hope in downtown Ambridge several times this past year + provided food bank supplies throughout the year of household and non-perishable food items
- Held a re-formatted (and very well received) - pre-Nativity children’s program in the church nave
- Provided two camp scholarships for parish youth to attend the St. Vladimir’s FOCA Camp in nearby Ohio
- The parish’s pledge system, in lieu of the outdated “dues” system, continues to grow steadily, with the Stewardship Program exceeding the \$ 92,000.00 mark for the first time since the Stewardship Program was instituted in 2017 with the help of Archdiocesan Parish Development Director Joe Kormos
- Parish physical plant improvements, as always, continue in an orderly manner using a constantly updated planning cycle for the parish’s four buildings: church, educational center, youth+event center, and priest rectory

St. Gregory Church

Homestead, Pennsylvania

stgregoryrussianchurch.org

Rev. Evgeni Peykov, Rector

I would like to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to all parishioners of " St. Gregory". Thanks to all of them our congregation had another successful year. The Christmas and Pascha bake sale were extremely successful and for this baking season we have to find ways for bringing more volunteers to the baking days. St. Gregory did not gain any new official members, but we definitely see more and more new visitors. We had monetary and household donation collections for an Ukrainian family hosted by one of our parishioners..

Thanking God for all He provided already and praying for even better years in future.

Intercession of the Holy Virgin Church

Carnegie, Pennsylvania

hvroc.org

V. Rev. George York, Rector

Major Parish Projects include a general garden clean up, refurbishment of the domes, repairs to the parish house, new lights to the front of the church. Six successful parish fundraisers were held with some of the funds to benefit St Jude Hospital for Children. A special collection of clothes and personal items for the victims of the Ukrainian war as well as donations to the OCA collection for the Ukrainian refugees. The parish was featured on the first annual Carnegie Crawl with an open house and guided tour of the church and garden. Seven 18th century Orthodox icons were donated and black walnut frames were made for each of the icons now adorning the back of the church. The parish has 80 adult supporting members, an average Sunday attendance between 31 and 40, and seven student enrolled in Sunday School.

St. John the Baptist Church

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

saintjohnnewken.org

Rev. John Parker, Rector

Dn. Joseph Rabickow Jr. Attached

Since the start of the year St John's has undergone big changes, with the departure of Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge and the arrival of Fr. Parker and family. During that four month interval transition, faithful parishioners kept parish life active alongside various retired priests who ministered to the faithful. In addition to running two major food festival fundraisers, parish faithful also continued with various ministries in the women's group (making blankets for those in the hospital), ongoing collections for and participation in food bank distribution with our neighbor Antiochian Church, and ministering to shut-in parishioners through letters and calls.

With the start of the liturgical new year, the parish resumed regular weekday services with Wednesday night Vespers followed by a regular bible study. We have several new catechumens since May, who along with many long-time parishioners participate in a

regular catechesis and fellowship on Saturdays following Vespers. Additionally, each month we try to have some sort of event or guest lecture going forward; in September we hosted the St. Constantine School as they seek to launch a Pittsburgh campus, and in October a talk on Forgiveness and prayer is being given by guest speaker Isaac Lampart (STOTS 2019). We look forward to hosting future lecturers and community events.

St. Mary (Holy Dormition) Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

stmaryorthodoxchurch.net

Igumen Patrick (Carpenter), Rector

Protodn. Joseph Balkunowa, Attached

St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pittsburgh PA 15203. 2021-2022 has seen a return of a more normal Liturgical Schedule as Igumen Patrick is adapting to walking with prosthetic devices daily. Our thanks to the clergy of the Deanery and Archdiocese which have helped out the Church with clergy coverage during this challenging time of Fr. Patrick's recovery. The St. Cyril of White Lake Orthodox Food Pantry continues to function twice each month. A new Icon of the Holy Physicians and Wonderworkers was completed and added to the Church, and a new Theotokos Shroud was donated. The parish is preparing to host this year's Get Stuffed With Love Program with the local Rotary clubs and Pittsburgh Police.

St. Michael Church

West Deer Twp (Curtisville), Pennsylvania

V. Rev. Alexander Poshyvajlo, Rector

St. Nicholas Church

McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

orthodoxpittsburgh.org

V. Rev. Thomas Soroka, Rector

Dn. Luke Loboda, Attached

Dn. John Skowron, Attached

St Nicholas Church is located directly outside of downtown Pittsburgh. Our mission: *St. Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.* The following highlights summarize the parish life and accomplishments in 2022 to date:

- Liturgical Services: We offer Saturday Cathedral Vigil and Sunday Divine Liturgies, all major and some minor feast days and the eves of feasts, daily Matins with Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Wednesday Vespers before Bible Study. We also hold daily services during the Great Lenten period. We have engaged two new Choir Directors, Reader James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, to lead our choir.

- Church Beautification: The iconography project has continued with new icons for our small narthex and decorative work on the iconostas. We will begin the work of new iconography on the first third of the ceiling (toward the iconostas) of the church in November 2022.
- Educational Programs: Our educational programs continue with Church School for school-age students (preschool through 12th grade) in six classes (33 registered students). Our Vacation Church School was attended during the summer by 32 students up to Grade 8, on the theme "Let your Light So Shine." Bible Study is held twice a month for adults. A comprehensive catechism class is held for catechumens. The Orthodox Teen Fellowship meets about every other month for fellowship.
- Charitable Endeavors: We host a monthly food pantry for those in need in the neighborhood. We also host a yearly Community Day, inviting our neighbors to be with us in worship and fellowship. Our final tally for the collection to benefit Fr Patrick Carpenter was approximately \$45,000. We are donating a portion of the proceeds of our Slavic Food Fest to benefit Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Several of our parishioners have played a leading role in organizing the planned St Constantine Classical School in Pittsburgh and our parish has participated in the fundraising activities.
- Homeschooling Support: We host the St Macrina Homeschooling Co-op which brings together families from across the Pittsburgh area to share monthly in a day of learning and fellowship.
- Outreach and Evangelism: Our Sunday Divine Liturgy is streamed on Facebook and YouTube. We are honored to be the home of four popular podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio. Fr Thomas is heard frequently on WORD-FM in Pittsburgh on "The Ride Home with John and Kathy."
- Ministry Fair: We recently held a Ministry Fair to inspire more participation in the various ministries of our parish. We were blessed with 50 new volunteers in the 13 major areas of ministry in our parish, encompassing over 40 different activities.

SS. Peter and Paul Church

Crossingville, Pennsylvania

orthodoxcrossingville.org

Rev. Daniel Mathewson, Rector

Our patron St Paul reminds the Corinthian Church that, he planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. We have felt this way this past year. We have planted, and we have watered and this year God has blessed us with the increase. In the last years we have lost many parish members due to reposing, or moving, but our gracious Lord has saw fit this year to bless us. We saw 7 new members join this year and now have another 7 inquirers since the summer! The Holy Spirit is at work in his Churches!

Our new education program is in full swing and this includes our adult education as well. Our full cycle of services continues, and our missions team successfully held our second annual open house which saw many visitors. We look forward to another fruitful year! Glory to God for all things!