

47th Annual Diocesan Assembly
November 19-20, 2010
FRACKVILLE DEANERY REPORT

CLERGY

Archpriest Michael Hatrak, Dean
SS. Peter and Paul Church, Minersville
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church,
St. Clair

Priest Timothy Hojnicky
Assistant Dean
Holy Apostles Mission
Mechanicsburg

Archpriest John Onofrey, Secretary
St. Herman's Church, Shillington

Archpriest Michael Evans
Treasurer
St. Michael Church, Mt. Carmel
Holy Ascension Church, Lykens

Archpriest James Jadick
Rector
Holy Ascension Church, Frackville

Priest Stephen Vernak
Rector
Christ the Savior Church, Harrisburg

Priest Daniel Mathewson
Acting Rector
St. Mary's Church, Coaldale

Archpriest Claude Vinyard
Priest In Charge
Holy Trinity Church
McAdoo

Archpriest Paul Ropitsky, retired
Attached St. Mary's Church Coaldale

Archpriest Michael Rachko
Attached St. Herman Church, Shillington

Archpriest Michael Kovach, retired
Archpriest Daniel Rissetar, retired
Attached to Christ the Savior Church, Harrisburg:

Two Deanery meetings were held this past year. The clergy discussed concerns of the deanery, diocese and national church.

A Deanery Pre-Sanctified Liturgy was held at SS. Peter and Paul Church, Minersville on March 9th, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, assisted by deanery clergy. St. Tikhon's Seminary choir sang the responses. A collection was taken for the Seminary.

Lenten Mission Vespers were held each Sunday during Lent in various parishes.

The clergy participated in the Lenten Retreat with His Grace, Bishop Tikhon; the Diocesan Divine Liturgy during Bright Week and helped at the annual Monastery Pilgrimage over Memorial Day week end.

Over the summer a FOCA outing to Knoebel's Amusement Park and a deanery family picnic at Minersville were enjoyed.

In addition to liturgical services; classes, lectures, food and bake sales, dinner-dances, picnics, Chinese Auctions, raffles, dinners, community and FOCA activities are included in the life of our parishes.

2010 PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Holy Apostles Mission News

- Added Daily Vespers & Educational Series on Wednesday evenings
- Started a youth program with social and service projects planned
- Annual Dinner Dance held this past October 24 was a success
- received 8 into the Church this past Pascha

Holy Ascension, Frackville

- Completed \$150,000 hall renovation
- Sponsored a Retreat – “The ABC’s of Orthodoxy”
- Started a weekly woman’s study group
- Annual Food Fest
- Perogie sales at County Fireman’s Annual Convention and Parade
- Community Program for Annual Pumpkin Festival

Holy Trinity, McAdoo

- Two Baptisms, one Wedding
- Parish Picnic, July 9-11
- Parish Pride Projects & Renovations:
 - Rectory patio roof removed and replaced
 - Trees and tree stumps removed
 - Rectory windows painted
 - Rear fence removed
 - Old flower beds removed and new grass planted
 - North side of Church roof replaced

SS. Peter and Paul, Minersville

The past year was spent preparing for the 100th Anniversary celebration that was held on September 26th. Anniversary week services included a Service of Thanksgiving, a Panikhida remembering those who founded and built the church, Vespers and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, fourteen priests, two Protodeacons and three subdeacons. The joyous celebration included the ordination of Gregory Hatrak to the diaconate. Along with liturgical services our activities include a Pre-Lenten Dinner and a Thanksgiving Dinner along with holiday bake sales and participation in Minersville’s Spirit Day.

St. Michael’s, Mt. Carmel

Continues with the monthly perogie making and sale.

Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg

Fr. Stephen Vernak

Dec 27, 2009: Our parish welcomed the Lichtensteins from St. Tikhon Seminary our "Adopt-a-Seminary Family" and distributed gifts to then Subdeacon, now Fr. Mark, his Presbyteria Suzanne and their 4 children. The Parish gathered later that evening for its annual Christmas Open House with the Lichtensteins as honored guests.

Jan 10, 2010: Our parish joined over 100 faithful and clergy from our five local Orthodox parishes for the 2nd Annual "Great Blessing of the Susquehanna River" at City Island Park (Harrisburg, PA).

Feb 14, 2010: Our parish welcomed a quartet of singers from St. Tikhon Seminary for their annual Mission Choir visit, including Alexei Schmidt, who we sponsored for a third consecutive year with a full scholarship.

Feb 21, 2010: The young adults of our community compiled "IOCC Health Kits" of items donated by parishioners, for the victims of the Haitian earthquake. Over 100 bags were assembled and delivered to the IOCC headquarters in Baltimore, MD.

Feb 27, 2010: Our parish hosted a Young Adult Lenten Retreat, that featured OCMC Missionary Nathan Hoppe. Nearly 20 participated in the day long retreat, which was completed by singing the Akathist "Glory to God for All Things".

March 11, 2010: Seven men from our parish traveled to St. Tikhon Monastery for our annual Men's Lenten Retreat. Pilgrim spent 3 days and two nights attending the monastic services and enjoying the hospitality of the monastic community.

March 20, 2010: Our parish hosted a liturgical music workshop entitled: "Singing with the Angels" featuring Prof. David Drillock, Emeritus Professor of Liturgical Music at St. Vladimir Seminary. There were over 40 participants.

March 27, 2010: On Lazarus Saturday, our parish welcomed eight new members into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation. God grant them many years!

April 25, 2010: Our parish hosted a lecture given by Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk (Dean of St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA) entitled: **"What's Faith Got to Do with It: an Orthodox Christian Response to Atheistic and Religious Worldviews"**. Over 100 interested individuals attended his insightful and relevant talk.

May 30, 2010: Our parish welcomed Archpriest Michael Oleksa, Chancellor of the Diocese of Alaska, and renowned theologian. He con-celebrated the Divine Liturgy and gave an inspiring homily about St. Basil Martysz of Poland and Blessed Mother Olga of Alaska.

June 18, 2010: Seven women and three children from our parish made a pilgrimage to Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA for a Women's Retreat. It was a special treat for many of our women who remembered Mother Christophora when she was a member of our community.

August 16, 2010: For the second year, our parish hosted the "Six Days of Creation Icon Workshop", which featured Master Iconographer Xenia Pokrovsky and her daughter Anna Gouriev. Eight students were guided in the ancient and beautiful technique of egg-tempera icon painting. Matins was held every morning of the week long workshop.

October 3, 2010: His Grace Bishop TIKHON made a pastoral visit to our parish. He presided at the Sunday Divine Liturgy and delivered a beautiful homily on forgiveness. Eis pola eti Despota!

October 10, 2010: Our parish hosted over 20 church school teachers and directors who gathered for an all-day training workshop. The conference, sponsored by the OCA Diocese of Eastern PA and the Dept. of Christian Education, was a Pan-Orthodox event and drew from parishes of various Orthodox jurisdictions from throughout South Central Pennsylvania.

October 21, 2010: Our parish welcomed the Miraculous Myrrh-streaming Hawaii Iveron Mother of God. Over 400 faithful and 15 clergy sang a Molieben to the Mother of God and were anointed with the precious myrrh that flows from Her icon.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church – Coaldale, PA Diocesan Report

Fr. Daniel Mathewson, Acting Rector

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

This past year has been very fruitful for the parish. Thanks be to God! We are continuing our efforts to become a healthy parish in our diocese. We have identified some areas that need improvement and this year we will focus upon four key areas. First, empowering the leadership of the parish, assigning jobs and specific roles within the parish. Next we will be looking at the God given gifts of each member of the parish and finding out how they can use these gifts for the building up of the parish. Prayer and increasing the liturgical life of the parish will also be a focus this coming year. We will be adding a new service into our liturgical life. Finally, we will be looking more closely at the effectiveness, efficiency and competency of our various councils, committees, and groups. This is all in accord with His Grace's call for our parishes to grow and become healthy.

This past year, by the grace of God, we received 8 new members through baptism and/ or Chrismation. Nathan Mathewson was tonsured as a Reader this year, and others are interested in beginning diaconal training. We had a full cycle of services, including the beginning of a Wednesday daily vespers and discussion. Our FOCA youth group "Max 21" (After St. Maximos the Confessor) has been meeting twice monthly, attending a FOCA retreat this past winter. The youth have also sponsored food drives for the local food pantry, and this year are forming a performing mine troop to reach out with the message of the gospel. We hope to work with other youth in the diocese to continue outreach efforts.

In the summer of this year the Youth and Ladies Aid groups in conjunction with Parish council sponsored our second annual Children's festival and fun day, where we saw over 85+ children and many families join us for this day of fun and exposure to our parish. We had a St. Modestos pet blessing service for the community, blessing many area dogs, turtles and hamsters. We hope to continue this effort to reach out to our community with the message of the gospel and presentation of the Holy Church. The youth will be sponsoring "Senior Parties" this year to join the youth and seniors in our parish and in the local nursing homes without family nearby. We will pray together and play board games and fellowship.

This year saw the formation of a Men's Fellowship group, meeting bimonthly for prayer and fellowship. Some of our faithful ladies met on Thursdays throughout the year for a molieben service of prayer for the sick and suffering.

Our Ladies Aid group is undergoing some restructuring; they continue to be faithful to the needs of the parish sponsoring dinners, events and service to the faithful as well as those outside our

parish. They sponsored the Romanian baby supply drive this year sending out over 100 lbs of clothing and supplies for Christina Semon and her missionary efforts. The Good Samaritans, ministry arm within the LA group send out cards and favors for all those shut in or hospitalized on a monthly basis.

The Activities Committee also worked especially for our centennial celebration raising money for the event. They have also sponsored yard sales, Chinese Auctions and the Haiti relief boxes for the continued growth of the parish.

Much more could be said, but we will end our report here and just ask for your continued prayers for St. Mary's in Coaldale.

Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest Michael Hatrak, Dean