

FRACKVILLE DEANERY REPORT

CLERGY

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

Archpriest John Onofrey, Sec. /Treas.
St. Herman's Church, Shillington

Priest Stephen Vernak
Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg

Priest Ignatius Gauvain
St. Mary's Church, Coaldale

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

Attached to Christ the Savior Church, Harrisburg:
Archpriest Daniel Ressetar, retired

Priest Timothy Hojnicky
Assistant Dean
Holy Apostles Mission
Mechanicsburg

Archpriest James Jadick
Holy Ascension Church, Frackville

Priest Mircea Airinei
Holy Trinity Church, McAdoo

Attached St. Herman Church, Shillington
Archpriest Stephen Janos, retired

Attached to Holy Apostles Mission
Deacon Seraphim Reynolds

DEANERY ACTIVITIES

- One Deanery meeting was held this past year. The clergy discussed concerns of the deanery, diocese and national church.
- Lenten Mission Vespers were held each Sunday during Lent in various parishes.
- The clergy participated in the May Enthronement of His Grace, Bishop Mark; helped at the annual Monastery Pilgrimage over Memorial Day week end; St. Tikhon's Day in August and also the continuing education programs.
- A FOCA outing to a Reading Phillies game and a deanery family picnic in July and a holiday gathering in January 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.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

St. Mary's Church, 217 First Street, Coaldale, PA 1818

Statistics: 106 Adults, 8 Invalids and 22 Children listed in our Census for this year.

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, 209 S Lehigh Ave. Frackville, PA 17931

Parish Report - 2014

* We have recorded 2 burials and 1 baptism.

- * We have experienced a significant increase of visitors to our weekly services. At least 12 individuals are attending, at minimum, 3 Sunday Divine Liturgies monthly. Prospect for them to become members is very realistic.
- * We have rejoiced at a significant increase in numbers at the weekly services. Average attendance has increased to more than 75% of our existing membership.
- * We continue to support our college students with contact via e-mail and phone.
- * We have started a monthly newsletter for all members of the parish.
- * We have established the position of parish education co-ordinator, who, along with the rector, will help institute and guide parish education projects.
- * Church School program has expanded to now include 13 children.
- * Parish wide program for Great Lent and Advent - discussion groups.
- * Discussion groups at Coffee Hour - "Chat & Chew", well attended and strong participation from attendees.
- * Weekly bulletin inserts encourage discussion and offer opportunity for members to learn at their own discretion. Encourage feedback for discussion.
- * Held an Akathist to the "Mother of God - Healer of Cancer" in conjunction with American Cancer Society month of October for the parish and local community.
- * Parish outreach to local community via food banks and participation at various community events: Pumpkin Festival, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc.
- * Continued projects: pierogies, holiday cookie sales, food festival have become community wide "events" for our parish. All have grown significantly!
- * Preparing for our 100th Anniversary celebration in September of 2015.

Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg, PA

Below are some highlights from this past year:

January 19th we welcomed His Grace, Bishop MARK for the Divine Liturgy in the morning, and in the afternoon he led our local Pan-Orthodox clergy and faithful for the 6th Annual Great Blessing of the Susquehanna at City Island Park in Harrisburg.

February 2nd During the Liturgy on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord we welcomed five new members into the Catechumenate of the Orthodox Church. We also honored our parish Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Vladimer Kellachow was awarded the "Alpha Omega Award", Orthodox Scoutings highest honor.

April 6th we welcomed the St. Tikhon Seminary mission choir. The choir, under the direction of Benedict Sheehan, sang beautifully and inspired us on our Lenten journey.

April 13th the community of Christ the Saviour (Harrisburg) celebrated the Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday. Before the Liturgy the Lentz family was received into the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation.

April 19th our community gathered to celebrate the Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil, His Grace, Bishop MARK was our celebrant. The 15 Old Testament readings were chanted by our parish youth.

April 27th we celebrated our parish feast day (the church is dedicated to the Resurrection, and was given Thomas Sunday to celebrate). His Grace, Bishop Mark led the gathered faithful for the Divine Liturgy. The Zeppuhar family, who were Baptized and Chrismated the day previous, received their first Holy Communion.

June 8th on the feast of Great and Holy Pentecost, Joseph McClure was Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church. Following Divine Liturgy and the Kneeling Vespers we gathered at the parish social hall for our Third Annual International Day.

June 22nd on the feast of All Saints of N. America, Cindy Shortall was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation.

July 13th following the Divine Liturgy and memorials for Fr. Michael (1yr) & Mat. Olga Hubiak Kovach (3yr) - we gathered at the parish hall to bless the Fr. Michael & M. Olga Kovach Parish Lending Library. Before he fell asleep in the Lord, Fr. Michael requested that any memorial donations collected for Mat. Olga and himself, would be dedicated to parish education, especially our catechumens.

July 15th our parish softball team won its 4th consecutive league softball championship (10th overall). September 19th the Orthodox Christian Charities of Greater Harrisburg (OCCGH), the non-profit entity that organized and stewards the Agia Sophia Coffeehouse and Bookstore, celebrated the 3rd Anniversary of the shop. Over \$10,000 has been donated to charity through this outreach ministry!

November 11th Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick presented a public lecture entitled: *Will YOU be "left behind?" The Rapture in light of Ancient Christianity.*

November 16th our parish family was treated to a special fellowship hour prepared by our Ethiopian and Eritrean members. By an act of providence, the date we selected fell on the feast of Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, who brought the gospel to East Africa as part of his Apostolic vocation.

November 23rd we hosted the annual IOCC/OCMC Charity Event for our local Pan-Orthodox brotherhood, the Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central Pennsylvania (OCCSCP). Over the past 15 years the OCCSCP has raised over \$160,000 in support of these wonderful organizations.

Holy Ascension Church, Lykens

Being served by Diocesan clergy

Holy Trinity Church, McAdoo, PA

2014 Report

- Holy Trinity Church in McAdoo has 22 adult members and 10 children. Median attendance is 14 adults and 8 children. The parish has 3 members that are shut-ins, and 1 member in a nursing home. In 2014, we had 1 convert, 1 infant baptism and 1 funeral. Divine Liturgy is served every Sunday and Feast days. Also, Great Vespers are served every Saturday and eve of the Feast. Akathist services are served every Wednesday and Friday. Holy Unction was served in the Great Lent and Nativity Lent.
- We have 8 Catechumens, 4 adults and 4 children. Every Friday, we have Catechism class. Once a month, we held a Lecture in Church teachings. We had two guest speakers: Fr. Michael Demko and Protodeacon Sergei Kapral.
- Fundraising sales were held once or twice a month. The parish has an Ethnic food sale for two days in July. Also, once a month we offered a free meal. Gift baskets and caroling for the shut-ins and nursing home occurred before Christmas.
- In November and December, the Church Sanctuary was repaired and painted.
- Also, a new red vestment set was purchased.

Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg

In June, our parish held our 3rd Annual Vacation Church School, with the theme: "Saints from Around

the World.” Our hall area was transformed into different countries. Our younger children spent three evenings enjoying lessons, games, and crafts.

Some other youth activities included a Charity Luncheon, a St. Nicholas Day Tree Trimming Celebration, participation in the Annual Diocesan Winter Teen Retreat, and a Kids Lenten Mini-retreat. We also started an OCF at Messiah and held a Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) Lenten Retreat.

This past October, our parish voted to go forward and take on a building loan to build our Phase I Church/Hall. At the time of the submission of this report a settlement date is being finalized. Please keep this exciting and challenging time in our parish in your prayers. We also celebrated our 10th Anniversary with our annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction.

Statistics:

- *2 Chrismations*
- *2 Weddings*
- *1 Funeral*
- *8 Transfers into the parish*

Parish Census:

- Adults : 91
- Children: 40

TOTAL SOULS: 131

SS. Peter and Paul, Minersville

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 and Food Drive. We continue with our Charity Fund collection at the cross and donate to a different worthy cause every three months

There was one funeral and one wedding – Matthew Hatrak and Lori Bane on November 1, 2014.

We welcomed His Grace, Bishop Mark, for his first visit to the parish on November 30, 2014.

St. Michael’s Orthodox Church, Mt. Carmel

Community Outreach

St. Michael’s began the year and continued the year by becoming an active supporter of the local food bank in Mt. Carmel. Not only were non-perishable items provided, but several times the parish provided pierogies for community dinners. In addition, the parish participated in community events, such as the annual Police Community Picnic.

Several articles were provided throughout the year to the local newspaper. The early portion of the year they highlighted activities of prior rectors, highlights of Hierarchical visits and our mission service. When Father Theophan arrived he provided an article at least monthly to the News Item on Orthodoxy.

In August, Father Theophan and several parishioners participated at a flag raising ceremony in Mt. Carmel to honor one of our departed WWII veterans.

In September, Father Theophan did outreach to the football team after hearing they visit different churches each Friday prior to school. He offered a Molieben and over 50 players and faculty attended.

In November, the parish had large banners made listing living and departed veterans which was hung outside the church, as well as in the hall. On November 9th, members of the local VFW attended services and the departed veterans were honored as part of a Panikhida. We had over 39 in attendance that Sunday and provided a light lunch to all who attended.

Our pierogie projects serve as a great community activity and provides the opportunity for parishioners from several different denominations to work together and enjoy fellowship.

Educational and Parish Activities

The bulletin has been used as a means to educate the faithful on aspects of the Divine Liturgy service, Orthodoxy, the Sacraments, the lives of saints, and Christian values.

Visiting clergy, Father Theophan, and parishioners have placed an emphasis on visiting the sick and checking on those who cannot attend services.

The parish began a library and publish a list of books on Orthodoxy that can be signed out. On February 23rd, we kicked off our first educational series following Divine Liturgy which was conducted by parishioners. We held a discussion on preparing for Lent and how it is far more than fasting. The program was for all ages and we encouraged children to attend to begin to learn how to prepare for Pascha. Following the program a light lunch for Meat Fare Sunday was provided.

April 6th, St. Michael's hosted a Lenten Mission service.

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, following Divine Liturgy. The parish had a brief discussion on preparing for confession, a lesson on Palm Sunday, and activities for the children to help prepare for Pascha. The parish made Pascha cards to send those unable to attend services and friends of the parish. Lenten snacks and sandwiches were served.

On Saturday, April 19th, families joined us in dying eggs to hand out after services on April 20th.

During the summer we recognized two college graduates and provided them Icons so they always remember St. Michael's

July 20th, held a parish cookout. It was well attended.

In July, St. Michael's launched its webpage that was created by a parishioner. In addition, Father Theophan set up a Facebook page for St. Michael's

From August until early December, Father Theophan conducted Orthodoxy 101 educational sessions after Divine Liturgy.

In November, the parish celebrated St. Michael's Day running from November 7th thru the 8th. Activities kicked-off with vespers Friday night. On Saturday morning, His Grace, Bishop Mark celebrated Divine Liturgy and the choir from Holy Apostles Mission Church in Mechanicsburg provided a treat for St. Michael's choir by providing the responses. Father Stephen Vernak from Christ the Saviour Church, in Harrisburg, provided an excellent homily. Ethnic foods were served and educational lectures were provided by Dr. David Ford, Dr. Harry Boosalis, and Father Andrew Stephen Damick.

On December 14th, the parish held its second annual Christmas Sing Along. A farewell lunch was served to honor Father Theophan, Matushka Kristi, Maya, Kyra, and Ally who were leaving for an assignment in New Mexico on December 29th. Parishioners made Nativity cards that were sent to the sick, friends of the parish, and those who have not be attending services.

St. Mary's Church, St. Clair

Weekly liturgical services.

We welcomed His Grace, Bishop Mark, for his first visit to the parish on 11/23/14

St. Herman's Church, 122 Church Street, Shillington, PA 19607

Statistics: 100 Adults, 0 Invalids, 25 Children.

Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest Michael Hatrak, Dean