

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2020 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean

Fr Jason Franchak, Assistant Dean

Secretary: Fr Innocent Neal

Treasurer: Fr PDn Sergei Kapral

Glory to Jesus Christ!

WORSHIP: The parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery maintain a full cycle of liturgical services during the course of the year. Whereas some parishes do not have a resident pastor, the minimal Resurrectional cycle of Sunday liturgies continues with the faithful help of retired and nearby clergy. The Wilkes-Barre Deanery is deeply grateful for the support and attentiveness of Archbishop Mark and the help of all clergy helping to serve our parishes.

Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale. Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint Vladimir's Parish in Lopez. Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint John's Parish in Edwardsville. Father George Volkovinsky ended his pastoral assignment at Saint John's on August 31, 2019. The parish is currently vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

All-Saints Parish in Olyphant. The Reverend Joshua Schooping, transferred from the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia to the Omophorion of Archbishop Mark on April 02, 2019. On May 01, 2019 Archbishop Mark assigned Father Joshua as the Rector at All-Saints Parish. The Wilkes-Barre Deanery is very grateful for priestly and pastoral work of Father Joshua.

Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. The Reverend Gregory White transferred from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey (OCA) to the Omophorion of Archbishop Mark. On January 01, 2019 Archbishop Mark assigned Father Gregory as Rector of Holy Resurrection Cathedral. The Wilkes-Barre Deanery is very grateful for priestly and pastoral work of Father Gregory.

Saint Michael's in Old Forge, **Holy Trinity** in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Cross** in Williamsport, **Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **Saint Nicholas** in Olyphant, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, and **Holy Annunciation** in Berwick, **Saint John** in Dundaff, and **Saint Basil** in Simpson continue to be blessed by the diligent and faithful service and pastorship of their priests.

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church continues to be a part of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

Clergy and faithful gathered during the season of Great Lent for Lenten Mission Vespers and other Services. These services were held at:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.
- Saint Gregory Palamas.... Holy Trinity Wilkes-Barre.
- Sunday of the Cross All Saints Olyphant.
- Saint John Climacus Saint Nicholas Olyphant.

- Saint Mary of Egypt Holy Trinity Stroudsburg.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.

The Proposed 2020 Lenten Mission Services are scheduled to be:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.
- Saint Gregory Palamas.... Saint Michael's Old Forge.
- Sunday of the Cross Saint John Dundaff.
- Saint John Climacus Saint John Edwardsville.
- Saint Mary of Egypt Holy Cross Williamsport.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.

FELLOWSHIP: Fellowship accompanies most diocesan and deanery services and events.

Deanery hosted Father Barnabas Powell for a talk at Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg and Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre during the Diocesan Fall Lecture Series.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Educational and outreach activities of the parishes in the deanery continues. Many parishes host Fall lectures and Lenten lectures. Some of the parishes in the Wilkes-Barre area join together for vacation bible schools and teen gatherings. Concerts and ethnic festivals were also held.

The Clergy Continuing Education held throughout the year were attended by many, but not all, deanery clergy.

MINISTRY: Parishes of the deanery continue to perform the sacraments of the Church, visit the sick and infirm, feed the hungry and poor, minister to the imprisoned and preach the gospel in their communities.

Of significant concern in the life of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery continues to be the decline in census from many of the parishes.

Of particular note, Holy Trinity in Wilkes Barre celebrated their 50th year anniversary in September of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr Nicholas J Solak, Dean