



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
THE MOST REV. MARK, ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA

CHARITABLE WORKS WITHIN DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania encourages all of its parishes to see themselves not as the recipients of charity, but as the ones who administer charity within the local, national and international communities, respectively. The charitable outreach is difficult to measure as many faithful serve within their local communities without calling attention to themselves. Our Church has produced a comprehensive resource book for clergy and laity called, PARISH MINISTRY RESOURCE BOOK - IDEAS FOR CLERGY AND LAITY.

As you will note from our 2018 Diocesan Census Summary by Age Brackets, we have 9 parishes with under 30 parishioners and almost 42% of our faithful over the age of 66. While many of our parishes struggle with maintaining larger facilities than needed and caring for the invalids, we have kept them open to provide care to the aging local communities, where other Churches have already left. The following parishes, with little notice put together a list of charitable work being done:

ST. HERMAN CHURCH, GRADYVILLE

- Charity Committee has provided food and monetary donations to their local food pantry's and breakfast mission.
- Provided food and other badly needed items to the animal shelters in their area during the winter.
- Presently collecting monetary donations to help feed the more than 180 children of the St. Barnabas Orthodox Orphanage in Kenya as an ongoing Lenten project.
- Sent personal items needed by our service men and women in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa.
- Fr. John Perich has been a board member of the Upper Chichester Township Library Board for the last four years. He continues to donate items for the benefit of the programs for children and adults. This amounts to approximately \$1000 - \$2000 annually.
- Fr. John is also a board member in the Township Task Force for the building of a new library and community center in Upper Chichester Township, PA
- Collected funds for groceries, gift cards, and clothing for a very needy African American family located in Delaware. Several parishioners continue to help when they are able.
- Visit homebound parishioners.
- During Christmas and Great Lent, parish provides a Sunshine Committee for those unable to attend church.
- Provide meals for Senior Citizens in various homes in the West Chester, PA area.

- Provide weekly Charity envelope boxes which are sent to parishioners and have a charity appropriation in annual budget.
- Donating funds to Orphanage in Africa.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, OLD FORGE

- Operates a Food Pantry, which serves residents of Old Forge, Duryea and Taylor. They are open two days every month and they collected / distributed over 20,000 lbs. of food in 2019. They have served 106 families and 246 individuals since they started a few years ago".
- Donated Turkeys for Thanksgiving to each client of the Food Pantry.
- Offer Scholarships for children going to summer camp and winter retreat.
- Sponsor Fr. Juvenaly as a missionary to Guatemala within the Orthodox Christian Mission Center program.
- Beginning a monthly program to minister to elderly at Riverside Nursing Home in Taylor.
- Support International Orthodox Christian Charities.
- Donated winter clothes to homeless shelter in area.
- Visit inmates in Lackawanna County Jail as the need arises.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR CHURCH, HARRISBURG

- Our Annual Assembly Designates \$11,000 from main operating budget to be given to worthy charities (each month requests are considered and funded).
- 1,000 for Priest Discretionary fund to directly assist those in need.
- Donated to the Capital Area Pregnancy Center "Baby Bottle Blast".
- Donate Turkeys, canned and dried goods, and gift cards during the Thanksgiving season.
- Donated Angel Tree gifts during Christmas season for children of parents who are incarcerated.
- Donated to "Super Bowl of Caring" – designated to Keystone Human Services to serve citizens with developmental disabilities.
- Donated to International Orthodox Christian Charities for emergency response to natural disasters.
- Donated to "Smile Train", which provides cleft pallet repair to underprivileged children.
- Donated to Annual clothing drive that the sale of items supports Bethesda Mission, and clothes not sold are given directly to them.
- Donated back to school backpacks, filled with supplies to support our local school district (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in North America).
- Associated clubs (Alter Guild, Men's Club, O Club) also provide direct assistance to charities and individuals not listed above.

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN, PHILADELPHIA

- Provided 40 backpacks, filled with supplies, to the City of Philadelphia School District with Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in North America.
- Donated 42 sets of bed linen and 42 toiletry bags to the local Homeless Shelter for area Veterans.

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- Donated 11 exit baskets with supplies to area victims of Domestic Violence Shelter. Also provided food to their two food banks. Volunteered at the shelter's second hand store.
- Parishioners attended International Orthodox Christian Charities Banquet in October of 2018

HOLY ASCENSION CHURCH, FRACKVILLE

- Participates in two International or National appeals, such as Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, etc.
- Participates in local charities, such as food banks, shelters for domestic violence, big brother/big sister programs, etc.
- Each quart a new charity is designated and at least \$250 is sent to them.
- Contributed \$2500 to St. Tikhon's Seminary in memory of Fr. Joseph Martin.
- Collect food for the local food bank.
- Contribute yearly to the local Public Library and Community Drive.
- Donate unsold food from our sales to the needy.

HOLY ANNUNCIATION, BERWICK

- An emergency fund has been established in order to buy food, gas, and help pay utility bills and rent for those in the community that are in need.
- Provides a free community meal once a month
- During the Christmas season, the Parish requests a needy family from the local elementary school to purchased gifts for. They also provide food for a breakfast and a dinner.
- Hosts an end of the school year free ice cream social and book give away.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, BETHLEHEM

- Volunteers for the Allentown Soup Kitchen
- Donated food to Allentown Rescue Mission
- Annually has a Christmas Giving Tree to benefit those in need in Northampton County and some of their own Parishioners in need.
- Uses a discretionary fund to help parishioners who are sometimes in need of assistance.
- Donated to the Alaskan Diocese Earthquake Fund.
- Donated to Chico, CA for parishioners who lost everything in an earthquake.
- Donated meals from Fish Dinner to elderly Catholic Nuns living nearby
- Supports St. Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary and other monasteries.
- Has a scholarship fund for young parishioners going off to college/university
- Donated to Orthodox Christian Mission Center
- Donated to Hurricane Relief through International Orthodox Christian Charities
- Donated to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, Allentown.

- Donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- Donated to Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council to help veterans in need.
- Donated to Hanover Twp. Fire Department.
- Sent flowers to parishioner on the occasion of her 100th birthday. She resides in a nursing home.

ST. STEPHEN CATHEDRAL, PHILADELPHIA

- Annually award "Fr. Fedoronko" Scholarship to one student in the OCA Seminaries.
- Annually collect funds to award a Graduate Recognition Grant to High School graduates of parish (usually \$250 per graduate).
- Assisting families with half of the cost of fees for St. Tikhon's summer camp and Teens Retreat.
- Monthly charity collections in the parish which are designated to various organizations (Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, International Orthodox Christian Charities, St. Nicholas Uganda Children Fund, etc.) or to help other parishes or individuals that are in need of assistance.
- Novogodny Ball: annual event organized by parishioners with fundraising goal to assist various charities, lately St. Tikhon's Summer Camp.
- Two Holies and Saint Golf Tournament: Last year \$2000 from this event were designated to the children of St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- Regularly help with Twelve Baskets Full which is a charitable outreach involved in feeding the homeless of Philadelphia.
- Respond to special appeals as they come up.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, POTTSTOWN

- Pottstown Cluster Soup Kitchen – Parishioners serve on fifth Friday of the month for the last 10 years.
- Collect food every fall to sponsor needy families in the local school district.
- Offer scholarships to all church school students wishing to attend summer camp.
- Donated funds during Great Lent to sponsor different causes each year (ex. In 2018, parish provided aid to a mission parish in Pakistan. In 2019 Parish is collecting money to provide aid to local seminarian).
- Participate in local charitable collections throughout the year.
- Collected cleaning supplies to help families transitioning into low income housing.
- Make quilts for the homeless.
- Collected toys for a local moms group for Christmas.
- Collected school supplies for needy families.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, STROUDSBURG

- Monthly soup kitchen and community breakfast. In total they provide approximately 90 meals to the homeless and economically challenged of Monroe County.
- Food drive to Children and Youth Services Families (Annual or sometimes biannual)
- Monetary donation/clergy volunteer for funeral and burial of friend of parish who did not have family.
- Project Mexico monetary donations and volunteer work.

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- Food and clothing donations to community needy.
- Donations to Orthodoxy Christian Fellowship (college ministry program).
- Habitat for Humanity volunteer work.

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, MOUNT CARMEL

- Provide monthly donations of \$100 on a rotation to the local United Way, God's Church Wagon (Mobil Soup Kitchen), Manna for the Many, and the Mt. Carmel Food Bank.
- Monthly food donations to the Mt. Carmel Food Bank, and after evens donate extra food to God's Chuck Wagon.
- Parishioners volunteer at the Mt. Carmel Food Bank.
- Provide meals to elderly in the parish.
- Collect coats and donations for the local "Keep Your Kids Warm" Campaign.
- Provide backpacks and donations for school supplies to Mt. Carmel Area Jr. and Sr. High School.
- Provided assistance for utility bills to individuals in need.
- Offer free soup and hot dogs once a year to all who want to partake.
- Provide an annual Veterans breakfast for free for all in the community.
- Parish donates to the Red Cross to help fire victims in community.
- Meal cards to local restaurant are provided to those who come to the rectory in need of food.
- Host annual cookout (hamburgers and hotdogs) to local nursing home for residents and workers.
- Assisted in covering the cost of a funeral for a friend of the parish who had no family.
- Donated to St. Tikhon's Monastery, Transfiguration Monastery, and St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- Provide regular donations to the fund to assist Fr. John Nightingale with his medical expenses.
- Donated money to Seminarians at St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- Donated funds to help youth in parish attend summer camp.
- Purchase flowers for Mother's Day and Father's Day for the local nursing home residence.
- Planning alongside Kapuas Center to co-sponsor a "Diaper Drive" charity in the Mount Carmel area. This event will provide diapers to low income families in the Mount Carmel Area School district free of charge. The parish is hoping to do this in the summer or early fall.
- Provide food to local families directly calling and asking for assistance.

ST. MARK CHURCH, WRIGHTSTOWN

- Participation in the Wrightstown Food Cupboard by collecting food and distributing throughout the year as well as special Christmas, Easter, Summer, and Thanksgiving

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Baskets. This is a cooperative ministry of the United Methodist, Presbyterian and Orthodox Churches together with the local Quaker Meeting.

- Weekly participate in Jail ministry at Bucks County Jail in cooperation with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Doylestown.
- Each Major Church Fundraiser, prior to this year three food sales, this year two, are tithed to local charities or social outreach programs. These have included:
 - Legacy of Life which helps approximately 400 women a year choose lie for their unborn children, supporting them with medical, living, and working skills assistance and counseling for the first three years of the child's life.
 - A Woman's Place in Doylestown - a shelter and assistance center/program for victims of domestic violence.
 - County Veterans Affairs Department - donation to provide gift cards for groceries.
 - Local anti-bullying programs, homeless shelter program in Bensalem.
- Church School Sponsored outreach including collecting money, purchasing, and decorating 50 duffel bags for children in foster care to keep their personal belongings.
- Annually providing a Christmas concert at local nursing home.
- Christmas and Easter Support for Philadelphia Breakfast Rescue Mission which feeds the hungry and homeless people.

HOLY APOSTLES MISSION, MECHANICSBURG

- Donate funds monthly for local and international charities.
- Provide a place for a seminarian intern to learn and prepare for ministry.
- Donate 1% of budget each year to one of the seminaries.
- Participate in an annual food drive each November.
- Participate in "Backpacks of Hope" during Great Lent.
- Donate towards the school supply drive in the fall.
- Send gift packages (50+) to the youth shelter in Harrisburg at Christmas.
- Almost 10% of budget goes to charity every year.
- Donate funds and food to Central PA Food Bank
- Monthly donations to support Seminarians at St. Tikhon's, St. Vladimir's, and St. Herman's Seminaries.
- Donate clothing and funds to Bethesda Mission, as well as Children's Angel Tree and clothing donations to Bethesda Mission.
- Provide a Benevolent fund for individuals who request assistance from the church.
- Provide choir concerts to residents in nursing homes.
- Priest and Parishioners provide homebound visits to the sick, hospitalized, or homebound bi-weekly.
- Parish serves with an OCCGH which is a local charity to staff a soup kitchen, sort clothes for homeless, and raise money for other local charities through walks, runs, and golf tournaments.
- Donates funds to Orthodox Christian Mission Center which sponsor a mission priest in a developing country yearly.

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- The parish purchased a spaghetti dinner to help support the local Boy Scout Troop.
- Supports churches/communities effected by natural disaster (Alaska, California, Mexico, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania).
- Provide Scholarships for Church School Children to attend summer camp.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, WILLIAMSPORT

- Visit Homebound Parishioners.
- Visit the sick at home and nursing facilities.
- Donate Saint Nicholas Day Baskets to neighborhood.
- Go Christmas Caroling with young adults to nursing homes.
- Provide an educational program/luncheon to seniors in the summer.
- Provide Christian Education to youth.
- Provide Scholarships to college students in education or nursing fields.
- Provide Seminarian Scholarships.
- Donate food and funds to "Souper Sunday Food".
- Donate to International Orthodox Christian Charities
- Donate to Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
- Parishioners have been involved in Project Mexico Homebuilding.
- Working on providing meals to the hungry in our area.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, EDWARDSVILLE

- Monthly monetary and occasional food donation to St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre.
- Memorial Day service at Veteran's Memorial Park in Edwardsville, PA
- Participation in the Edwardsville Pierogie Festival
- Donated Disaster Aid Kits for IOCC
- Donated funds for Gifts of Love which benefits repairs to St. Nicholas Chapel in Kenai, Alaska.
- Donated funds to St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- Visit parishioners in nursing homes at Pascha and Christmas and provide residents with gifts of miniature Paska Bread, flowers, and lap blankets.
- Donated chocolate covered apples for a St. Tikhon's Century Club fundraiser.
- Host holiday dinners for the Veterans of St. Hedwig's Apartments for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, gifted residents with groceries, gift cards, homemade baked goods, and candy for Christmas.
- Supported a Parishioner's Eagle Scout Project monetarily and physically.

SS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH, UNIONDALE

- Donates funds to seminarians at St. Tikhon's Seminary

ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH, COALDALE

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- Donated funds to Sister Natalia Shakavava in Belarus.
- Donated funds to Anthracite Little League.
- Donated funds to International Orthodox Christian Charities Disaster Response.
- Donated funds to Orthodox Christian Mission Center.
- Donated funds to Coaldale Volunteer Fire Company.
- Donated funds to Coaldale Youth Group.
- Donated funds to St. Tikhon's Seminary and AAC Ads.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, COATESVILLE

- Volunteer at the Coatesville Soup Kitchen
- Involved in Philoptocos Society of Coatesville which is an organization who gives to the Good Samaritan House. This is a women's shelter in Coatesville.

ST. MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH, JERMYN, PENNSYLVANIA

- Every year for the past 20 Years we have financially supported St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Dubranich, Ukraine. Every summer the Protodeacon Gabriel Petorak who is attached to our Church would make a trip to this Church and we have provided enough revenue to help them rebuild the Church. Provided a new heating system, new windows, new floor, new icons etc. In addition we reached out to the poor people in the village and provided financial support.
- During the Christmas Season, we provide Christmas Gifts and financial support to the poor in our neighborhood, we work with one of our parishioners, Susan Schlasta, who is a Social Worker and we take a special collection and this is matched by Susan Schlasta and she distributes directly to the names she has provided. We have been doing this for many years. Every Year, during the Christmas Liturgy, I read what we have provided and the families we have helped.
- We host the Special Olympics on our grounds of our Parish Center and have built a bocce and soccer field for them. We allow the Special Olympics to hold their monthly meetings with no charge to them and we provide food for them and the food that they don't use we donate too many nonprofit or fundraising events...
- We recently did a fundraiser for a women in our community who is not a member of our Church, and we supplied all of the meatballs and all of the spaghetti sauce for 900 dinners.
- We take special collections for Prison Ministry every year. This is a non-profit national organization (OCPM)
- On Mother's Day we help support the local Pro-life chapter in Scranton, Pa.
- We provided a full scholarship to ST. Tikhon's Seminary, for one of our Seminarians, Vasily Dubee, who Archbishop Mark ordained to the Holy Priesthood and is serving a mission parish in up-state New York.
- The above is only a small highlight of the outreach we are doing as a Parish. For more information please feel to contact Fr. John Kowalczyk at 570-876-1241

HOLY TRINITY, WILKES BARRE

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- Volunteers for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are community volunteers who serve as the voice of abused and neglected children in the Luzerne County Court
- Children Youth Services Gift Drive
- Toys for Tots
- Local Soup Kitchens / St. Vincent De Paul
- Nursing Home / Shut-In Visitation
- WVIA PBS Television Fund Raising
- Kutztown Food bank
- International Orthodox Christian Charities - Fundraising
- Ukrainian Homestead
- Marian Catholic High School
- St. Columbia School
- Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation
- Ukrainian American Relief Society
- Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine
- Elementary School Service Projects
- Holy Trinity Church Service Projects
- Fairview PTA / Mountaintop Little League
- Boys Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- VA Hospital Volunteer

ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA, SHILLINGTON, PA

St. Tikhon's Monastery, Waymart, PA

St. Tikhon's Seminary, Waymart, PA

Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA

Group Home for Children – Christmas Gifts

Mary's Shelter – Unwed / Homeless Mothers and families

Local Charity as personally requested – Groceries, Medical Expenses

International Orthodox Christian Charities

Orthodox Christian Mission Center

Additionally, many of our parishes and faithful contribute to the work of International Orthodox Christian Charities in response to National and International Disasters. IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond. We envision that, by God's grace, IOCC will enable those suffering and in need to continue to improve their own lives and communities and to have means to live with dignity, respect, and hope. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC and its partners have provided more than \$661 million in relief and self-help programs to

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people in more than 60 countries. Current programs focus on emergency relief, agriculture and food security, education, health, water and sanitation, and economic opportunity in places including Syria, Greece, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, the Balkans, and the United States. 2017 marks IOCC's 25th anniversary celebration.

Our clergy and parishes also support the work of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry and visit the incarcerated, as well as, minister to their families.

Finally, I would like to add through an appeal and the generosity of our faithful we were able to raise over \$115,000 for a Vietnam Veteran who is now a quadriplegic to assist with home renovations, a lift, a handicap van, ramp and medical assistance needed after a fall three years ago. Contributions come in monthly and every dime is sent directly to him to cover what the Veterans Administration does not cover.