

# Wilkes-Barre Deanery

## Report to the 2022 Diocesan Assembly

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Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean

Fr Jason Franchak, Assistant Dean

Secretary: Fr Innocent Neal

Treasurer: Fr Pdcn Sergei Kapral

Glory to Jesus Christ!

**WORSHIP:** The ongoing circumstances relative to the COVID-19 pandemic have been a challenge for parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery and the clergy. Liturgical life has returned with decrease attendance straining clergy to maintain community life and carry on with parish ministries. The parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery adjusted their parish cycle of liturgical services during the course of the year. Many of our parishes introduced live-streaming into parish life to help faithful stay connected to the parish liturgical life. Each parish worked with parish councils to implement safe protocols for reopening parishes when the Diocesan Hierarchy ordered partial reopening of parishes in late Spring. These protocols aligned with government and public health orders and were approved by Archbishop Mark.

**Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale.** Is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy. Father Jason Franchak was appointed by Archbishop Mark as the parish administrator.

**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.** Is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy. Father John Kowalczyk was appointed by Archbishop Mark as the parish administrator.

**All Saints Parish in Olyphant.** Is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy. Father Nicholas Solak was appointed by Archbishop Mark as the parish administrator.

**Saint Michael's in Old Forge.** Is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy. Father Innocent Neal was appointed by Archbishop Mark as the parish administrator.

**Holy Resurrection Cathedral** in Wilkes-Barre, **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.

Due to the pandemic, Lenten Mission Vespers was not held during 2021.

**Clergy:** In 2021, the Wilkes Barre Deanery experienced the retirement of Father Peter Henry who faithfully served Saint Michael's Parish in Old Forge for many years. Father Silouan Burns was released from his pastoral duties at Saint John's Parish in Edwardsville and transferred out of our deanery. Father Michael Shepherd was released from his duties at Saints Peter and Paul's Parish in Uniondale. Joshua Schooping was deposed from the holy priesthood and removed from All Saint's Parish.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Deanery Clergy formally met 3 times during the year. A Zoom meeting was held with Archbishop Mark on April 18<sup>th</sup>, an in-person meeting was held with Archbishop Mark on July 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Deanery picnic was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH:** Educational and outreach activities of the parishes in the deanery were significantly curtailed during the year.

**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 in different and difficult ways during the year. All Deanery priests worked diligently in the unique context of their situations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fr Nicholas J Solak, Dean