


**DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the 2022 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church 93 Zerby Avenue Edwardsville, PA 18704</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Vacant Parish Administrator - Fr. John Kowalczyk</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p>Sunday School - 8 Students at beginning of year - 5 presently. Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays Buildings and Grounds - continually addressing issues with 110+ year old building FOCA -very active chapter Altar Servers - not officially named - youth and men (4 youth at beginning of year, 1 now. Men rotate - at least one in altar during services Myrrh Bearing Women - “Utility” group of women who have no direct responsibility - picks up and fills in for needs presently Flower Committee Linens/Appearance - not named - changing/preparation of church linens Book Club - began reading and discussing “The Religion of the Apostles” which was greatly attended. Shelved when priest removed. Inactive due to COVID St. Stephen’s Mens society - all activities shelved due to COVID Outreach - most members quarantining - others have tried to pick up slack but directionless at moment</p>	
Since January 2021	
<p>Highlights of Top Three Activities</p>	

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In reality we have had some 6 months we can report on. We HAD a very robust service schedule, Beautiful and well-attended Divine Liturgy, Vespers which were slowly filling more and more. Feasts were a highlight for all. Monthly panikhidas, blessing of graves, homes.

Our outreach listed below is always a big highlight. We enjoy meeting our neighbors and administering to the surrounding area.

The city we live in has a yearly festival which we are very active in. Although it would be considered a “fundraiser”, we set up shop on the festival grounds and greet multiple hundreds of people. The priest gave tours of the church throughout the day - lots of tours. MANY seeds were planted.

We welcomed 2 new members through the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation.

Updated by laws per direction of Archbishop MARK to have Fr. Silouan assigned permanently

All Social Media Venues we participate in were updated regularly

Website re-designed and updated with new (now obsolete) information

New Signage installed in front of church

### Outreach and Charitable Activities (Fundraisers are not Outreach)

Parish Outreach - Provide a complete Thanksgiving Dinner to St. Hedwig Veteran Home on Zerby avenue. Spend a few hour with the ladies and gentlemen enjoying fellowship. Many of these vets have become regular visitors (not yet members) of the parish. Typically we are visited by Bishop Bambara of the Catholic Diocese during the dinner

Parish Outreach - Provide a complete Christmas Dinner to St.Hedwig Veteran Home on Zerby Avenue, accompanied by gift bags and cards. These 2 events are overwhelmingly supported by the Parish. When things settle down we would like to expand to other times of the year.

Sunday School - yearly holiday outreach to homebound and “friends we have not yet made” - card drive

FOCA supports many initiatives throughout the year including OCF,

Monthly Collection for the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen ~\$1200

Other plans which were shelved due to the reassignment of Clergy:

“Back to school backpacks” for community

Neighborhood cleanup

Movie night

Pan-Orthodox Blessing of waters

### Major Challenges Faced

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The Enemy. The Enemy clearly does not like what was happening at 93 Zerby Avenue. And he let us know in a BIG way.

Priest was taken from us - many seeds that were planted are now withering. We were on the cusp of welcoming 8 new (young, enthusiastic, participative) people who were disillusioned after Priest left- a potential 20% growth for our parish. We keep in contact but that opportunity seems to have been lost.

Pursuing an aggressive budget overhaul, Many items have not been addressed in 30+ years. Any work on property is a big problem for a 110+ year old facility (Electrical, Plumbing)

We continually need to re-start everything with a revolving door of clergy. We need stability. We need time to address issues that took 50 years to develop. 8 months is not remotely acceptable.

Covid is an ongoing issue. Choir director is still in quarantine with legitimate reasons. Missing at least 10 regular church goers on Sunday due to the ongoing pandemic.

### Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2022 to December 2022

The Diocesan Assembly  
Pascha

The truth is we simply do not know. We wish to have a full slate of services, activities, outreach and celebration, but we are yet again in a holding pattern.

	As of October 1, 2021
<b>Active Members Count</b>	Before Fr. Silouan re-assigned - 35 After reassignment - 25
<b>Children (under 18)</b>	5
	January 1 thru December1, 2021
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	Before Fr. Silouan re-assigned - 40 After reassignment - 20
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	Before Fr. Silouan re-assigned - 20 After reassignment - 8
<b>Average Saturday Vigil Attendance</b>	Not Applicable - services not provided
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	Not Applicable - part time clergy/Administrator
	January 1, thru December 1, 2021

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<b>Baptisms</b>	2
<b>Funerals</b>	4 - not active members
<b>Marriages</b>	0
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	2
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	5
<b>Adult Education/Number Enrolled</b>	Not Applicable - part time clergy/Administrator