


# DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

## for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church            980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017</p> <p>(610) 867-0402</p>	

### Clergy

Rector: Priest Nikolai Breckenridge  
 Attached Priest: Mitred Archpriest James Mason  
 Deacon: Geoffrey LoBalbo

### Committees/Societies

**Committees:** St. Nicholas Choir, St. Nicholas Altar Society / Pierogi Project, St. Nicholas Sunday School, Treasures of Russia, St. Nicholas Cemetery Committee, St. Nicholas Finance Committee

**Ministries:** Christian education, Property care, Security and safety, Fellowship and hospitality, Communications, Charitable giving, Soup Kitchen Volunteers

### Since January 2022

#### Highlights of Top Three Activities

- Opening of the local Pan-Orthodox School (The St. John Chrysostom Academy) – The Faculty, Students and many parents have joined us for several weekday Festal Liturgies.
- Fr. Nikolai elected President of the Lehigh Valley Clergy Brotherhood – motivation for more pan-Orthodox ministry opportunities for the parish
- Mitred Arcpriest James Mason’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

#### Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (*Fundraisers are not Outreach*)

- Volunteering for the Lehigh County Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen
- Coffee Hour collections for various people in need
- Food Drive collections
- Collection and donations to the suffering Ukraine
- November Lecture Series (2022 was on Death and the Afterlife)

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### Major Challenges Faced

- Ongoing need to fundraise to cover a lack of sufficient stewardship
- A loss of only a few key fundraising leaders could leave us with an untenable situation financially.
- Several high-ticket maintenance items need to be planned for in the next few years (e.g. \$150k+ HVAC system replacement)

### Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2023 to December 2023

- Lecture Series on Stewardship (using Dr. Andrew Geleris’ “Money and Salvation”)
- Further development of Pan-Orthodox cooperation in the Lehigh Valley

### As of October 1, 2022

<b>Active Members Count</b>	164 Total Members (131 Adults)
<b>Children (under 18)</b>	33

### January 1 thru December1, 2022

<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	80 - 90
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	55 - 65
<b>Average Saturday Vigil Attendance</b>	10 - 15
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	1

### January 1, thru December 1, 2022

<b>Baptisms</b>	6 (5 Children, 1 Adult)
<b>Funerals</b>	7

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<b>Marriages</b>	0
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	0
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	19
<b>Adult Education/Number Enrolled</b>	No year-round Adult Education November Lecture Series had ~20 in person, and 10-15 on Zoom