


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church 2300 W. Huntington Dr. Wilmington, DE 19808</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Rev. Fr. Silouan Burns – Rector Rev. Dn. James Carpenter – Deacon</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings & Grounds • Prosphora Baking Guild • Altar Servers • Bookstore & Library 	
Since January 2022	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heavenly Vision Project – A fundraising project to beautify our temple – still in progress. Currently a full-scale iconography project is underway that involves the entire Church being completed. The sidewalls in the Nave are done, and the backwalls will be next. Wood floors were installed in place of aging carpet. New Byzantine chandeliers replaced the 70's style lighting. Other facets: Granite altar, table of oblation, and altar server's countertop & sink installed, electrical and tract lighting updated, digital “smart” lighting installed. 2. Church School Renovation – Our Church School area was entirely renovated with all new flooring, walls painted, new white boards, and all new top-quality furniture. 3. Expanded Liturgical Schedule – In addition to adding on a weekday Vespers, we now celebrate at least two weekday liturgies a month. 	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach (for the poor/needly) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family Promise – this is a local program that provides meals for transitional families that St. Michael's is a part of – those who have lost their homes or are in temporary housing. We prepare meals and provide them to these families. ○ Small food pantry (keep a shelf stocked with essentials that both our parishioners and those from the community can help themselves to – we have a few that come to us from outside the parish.) ○ Gift cards – we keep gift cards to the local grocery store (ACME) and the nearby WaWa and hand them out as needed. • Good Samaritan Ministry – this is a ministry to aid those with financial hardships primarily in our parish but also outside of it. Over \$25,000 of aid was provided this year! 	

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- Foundations Class – our adult education class
- Young Adults Ministry – We have experienced robust growth with young adults. In addition to our fellowship / potluck time most Tuesday evening after Vespers, regular fellowship gatherings for the young adults are hosted at various homes of our parishioners.
- OCF – University of Delaware

Major Challenges Faced

- It has been a fruitful year, glory to God. Despite the large costs to all these projects, the parish has risen to the call. The most difficult aspect of our growth is trying to find contractors who are not already booked up for months in advance.
- Tragic death and disease – with a larger parish comes greater odds that one or both will have an impact on the parish community. We had two untimely deaths, one quite tragic – a parishioner struck and killed by a car while crossing the street - he left behind a wife and 6 children ranging from 8 to 14 years of age. The parish community has done an excellent job ministering to them. We also have a 4-year old fighting for his life against cancer. Again, the parish community has been outstanding in providing meals, funds, and being there for them.
- Loss of the use of our bell – this is a growing challenge. Decades ago, the parish received a bell on semi-permanent loan from the Navy; a retired ship bell. A few months ago, we were notified that the Navy no longer will allow these bells to be rung; they can only be on display. We are now exploring our options.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2023 to December 2023

- Visit by St. Tikhon's dean, Fr. John Parker and the mission choir during Great Lent
- Planning a visit by Fr. Seraphim Aldea of Mull Monastery in Scotland.
- Continuation of the Heavenly Vision project, mentioned above. We are in the process of receiving estimates for expanding the altar area and adding on a new parking lot in the rear.

As of October 1, 2022

Active Members Count

204

Children (under 18)

61

January 1 thru December 1, 2022

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance

120 - 130

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants

90 - 100

Average Saturday Vigil Attendance

50 - 60

Number of Catechumens

6

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	January 1, thru December 1, 2022
Baptisms	7 infants & 7 adults
Funerals	5
Marriages	2
Receptions into Orthodoxy	In addition to the 7 adults baptized, 5 others were Chrismated. 2 Coptic Orthodox were received by confession for a total of 21 receptions this year.
Church School/Number Enrolled	~40
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	~20