


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>Baptist Orthodox Church</p> <p>venue</p> <p>, PA 18704</p>	
Clergy	
<p>No Clergy Assigned</p> <p>Fr. Innocent Neal, Administrator</p> <p>Fr. Michael Evans, Attached</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Buildings and Grounds</p> <p>FOCA</p> <p>Altar Servers - not officially named</p> <p>Myrrh Bearing Women</p> <p>Flower Committee</p> <p>Linens/Appearance - not named - changing/preparation of church linens</p> <p>Fundraising</p>	
Since January 2023	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcomed Deanery for Feast of the Beheading of St. John 2. Welcoming His Eminence Archbishop MARK to Divine Liturgy 3. Replacing RECTORY Furnace which gave up the ghost and took a lot of time, effort and money - 2nd major HVAC issue in a year, but should save money and be an asset moving forward 	

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

This year the parish tried to look outward more than ever. While still plagued with "inward" issues (see above regarding new furnace) we still managed to support many new causes and be important/needed/involved in our greater community

This Parish heeds the Lord's call to help with our time, talent and treasure

1. New for 2023 and inspired by a youth member's Eagle Scout Project, we are supporting Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC). Our first project was a Diaper Drive which met with outstanding generosity from the parish and more importantly from people OUTSIDE the parish.
2. New for 2023, the Parish makes a monthly monetary gift to a local Cancer related organization (rotational). The parish has been hit hard by cancer over the past few years, and we are donating \$250/month to local organizations that help patients with things like medicine, treatments, housing, transportation and so forth. This was unanimously approved by the Parish
3. Yearly Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and gifts for residents of St.Hedwig's Veterans Center
4. Sponsorship of St. Tikhon Summer Camper
5. Ongoing Seminarian Support for Pascha and Christmas
6. Monthly collection for St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen (Roughly \$2000/year donated)
7. FOCA Chapter:
8. Contributed \$100 for toys for children of Ukraine
9. Contributed \$100 for St. Andrews
10. Contributed \$200 for Gifts of Love
11. Assembled 72 hygiene kits for IOCC
12. Donated items to St. Herman's House FOCUS in Cleveland, Ohio
13. Gifted Fr. Michael Evans with \$50 for Clergy Appreciation Month
14. Gave Pascha and Christmas presents to parishioners in nursing homes
15. Donated two \$100 Walmart gift cards to St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska for the National FOCA St. Nicholas Project

Major Challenges Faced

2024 will be the 4th year without a dedicated priest for our parish. WE NEED A DEDICATED PRIEST. This year we have lost a long-time active and giving parishioner due SOLELY to the fact that we do not have a dedicated priest. It is hard enough attracting new faces when we are losing people due to circumstances that are beyond our control. We remain hopeful and steadfast in our faith that this year will bring us a dedicated priest.

The parish is investigating rental of our rectory. We did not think it would remain vacant for over 3 years so tabled this issue. With rent prices rising, the council has decided to explore this option in lieu of maintaining a vacant building.

Our 50+ year old Air Conditioning units are failing/have failed. We have the means to repair/replace these units, getting a contractor to do this job is the trick. Far too much time has been spent maintaining/repairing a building with little time left to maintain the community. A dedicated priest would be very helpful in this regard.

Fr. Michael Evans, whom we rely upon for many things, is having some major health issues. We pray for his recovery and Matushka Sonya as well.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

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We look forward to celebrating with our brothers and sisters from across the Deanery this year. The events in 2023 were wonderful, and we look forward to more.

	As of October 1, 2023
Active Members Count	55
Children (under 18)	3
	January 1 thru December 1, 2023
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	25
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	10
Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	No Vigil Service until we get dedicated priest
Number of Catechumens	0
	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
Baptisms	
Funerals	2 (not active parishioners)
Marriages	
Receptions into Orthodoxy	
Church School/Number Enrolled	3

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Adult Education/Number Enrolled	No adult education until we get dedicated priest