

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Innocent Neal, *Dean* + Fr Jason Franchak, *Assistant Dean* + Secretary: Vacant + Fr PDn Sergei Kapral, *Treasurer*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania is comprised of 15 Parishes. 12 parishes are served by full-time or bi-vocational clergy and have a full cycle of liturgical services. We are thankful for the very challenging work our clergy face in our communities.

We currently have 3 vacant parishes that are served by our faithful supply clergy. Many thanks to Fr. Peter Henry, Fr. David Hester, Fr. Michael Evans, Fr. Mikel Hill, Fr. Barnabas Fravel, Fr. Stephen Kopestonsky, Fr. James Chuta and Fr. Dennis Hendershot.

VACANT PARISHES

- **Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale** is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy.
- **Saint John's Parish in Edwardsville** is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy.
- **Saint Vladimir's Parish in Lopez.** Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by V. Rev. Dennis Hendershot.

ACTIVE PARISHES

Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes, Barre, **Holy Trinity** in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Cross** in Williamsport, **Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **All Saints** in Olyphant, **St. Nicholas** in Olyphant, **St. Michael's** in Old Forge, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, and **Holy Annunciation** in Berwick, **Saint John** in Nanticoke, **Saint John** in Dundaff, and **Saint Basil** in Simpson continue to be blessed by the diligent and faithful service and pastorship of their priests.

CLERGY RETIREMENT & ASSIGNMENTS

The Wilkes Barre Deanery recently experienced the retirement of Father John Kowalczyk who faithfully served Saint Michael's in Jermyn for many years. May God grant him and Matushka Kathy many blessed years in retirement! Fr. Nathan Clausson was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and assigned as Acting Rector of St. Nicholas in Olyphant. Father John Black was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and assigned as Acting Rector of St. Michael's in Jermyn. Father Gregory White has continued his appointment as the parish administrator for Sts. Peter and Paul, Uniondale. Father Innocent Neal has continued his appointment as the parish administrator for St. John's in Edwardsville.

Great Lent 2023: 3 Mission Vespers Services were held throughout the Lenten season. We are thankful for the Parishes that have hosted these events.

FELLOWSHIP/EDUCATION/OUTREACH: A Deanery wide retreat was held on December 2nd and graciously hosted by All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant. OCMC Missionary Nathan Hoppe spoke after Divine Liturgy served with the surrounding clergy and faithful.

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. All Deanery priests worked diligently in the unique context of their situations.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Innocent Neal, Dean