



# Report of the Frackville Deanery

**2025 Diocesan Assembly, Wilmington, DE – January 23-24, 2025**

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicki, *Dean* + Archpriest Stephen Vernak, *Assistant to the Dean* + Priest Vjekoslav Jovicic, *Treasurer* + Priest Kirill Zawatski, *Secretary*

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The Frackville Deanery is currently comprised of eight parishes and one mission which are all serviced regularly by either assigned or visiting area (or supply) clergy. We are thankful for the clergy and faithful who are ministering to our parishes with their own unique challenges as best as they are able during this time of a clergy shortage.

Of the eight parishes, presently, St. Mary's Church, St. Clair is without an assigned resident priest. However, we are grateful to Fr. Peter Henry and Fr. Timothy Hazenecz who have been serving the parish every weekend. At present, Fr. Kirill Zawatski has been covering the administrative needs of the parish, as well as serving some feast days and making any emergency calls that come up.

Fr. Joseph Ramishvili commutes from New Jersey each weekend to serve Sts. Peter and Paul in Minersville.

This past summer, the deanery saw many changes. With the retirement of Fr. John Onofrey in late May, Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic was reassigned to St. Herman's Church in Shillington. We offer our best wishes to Fr. John and Mat. Stephanie and wish them a healthy retirement. **Many years!** Upon the graduation of Fr. Kirill Zawatski from St. Tikhon's Seminary, he was assigned to Holy Ascension in Frackville. We welcome Fr. Kiril and Pani Oliva into the Deanery. **Many years!**

Holy Apostles celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with their Patronal Feast on June 30, and with a celebration at the end on October 27, with the Archbishop present at both. **Many years!**

The Gettysburg Mission continues to develop under the leadership of Fr. Leonid Schmidt. With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Mark, the Mission was formally given the name of St. John the Theologian in December. This past year the parish moved to an adjacent building of another church to set up and use as a more spacious place of worship. They just received their first convert to the Faith. There is a good core group who faithfully attend. Please continue to pray for the newest community in our diocese, for their spiritual, numerical, and financial growth! **St. John the Theologian, pray unto God for us!**

We also thank Fr. James Jadick, Fr. Edward Hughes (AOCA), and Fr. Joseph Fester (ACROD) for their help in filling in serving parishes this past year.

In the coming weeks we will have other changes in the Deanery as Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic will be transferred to Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg, effective February 1. This will fill the vacancy left by Fr. Nicholas Solak who was appointed the director of Pastoral Life for the Orthodox Church in America. We thank Fr. Nicholas and Mat. Masha for their many years of service the Diocese. **Many Years!** Fr. John Black will then be appointed Administrator of St. Herman's Church in Shillington, with the intent to take over the pastorate fully in June. We wish Fr. Vjekoslav & Popadja Dragana and their family all the best in the Wilkes-Barre Deanery. And we welcome Fr. John and Mat. Alexandra and their family into our Deanery! **May God grant them all Many years!**

We also mourn the loss of Fr. Michael Evans, who fell asleep in the Lord in November. Fr. Michael served parishes in the Frackville Deanery and filled in many times during his retirement. We offer our condolences to Mat. Sonya and their son Michael. **May Fr. Michael's Memory be eternal!**

For more information on the individual parishes (alphabetical by city), please visit their parish websites:

**St. Mary's Church: Coaldale, PA (1909) - [www.stmarysnativity.org](http://www.stmarysnativity.org)**

*Archpriest James Weremedic, Rector*

*Archpriest Paul Ropitsky (Ret.), Attached*

**Holy Ascension Church: Frackville, PA (1915) - [www.haoca.org](http://www.haoca.org)**

*Priest Kirill Zawatski, Acting Rector*

**St. John the Theologian Mission: Gettysburg, PA (2022) – [www.gettysburgoca.com](http://www.gettysburgoca.com)**

*Archpriest Leonid Schmidt, Rector*

**Christ the Saviour Church: Harrisburg, PA (1963) - [www.christthesaviourhbg.org](http://www.christthesaviourhbg.org)**

*Archpriest Stephen Vernak, Rector*

*Mt. Archpriest Daniel Kovalak (Ret.), Attached*

*Dn. John Shingara, Attached*

**Holy Apostles Church: Mechanicsburg, PA (2004) - [www.holyapostleschurch.org](http://www.holyapostleschurch.org)**

*Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky, Rector*

*Mt. Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris (Ret.), Attached*

*Dn. Peter Staller, Attached*

**SS. Peter and Paul Church: Minersville, PA (1910) – [www.peterpaulminersville.com](http://www.peterpaulminersville.com)**

*Priest Joseph Ramishvili, Rector*

**St. Michael the Archangel Church: Mount Carmel, PA (1907) - [www.stmichaelsorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.stmichaelsorthodoxchurch.org)**

*Archpriest Aleksey Paranyuk, Rector*

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church: Saint Clair, PA (1911) – [www.smorthodox.com](http://www.smorthodox.com)**

*Priest Kirill Zawatski, Administrator*

*Priest Mircea Airinei, Attached*

*Served by Diocesan Clergy*

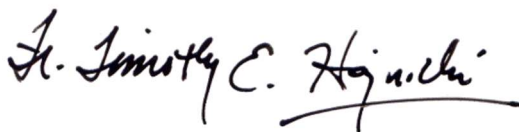
**St. Herman of Alaska Church: Shillington, PA (1973) – [www.sthermanshillington.org](http://www.sthermanshillington.org)**

*Priest Vjekoslav Jovicic, Rector until Feb. 1*

*Priest John Black, Administrator as of Feb. 1*

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Asking your prayers, and respectfully submitted,



Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky, *Dean*