


**DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**for the 2025 Diocesan Assembly**

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Michael's Orthodox Church 131 N. Willow Street Mount Carmel, PA 17851</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Priest Aleksey Paranyuk</p>	
Committees/Societies	
Since January 2024	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) St. Michael's and Veterans Day celebration during which a Liturgy is held and living and departed veterans are honored at the end of the service. Father Aleksey provided a blessing and a St. Michael icon card to the veterans present. Patriotic songs are sung in the hall before breakfast is served. The parish had several visitors from the community, as well as clergy from other parishes in the area. There were 50 in attendance.</li><li>(2) Annual summer parish picnic was held in August. Nearby parishes and friends of the parish were invited. The event was well-attended and all enjoyed the annual visit from the local ice cream truck.</li><li>(3) The parish "adopted" a local family, helping them with diapers, baby food, and gift cards for food from Pascha until the end of summer. For Christmas, the parish sponsored a Christmas Wish List for the same family.</li></ol>	

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

- (1) The parish partnered with Central Susquehanna Opportunities (CSO) to establish a Community Garden. In addition to the vegetable garden, classes were offered by parishioners on gardening and cooking; and CSO provided classes on meal budgets, nutrition, and how to shop healthy. Excess produce was provided to the local food bank.
- (2) A parish Holy Supper will be held on Christmas Eve.
- (3) The community and friends of the parish are invited to all special events; and visitors are always welcomed. If visitors provide contact information, we follow-up with them.
- (4) The parish hosted a Lenten Mission Service that was well attended.
- (5) The Annual St. Nicholas Day Preparation continued with a coat drive to support Central Susquehanna Opportunities work (\$750 was collected). Christmas cards were sent to parishioners, friends of the parish and nursing homes, with children of the parish making some of the cards. A small army of elves decorated the church for Christmas and practiced singing carols. Cookies were baked and delivered to a local nursing home and elderly parishioners.
- (6) Cards were provided to parishioners and friends of the parish for every holiday, birthday, anniversary, get-well, and thinking of you. Cards are also prepared for nursing homes on special occasions, along with flowers for Mother's Day.
- (7) Periodically, treats and small gifts from the parish were provided to nursing homes. The parish provided, several times, pierogies to the nursing home to be served for a meal.
- (8) Meals were provided to home-bound parishioners after events and projects.
- (9) The parish supported two local food banks, and the United Way At-Risk Children's program.
- (10) Nativity, Lenten, and Special Appeals were held, with donations directed to various needs.
- (11) Paska baking was completed with the paskas being distributed as a gift to our parishioners – 70 paskas were made and distributed.

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## Major Challenges Faced

The challenges that our parish faces arise from the *facts*, which in turn present us *opportunities* to discover ways to grow and do outreach:

- (1) *Fact*: economically depressed area. *Opportunity*: how can we better minister to our parishioners and the people in Mount Carmel area in their present situation?
- (2) *Fact*: a large number of parishioners are on a fixed income. *Opportunity*: how can we put to good and God-pleasing use what we have?
- (3) *Fact*: competing with external youth sports. *Opportunity*: what are the ways we can get the youth involved in all aspects of the Church life?
- (4) *Fact*: some parishioners and families have not resumed attending services since COVID and some are not attending on a regular basis. *Opportunity*: continue the support of those who are unable to fully participate in the life of the Church.

## Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2025 to December 2025

- (1) Community Soup Day
- (2) Paska baking class
- (3) Possible pierogie-making class
- (4) Summer Annual Parish Picnic
- (5) Choir education classes for the youth
- (6) Women's appreciation breakfast
- (7) Host Lenten Mission service
- (8) St. Nicholas Activities – local caroling and distributing cookies
- (9) St. Michael's and Veterans Day annual celebration

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	As of October 1, 2024
<b>Active Members Count</b>	47
<b>Children (under 18)</b>	13
	January 1 thru December 1, 2024
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	25-30
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	12-15
<b>Average Saturday Vigil Attendance</b>	10-12
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	1
	January 1, thru December 1, 2024
<b>Baptisms</b>	0
<b>Funerals</b>	4
<b>Marriages</b>	0
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	1
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	n/a
<b>Adult Education/Number Enrolled</b>	n/a