



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

December 18, 2017

Resolution Number: 1656

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! Over the past years the Diocesan Office and our Deans have struggled to provide coverage for each and every parish as we have a significant number of vacancies. The coming year, we will have the V. Rev. Michael Hatrak retiring, who has faithfully served two parishes, Ss. Peter & Paul in Minersville and Holy Ascension in St. Clair for many years. St. Mary in Coaldale has been vacant since June. St. Basil's in Simpson, St. John the Baptist in Dundaff, Holy Resurrection in Alden Station, and Assumption in Philadelphia, St. Vladimir's, Lopez, Holy Ascension, Lykens, and Holy Trinity in Catasauqua. Additionally, we are expecting possibly three more vacancies as well.

Fr. Steven Voytovich has asked the seminarian priests and deacons to assist us, but needs to know what compensation and mileage, etc. will be covered. As you may know the seminarians' first priority is their studies. We have had similar requests from some of the retired clergy about standardizing the compensation.

All substitute clergy are to be coordinated through the respective Deans. They will continue to do their best to provide coverage for every parish with the following compensation guidelines:

- A. Parishes less than an hour from the clergy \$250.00 (Vespers and Liturgy \$300.00, as well as a local hospital or nursing home visit if needed)
- B. Parishes more than an hour away \$300.00 and if the parish provides housing for Saturday evening and covers the evening meal, the priest will provide Vespers and Liturgy. (A local hospital or nursing home visit may be requested on occasion)
- C. The same compensation will be expected for Funerals.
- D. Those parishes desiring Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services should discuss this with their Deans as soon as possible. This may depend largely upon available clergy and the seminary's agreement.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

CC: Archbishop Michael, Rector of St. Tikhon's Seminary;
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V. Rev. Nicholas Solak, III, Dean, Wilkes Barre Deanery
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