

**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST 46<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY  
OCTOBER 1-3, 2007  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**CLEVELAND DEANERY  
Very Reverend John Steffaro, Dean**

A. On behalf of all the members of the Cleveland Deanery, we welcome His Eminence, the Chancellor, the Deacon, all the Clergy, Deacons, and lay representatives to our Deanery for the Diocesan Assembly. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide all of our deliberations in building up the Body of Christ, His Church. May we continue to Love One Another as our Lord Jesus Christ Loves Us!

B. We meet four times a year to conduct business meetings. On the fifth Thursday in Great Lent we participate in a Lenten Retreat at St. John the Theologian Monastery, Hiram. The brothers also participate in the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the Monastery.

C. During Great Lent parishes host Lenten mission services (Lenten Vespers, Akathist to the Cross, and Akathist to the Mother of God.) Each parish hosts the Great Lenten Mission Service - this is done on a three year rotation.

D. Our Diocesan Parish Health Facilitator, Joseph Kormos, asked us to host a workshop for the Deanery. Accordingly, on Saturday, May 5, we hosted the workshop, titled "Breaking Our Insularity". This workshop focused on the causes and effects of operating our parishes as if they were closed to outsiders -- unaware of the spiritual and charitable needs of our local communities. The agenda included significant time for open discussion of two particular aspects of parish insularity -- evangelization and parish local charitable outreach.

E. Several of our clergy are Chaplains during the camping season at St. Vladimir's Camp, Farmingdale, OH. This camp is under the auspices of the Ohio District FOCA. A report of the camp is attached to the end of the parish reports.

F. Our Deanery will host a liturgical music workshop on a Saturday in November. Further information will be forthcoming.

G. Our Brothers continue to participate in the various clergy associations within their home parish geographical area: ex. Cleveland, Akron, Warren, Youngstown. Parishes of the Cleveland Deanery.

**St. Theodosius Cathedral Cleveland - 1896 Archpriest John Zdinak**

St. Theodosius Cathedral Parish Report Diocesan Assembly Cleveland, Ohio

The clergy of the Cathedral include:

- Archpriest John Zdinak, Dean
- Archpriest Pavel Soucek (Retired Attached)
- Subdeacon Theodore Lentz, Sacristan
- Subdeacon Michael Tabelaing, Asst Sacristan
- Subdeacon Leon Fellon
- Reader Julius (Ken) Kovach, Choir Master

- Reader John Pinta
- Reader Daniel Morris
- Reader Gabriel Tabelaing

The Parish Council Lay Vice-chair is Mr. Frank Tkacz and the Cathedral Bookstore is also managed by Mr. Frank Tkacz.

The Parish Council meets regularly once a month and as needed. The neighborhood surrounding St. Theodosius is undergoing tremendous changes. We are trying to prepare to welcome many new neighbors and, hopefully, welcome them to our Church. Our Evangelization Ministries Group is preparing welcome packets and a strategy to reach out to our neighbors. Though we enjoy the blessings of having a beautiful temple, it comes with the responsibilities related to a near 100 year old structure. This past year we replaced the asphalt roof portion of the Cathedral with a slate roof. This should last for many years. We received a grant to illumine the domes of the Cathedral. This was completed just before Christmas of 2006. Water damage caused by the old asphalt roof will be repaired in October following the Diocesan Assembly.

In order to have a better presence in the community, to better receive visitors and to better manage our church related work, we are moving our offices back to the Cathedral from our cemetery. The offices were moved to the cemetery over 20 years ago. This is an exciting change but a time consuming process. In light of the difficulties of our central church administration, we have been reviewing our own fiscal process at the Cathedral. Two years ago we began a concerted and concentrated effort to better account for all of our financial dealings.

The Cathedral Parish, in addition to the operating budget of the Cathedral itself, over \$300,000 annually, operates the major Orthodox Cemetery in the Greater Cleveland area. We have a 30 acre cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio which inters over 100 persons every year with an annual gross budget of over \$150,000. Adjacent to the Cemetery is our Parish Catering facility which grosses over \$600,000 annually. We also have a bookstore which grosses around \$10,000 Annually. With a near one million dollar total annual budget, we decided that we must be very careful about our own nuances. Our restructured Finance Committee, under the chairmanship of Marie Maty and in cooperation with the Parish Council, have made tremendous improvements in the process and management of the total Cathedral finances, including improvements in our internal auditing procedures.

We have been increasing the efforts of the various ministry groups in the parish also. As stated above, the Evangelization Ministry Group has been and continues to develop and implement many outreach tactics and programs. Our Greeters Ministry, one of the most effective tools we have, regularly reviews their approach and outreach. The Church School program, under the supervision of Mr. Paul Pangrace, meets for two nine week sessions from 4:30 PM to 6:00PM on Saturdays before Great Vespers. Currently there is one adult education session every Thursday Morning at 11:00 am. Fr. Pavel Soucek (retired attached) is conducting that session. This morning session is conducted at our Brooklyn Hall. We are planning two evening adult sessions, that will be conducted at the Cathedral campus to begin this fall. One will be a Bible study and the other an adult catechism based on the Living God books published by St. Vladimir's Press. We are rejuvenating our youth programs and also planning Teen instructions on contemporary issues they face daily, including sexuality. These teen sessions will be presented by Fr. John or other Orthodox sources and will be conducted as a day retreat every other month

or so. We also hope to develop a monthly Men's Christian Breakfast for reflection on Scripture and Teachings of the Orthodox Faith.

Our Choir, under the direction of Reader Julius (Ken) Kovach continues to offer their gift of music in the Liturgical services of the Church. They also present an annual Christmas Concert on the Sunday before Christmas for the public. This has been done for over 25 years and is well received. The choir is also performing in local community concerts.

We have a charitable outreach ministry that had reduced its activity following the demolition of the housing projects next to us, though they continued to cooperate with local social service organizations. This ministry is contemplating the future needs when new neighbors move into the newly constructed apartments next to the Cathedral.

St. Theodosius Cathedral is a National Sacred Landmark. We have future property concerns that will need addressing in the near future. Because of its landmark status, any improvement and replacement on the exterior requires approval by the Landmarks Commission. There are very little grants available for this type of work and the replacement or improvement must be a same or similar style of the original is very costly. We are, however, doing our best to maintain the beauty of the Temple. Other ministries in the Cathedral Parish are the St. Mary's Altar Society that serves the needs of the Temple, The Cathedral Chapter of the FOCA that provides fellowship and ministers to the shut-in members at Christmas and Pascha by baking and delivering Pascha baskets of Pascha Bread, eggs and other items. Members of the Parish can also enjoy Christian fellowship in regular Ladies' and Men's Night out.

St. Theodosius is a vibrant worshipping Orthodox Christian community. We suffer the same obstacles as any urban parish. By God's grace and the efforts of many we hope to always be able to be a beacon of the True Light to all who encounter us. We strive to discern God's will and be good stewards of the gifts received from Him. We have received many into the Church and hope that God will grow His Church here in Cleveland.

### **Holy Assumption Church Marblehead - 1899 Priest David A Lis**

#### **METRICAL STATISTICS:**

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Receptions via Holy Confession and Chrismation: 0

Deaths: 0

Families who left the parish due to job transfer: 1 – 1 adult and two children

#### **OUTREACH:**

The Rector of Holy Assumption takes an active part in the Danbury Clergy Association participating in the annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service, the Good Friday Prayer Service (when calendar differences allow), and the Baccalaureate for the High School graduates. In addition I have received recurring invitations to speak at several men's prayer breakfasts in Port Clinton and Oak Harbor Ohio exploring Orthodoxy and examining its differences with the main line Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. The parish fully supports the local Danbury Food Kitchen both with direct donations of food and household items and with a special collection.

Our parish website: [holyassumptionmarblehead.org](http://holyassumptionmarblehead.org) has proven a valuable source of

outreach especially to vacation visitors and individuals interested in exploring the Orthodox Church.

We are now working with three families who are either engaged in discernment with them to come into the Church, and with an Orthodox family who live in Marblehead but have had a bad experience with previous OCA clergy. They have begun to start attending Liturgy but have not yet formally joined the parish.

#### CELEBRATIONS:

2007 Yard Sale – this spring fund raiser is a combination yard and bake sale. This year we raised nearly \$2,000. for a special drainage system repair.

2007 Halupki Festival – this the 51st despite a day long steady, rain was again a success. This major fund raiser for the year saw a new profit of over \$14,000.00.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We have had to shut down the Religious Education Program for the 11 children in the parish due to lack of parental support. It made no sense for our teachers to show up when there were no children present. Unfortunately Holy Assumption is also limited by having no area available to hold classes (except the basement hall) and this is only available before the 9:30 Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Moving the Religious Education program to a different day of the week has met with very little support due to the extra-curricular commitments of the parish's children, and the driving distance for 60% of them – 45 minutes from Marblehead.

Adult Theosis continues with consistent attendance of about 12 adults. This 45 minute session takes place, once-a-month after the Divine Liturgy in the Church and replaces Coffee Hour that day.

#### **SS. Peter and Paul Church Lorain – 1913 Archpriest Basil Stoyka**

*Report Not Submitted*

#### **St. Nicholas Church Mogadore - 1917 Priest Nicholas Wyslutsky**

*Report Not Submitted*

#### **St. John the Baptist Church Campbell - 1917 Archpriest John Steffaro**

Upcoming or past celebrations for the year: We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary on October 13- 14, 2007

Website Info: <http://www.stjohnorthodox.homestead.com/>

Highlights of:

> Outreach to community: Angel Food Ministry (monthly distribution of food at minimal cost. For further information contact:<http://www.angelfoodministries.com>. Angel Tree Program - helping needy children in the community. Assist with food distribution at Youngstown Mission. Alzheimer's care taker support group meeting on a monthly basis. Teens participated in the Touched by Nathan Foundation.

> Educational programs of your parish (include all groups): Church School immediately following Divine Liturgy every Sunday. Adult Discussion group meets on Thursday Evening.

> Ministries: Food Pantry

> Successful activities: Events you would like to share with other parishes to help them in

their spiritual growth. Events that would help with their finances: Halushki Sales Fridays during the Lenten periods, Kolachi sales twice a year.

> Pastoral participation in Deanery and /or Pan Orthodox Clergy Associations: Three men from our parish are enrolled in the Late Vocation Program and will complete the course of study this Fall. Support a St. Tikhon Seminarian yearly (\$6,000) along with a monthly (\$200) support of a Seminarian. Member of the Eastern Orthodox Clergy Association of Mahoning Valley.

> Ministry groups in your parish: Sisterhood: Yearly Soup for caring ministry - proceeds are donated to a charity. Wednesday Group meets and does odd jobs around the church. O Club: Yearly Easter Fest and Cookie Walk. Financially supportive to our parish. Young Parents Group meet twice a year.

### **SS. Peter and Paul Church Lakewood-1917 Archpriest Yves C Babich**

This year to date we have had 3 baptisms, 1 wedding and 1 funeral. Our web site [www.peter-paul.com](http://www.peter-paul.com) is up and running we have had a good response and it has attracted a few people in the neighborhood to inquire about and attend our church services.

Our Baba's Kitchen which is our only income from outside of the parish makes and sells perogie dinners on Fridays. There was a write up about our Baba's Kitchen in the local paper, which increased sales and brought attention to our church. We, also, have booths at all the local festivals such as the Lakewood Arts Festival. Selling nut rolls, kolachis and religious item's which also brings attention and inquiries about our church.

Food and clothing are collected by our parish and given to Lakewood local food and clothing banks.

And money is collected for the local orthodox monasteries that help the poor and needy.

Pascha took place this year in a blinding snow storm, which made it almost impossible for many who live far from the church to attend services for Holy Week and Pascha, but our church was well attended by local Orthodox Christians who could not drive to there own churches.

On June 9th and 10th we were blessed with a visit by His Eminence Archbishop Job at which time Archbishop Job tonsured two readers and on behalf of the Holy Synod elevated Fr. Yves to the rank of Archpriest as well as awarded three parishioners with Gramatas for their many years of service to our church.

This year we also celebrated our 90th anniversary which was well attended. We lost our choir director due to illness and are looking to replace him. Labor day weekend marks the beginning of our Sunday school program. With the Help of Christ we hope to grow in faith and size in the rest of the year.

### **Archangel Michael Church Broadview Heights - 1922 Archpriest John Memorich**

Holy Archangel Michael - Broadview Heights Over the course of the past year our parish has been extremely busy and active. We have organized and hosted the following events:

- Annual Pan-Orthodox Women's retreat during Advent which brings in woman from all across Northeast Ohio.
- Deanery Lock-in for teenagers during the Christmas break.
- IOCC Banquet

- Annual Pilgrimage dinner at St. John's Monastery
- Two Fashion Show Luncheons which served as fundraisers: one for the St. Vladimir's Church Camp and one for IOCC. The fundraiser for the camp featured area Matushki as runway models!
- Our parish also hosts a number of events for parishioners themselves. Our annual Mother's Day Banquet is always well attended, as is the St. Michael's Day Banquet. Besides these, there is the Father's Day picnic, Chicken Paprikash Dinner, Steak Roast, and BBQ Chicken Dinner
- St. Michael's is also blessed with many active religious and social-minded organizations. Pre-teen Club, Junior and Senior "R" Club, 55+ Club, Samaritans, and Men's Club. Because of a decline in membership, our Women's Club is currently on hiatus but continues to hold an annual summer picnic. Besides these, our parish hosted the Ohio District Basketball Tournament, and we also sent seven teams to the National FOCA Tournament in Pittsburgh. St. Michael's "R" Club is hosting the National FOCA Convention in Nashville over Labor Day Weekend.
- A parish wide Garage Sale was held for the second year in a row in our gymnasium. This proved to be very successful and many people were able to distribute their "treasures" for cash. Table space was rented from the church for a profit.
- Our OUTREACH Committee (Orthodox United to Reach Every American Home) continues to be evangelically minded and works hard to meet the needs of the parish. Besides organizing visitation schedules, contacting potential members, putting together welcome packets, publishing our monthly newsletter "The Archangel," delivery flowers at Christmas and Pascha, organizing caroling at nursing homes, scheduling Lenten dinners following pre-sanctified liturgy, and keeping in contact with those away at college, they are in the progress of having a new pictorial directory made for the parish.
- I continue to send out the daily Scripture readings with a short commentary or sermonette, answer questions, post articles, and deliver "real time" news to the parish as part of St. Michael's "Church Chat," which served as a precursor to our website.
- We have a dedicated group of proshpora bakers who meet one morning every other month. We generally bake over fifty pounds of proshpora at each setting and have now begun to make our own pizza with leftover proshpora dough. This has actually increased our attendance.
- Our Lenten services were very well attended this year yet, because of the unexpected blizzard which bombarded Cleveland during Passion Week, many parishioners were unable to venture out Thursday through Saturday. All of our processions were held indoors; simply going around the interior of the temple.
- At the invite of the parish, Fr. Michael Dahulich and St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir were with us on the weekend of May 20th. They sang both vespers and liturgy - giving our choir a unique type of break.
- Woodside Party Center continues to thrive and has fairly solid event booking well into 2009.
- We recently received an offer of \$1,500,000 to buy some of our undeveloped parish property. After convening a special parish meeting to discuss the matter, the parish overwhelmingly voted to turn down the offer and keep our land. We still have hopes to one day erect senior housing for our parishioners.

· The two oil/natural gas wells on our property are still producing good amounts of each and, because of this fact, our percentage of profit was increased this year by three points per our contract with the drillers. This has certainly turned out to be a great blessing of income to our parish; especially since we were able to link up to our own natural gas supply.

### **St. John the Baptist Church Warren -1927 Priest Jonathan Cholcher**

#### 1. Past and Upcoming Celebrations

A. September 17, 2006 - Retirement Dinner for the Archpriest Peter Pawlack and Mat. Barbara (Fr. Peter retired from the Parish on August 1, 2006);

B. October 21, 2006 - Fall Family Festival at Camp Vladimir (Farmdale, OH)

C. November 4, 2006 - Festival of Icons (featuring the V. Rev. John Nehrebecki, V. Rev. Andrew Clements, and Choir Director/Reader Basil Kochan)

D. June 2, 2007 - Spring Dinner (climax of pledge drive, the paying off of our \$14,000 bank loan for the new roof)

E. November 3, 2007 - Festival of Icons (Why We Love God)

#### 2. Various Ministries and Programs

A. Adult Class now meets after Sunday Liturgy during Church School (50 adults regularly attend; we studied the Book of Genesis this past year);

B. Path to Salvation Class meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month following Vespers (an average of 10-15 persons have been working through St. Theophan's book as a guide to practicing the spiritual life);

C. Daily Vespers every Tuesday evening at 6 PM and Divine Liturgy every Wednesday morning at 9 AM, unless there is a feast day Liturgy on another day of the week;

D. High School Youth met on the last Sunday of the month; younger children met during the year for activities together - a Pilgrimage to Pascha retreat was held for youth on March 4, at the beginning of Lent;

E. Sunday School continued during the summer months with hands-on learning activities for the children - "tours" of the Church identifying parts and objects with their meaning, making prayer books, altar server training, etc.

F. 15 Fish Dinners were served to an average of 315 people per dinner, exposing many persons outside the Church to our Church community;

G. 14 Food Boxes for needy families were distributed to them at three different times, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Pascha; a food bank is maintained for those who need occasional help; Christmas gifts are given annually through the Trumbull County Children's Services Angel Tree Project;

H. A Good Samaritans group regularly visits our homebound and nursing home residents.

I. A very active Sisterhood hosts dinner, provides for repasts, maintains a cleaning schedule for the Church, and supplies liturgical and educational materials for the parish;

J. Weekly Basket Collections following Liturgy are distributed to various agencies, appeals, and ministry organizations.

#### 3. Special Activities

A. Two Parish Stewardship Meetings were conducted in October 2006 encouraging thankful service to God because of His gifts to us. Topics included the realization of the Incarnation, time, treasure, and talents, and proportional giving (i.e., tithing). Parish

giving and participation have been consistently greater.

B. Two Parents of the Parish Meetings are scheduled for the first week in September 2007 to formulate a concerted plan of raising the children of the parish in the Faith; parental responsibility, resolve, and follow-through are crucial to our success.

C. Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy (the Orthodox day school) operates in Warren under the omophorion of Archbishop Job; several people and children from St. John's are intimately involved in the administration of the school both as officers and students.

#### 4. Pastoral Participation Groups

A. As Priest I attend all our Deanery meetings and Lenten Mission Services.

B. I also regularly attend the Eastern Orthodox Clergy Association of the Mahoning Valley (EOCA; Youngstown and surrounding areas), and have hosted an EOCA Unction Service here at St. John's.

C. I attend other civic events for clergy (such as the SCOPE [Senior Center] luncheon) as I am able.

### **Holy Assumption Church Canton - 1958 Priest John Peck**

Upcoming or past celebrations for the year: 49th year of existence There are currently no plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary

Website Info [holyassumption.net](http://holyassumption.net) AND [inbn.net](http://inbn.net), also Bible Drill website: [bibledrill.blogspot.com](http://bibledrill.blogspot.com)

Highlights of:

> Outreach to community: Food Pantry, Internet Radio Network, Malone College Church Rush, Coats for Kids (September/October distribution)

> Educational programs of your parish (include all groups) ACTION Thursdays (All Church Things In One Night) Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, and Adult Bible Study following Vespers: BIBLE DRILL: Summer Teen boy program for Bible knowledge and Physical fitness Bible Divas: Summer Teen girl program for Bible knowledge and Physical fitness

> Other information you would like to share with our sister parishes in the Midwest Fr John Peck will be attached to St Theodosius Cathedral starting Sept. 1

### **Holy Trinity Church Parma - 1963 Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky**

Fr. Vladimir, one of the six members of the Special Commission formed to come to terms with the aberrations in administration of the national chancery hosted the initial meeting in Jan. 23-24, 2007. As a member of the Metropolitan Council in this Church traumatic year he attended sessions almost every month at the chancery in Syosset, NY.

Fr. Vlad also wrote a play presented by the Church school during Great Lent. He spoke at the W. Pa. diocese, and was the speaker for the Greater Cleveland Sunday of Orthodoxy vespers. The parish played host to the Orthodox Church in America's Dept. of Christian Education the last week of June. 65 persons attended. The Church dedicated four mosaics attached to the exterior of the temple. In August a one day program was held for children and adults on the theme: Heaven. Twenty persons from the parish have visited Russia on a Volga River cruise.

**St. Andrew Church Maple Heights 1968 Archpriest Emilian D Hutnyan**  
*Report Not Submitted*

**St. Nicholas Church Mentor - 1974 Archpriest Andrew Clements**

Activities since the last Diocesan Assembly:

August '06

Held annual Choir Picnic

September '06

Church School begins including an Adult Class

Teen Group Kick-Off Pool Party and planning session

Youth Group Kick-Off Pool Party and planning session

Participated in Deanery Convocation "Reactions to the State of the Church"

Held Parish Fellowship Brunch

October '06

Collected winter coats for the needy of Cleveland

Celebrated a Parish Wedding

Teen Group sponsored Bowl-A-Thon with proceeds going toward school supplies for Ugandan teens

Began our monthly supplementary financial support for Fr Michael Mihalick who has MS

Began Evening Adult Class taught by Fr Andrew

November '06

Collected and assembled toiletry bags for St Herman's House of Hospitality to be distributed to the homeless of Cleveland

Teen Group sponsored a Brunch with proceeds going toward a Christmas gift for 3 orphans at St Innocent's Ranch in Tijuana, Mexico

Fr Andrew was a featured speaker at the annual Festival of Icons at St John's in Warren, Ohio

Sent 11 participants to the annual Women's Retreat at St Michael's

December '06

Archbishop Job visited for our Patronal Feastday. During his visit he met with both the Teen and Youth Groups, celebrated Vigil and Liturgy, blessed a parish teen to wear the Subdeacon's Stole, presented Fr Andrew with the Jeweled Cross, attended the Banquet and Children's Program "The Life of St Nicholas," and visited with the faithful afterwards.

January '07

65 homes were blessed for Theophany.

February '07

Served a Parish Funeral

Began Classes in preparation for the reception of two catechumens for Pascha. The class was also open to the parish.

Served a full schedule of services for the first week of Great Lent

Began our weekly Alms Collection for Great Lent

March '07

Teen Group prepared and served a Spaghetti Dinner at St Herman's House of Hospitality for their Lenten Alms Project

Began Parish Lenten Project of collecting needed items for the Womensafe Shelter

Held a Lenten Retreat weekend with Fr Thomas Hopko

Established a new Parish Website: [saintnicholas-oca.org](http://saintnicholas-oca.org)

April '07

Served a full schedule of services for Holy Week

Received two catechumens on Holy Saturday

Served Paschal procession in the snow (At least it was the Paschal Color)

Blessed graves on St Thomas Sunday

May '07

Sent 5 participants to the Parish Health Workshop "Breaking our Insularity" held at St Michael's.

Distributed our Lenten Alms to five recipients

Received back our two missionaries, Peter and Sharon Georges, from Uganda for a brief break. They will return in September.

June '07

Honored our Graduates at a special Coffee Hour: 5- High School, 4 Bachelor Degrees and 2 Master Degrees

Sent several participants to the Church School Teachers Conference held at Holy Trinity in Parma.

July '07

Held a Brunch with proceeds going to support our Project Mexico Team

Sent out our 6th Project Mexico Team: ten teens and one adult

Began new Icon Phase for the completion of the entire church

August '07

Resurfaced our parking lot

### **St. Innocent Church Olmsted Falls - 1984 Priest Michael Butler**

Website Info: [www.saintinnocent.org](http://www.saintinnocent.org)

Saint Innocent's continues to enjoy God's blessings and to experience moderate growth. A number of inquirers have recently joined the ranks of the catechumens. We recognize that our website has become our primary outreach tool and try to keep it up to date and simple and interesting for the non-Orthodox. Church school sessions, new men's and women's groups, and a new adult education class should be in place (or nearly so) by the time you read this report. The parish is currently looking into the particular needs of its community in hopes of being able to provide substantial, material help to people who need it. St Innocent's will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year.

### **Holy Cross Mission Nashville - 2003 Priest Daniel Swires**

Upcoming or past celebrations for the year

Website Info [www.holycrossohio.org](http://www.holycrossohio.org)

Highlights of:

> Outreach to community: Assisted two needy families: Thursday evening Bible Study;

have 4 catechumens

- > Educational programs of your parish (include all groups)
- > Ministries: Hospital, Assisted Living/Nursing Homes, Prison visits, Feeding and clothing the needy, etc: Visit one parishioner in nursing home
- > Successful activities: Events you would like to share with other parishes to help them in their spiritual growth. Events that would help with their finances: Had a hot dog/hamburger booth at Memorial Day parade
- > Pastoral participation in Deanery and /or Pan Orthodox Clergy Associations: Deanery meetings

### **St. Vladimir's Orthodox Church Camp and Retreat Center**

St. Vladimir's Church Camp hosts two sessions of camp each year. The first session, for children ages 7-11, was held June 24-30. The second session, for youths ages 12-15, took place July 1-7. Children come from throughout northeast Ohio as well as Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and even Canada. Each week is run by a full compliment of camping staff comprised of the camp's directors, adult counselors over the age of 21, councilors in training who are may be 16 or older, and cooking staff – all of whom undertake annual background checks and need approval from their local clergy.

A resident priest stays at the camp throughout the week and conducts daily matins and vespers in a fully functioning chapel, as well as at least one liturgy during the course of the week. In addition to this, he teaches two educational classes each day and provides spiritual nourishment through his interaction with the children. This year, Fr. Jonathan Cholcher served as resident priest during the camp's first session with 24 children attending while I served the second session with 36 kids in attendance. Over the last ten years, Rdr. Basil and Lori Kochan have faithfully served as the camp's directors. They have given so much of their time and energy to the betterment of the camp and have helped to make many positive memories for a decade of campers. This year however, with their own children now grown, they have made the decision to step down and turn these duties over to another capable couple:

Subdeacon Daniel and Catrina Kovalak.

In recognition of the Kochan's outstanding service to the deanery and the diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Job attended liturgy at the camp on July 9th and presented Basil and Lori with a Diocesan Gramota in recognition of the service and dedication. This was truly a well deserved award! Besides the two camp sessions, St. Vladimir's Camp is also available for rental. We routinely allow parishes to use the property and facilities for picnics, outings, retreats, and even for family reunions. The camp is also sometimes rented to the FOCA for use as a location for the "Junior Olympics" camp. Thanks to some very generous donations and some volunteer efforts, the re-roofing of the entire camp was completed this year. Leon Sheehan is the camp's Coordinator and does a lot of work maintaining this facility. If anyone or any parish is interested in information about attending or renting the camp, they may contact him at 216-371-1173 or me at, 440-526-5192.