

Indianapolis Deanery Report

August 2017

The Indianapolis Deanery consists of 6 parishes scattered over Western Ohio and Indiana. All of the parishes are relatively new communities in the OCA. Because of distances between parishes, the Deanery does not have a lot of parish interaction, nor is there any real Deanery identity, nor much deanery wide business for us to do. Cooperation between parishes or priests is pretty much done on a personal level. We have used teleconferences or video conferences on rare occasion to meet. We do not have a deanery source of income, nor have we had any deanery expenses for several years.

The news of the Deanery is basically what is being done in the individual parishes, whose reports you can read. Some parishes do have opportunity to interact with other local Orthodox parishes and jurisdictions, but this is accomplished on the local level, not as a deanery. His Grace, Bishop Paul, has been regularly visiting the parishes of the Deanery.

Five of the parishes currently have an assigned priest. We have one vacant parish – St. Stephen’s in Lima, OH. Four of the parishes currently also have a deacon assigned to them. Christ the Savior Church in Cincinnati has the largest membership of the Deanery parishes.

A question for our Deanery clergy and parishes to consider is whether there is something we can do on a Deanery level to support the mission and ministries of the local parishes. With the distances between parishes it is not always easy to discern what issues are of particularly “deanery” concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Theodore Bobosh, Dean

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|---|-------|
| Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Orthodox Church | |
| Clergy | |
| Very Rev. Steven C. Kostoff Deacon Paul Gansle | |
| Committees/Societies | |
| Parish Council Fellowship Founders Committee St. Katherine Society | |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| 40th anniversary celebration of the parish Summer Bible Study of JN. 13-21 Major renovation of church hall | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| Kairos Prison Ministry Food Pantry Annual Full Sponsorship of child in Guatemala Hot meal preparation and serving at City Gospel Mission | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| Transience – people in and out of the Cincinnati area “Battle of the Calendars” | |

| Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018 | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Ordination to the diaconate of Reader Johnothon Sauer Lenten retreat | | | |

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting Membership Count | 136 | 145 | 143 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | 115 | 120 | 125 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | 90 | 100 | 100 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | 15 | 15-20 | 15-20 |
| Number of Catechumens | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Funerals | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Marriages | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | 75 | 75 | 78 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating | 25 | 25 | 25-30 |

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|---|-------|
| <p>St. Stephen the First Martyr Orthodox Church 802 Whitlock Ave. Crawfordsville, IN 47933 (765) 267-1410</p> | |
| Clergy | |
| <p>Rev. Joel Weir, rector Dn. Michael Wilson, assigned deacon Rdr. Micah Wilson</p> | |
| Committees/Societies | |
| <p>Parish Life Committee Strategic Plan Committee</p> | |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| <p>Ordination of Deacon Michael Wilson On Sunday, October 16 Bishop Paul visited St. Stephens and ordained Michael Wilson to the Holy Diaconate.</p> <p>Strategic Plan Committee In 2016, a Strategic Plan Committee was formed and did in depth work of considering and determining potential options for the expansion of St. Stephens physical facility to adequately accommodate for our growth over the past years and look ahead to potential future growth. The SPC work culminated in an All Parish Meeting wherein a consensus was determined for next steps in 2017, which include actively looking for new property as well as continuing to consider potential property near the existing church to expand for parking/building.</p> <p>First Funeral/Burial While this was hardly a “highlight” as we unexpectedly lost a beloved member, husband and father, Billy Belt, this was the first death St. Stephens has experienced. The process of grieving, preparation, funeral and burial very much brought our parish together in a powerful way. We also learned much about how to be prepared for future funerals and continue to grow into a new role as support for the widow and children of Billy.</p> | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| <p>Ongoing collections taken for Pam’s Promise (transitional housing) and F.I.S.H. (food pantry) Benevolence Fund used to help several local people in need Pizza Night Outreach Events</p> | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| | |
| Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018 | |
| <p>Beginning of new outreach ministries in September: Ancient Wisdom Study Series at local</p> | |

coffee shop and brewery. Sunday Evening Compline at Wabash College.
 Fall Charity: IOCC Cleanup Buckets/Hygiene Kits

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting Membership Count | 36 | 34 | 34 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | 50 | 56 | 62 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | 43 | 50 | 50 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Number of Catechumens | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| Funerals | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Marriages | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | 19 | 19 | 20 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating | 8 | 10 | 10 |

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2017

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| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|--|-------|
| St Paul the Apostle, 4451 Wagner Rd, Dayton, OH 45440 | |
| Clergy | |
| V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh | |
| Committees/Societies | |
| Risk Committee; Facilities Committee; Greeters Committee; Mission Committee | |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In October, 2016, our parish hosted an Icon Exhibit of ancient icons from two private collections. The event was free and open to the public. Several hundred visitors came to view the icons. We also had a food truck rally in the church parking lot which was a true crowd pleaser. 2) In March, 2017, we installed 22 icons in the nave of the church. These are all older icons, 17-19th Centuries, that were purchased on line at auctions. Many of the icons were removed from churches and now are finding a new church home. 3) This summer parishioners fully funded a new playground for parish families. The playground will be professionally installed in September. All funds were donated by parish families. | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| <p>The Parish gives from its Annual Budget \$1900/month to various charities. Additionally the parish does occasionally take collections for various charitable causes, and also distributes funds donated by members for charity to designated charities.</p> <p>Outreach – in October 2016 the parish hosted its 2nd Icon Exhibit, featuring dozens of icons from the 15th-19th Century as well as other church memorabilia. The event was free and open to the public.</p> <p>Parish members provide lunch for needy people at the St. Vincent de Paul center in Dayton, have distributed hand knitted blankets to needy folk, and have involved themselves in a number of community social projects including right to life groups and those helping women who have been used in human trafficking.</p> | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| <p>The Dayton Metro area has slowly been losing population for all of the years of the parish's existence. Jobs have left the area. Almost none of our young people return to Dayton once they leave for college. The parish has maintained a steady number of members with converts coming into the parish. Our parish population has become dominated by young married couples and</p> | |

their children. This is a demographic that is also struggling with their familial financial needs which makes it a challenge for the parish to meet its annual budget.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018


The Parish will host a chili cookoff in October, about the same time that it will bless its new playground equipment.

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting Membership Count | | | 130 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | | | 110 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | | | 90 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | | | 10 |
| Number of Catechumens | | | 4 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | | | 4 |
| Funerals | | | 1 |
| Marriages | | | 1 |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | | | 7 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | | | 55 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating | | | 22 |

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

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| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|---|---|
| St. John the Forerunner Orthodox Church 1421 S. Blaine Ave. – Church 1621 W. Howard St. – Mailing Address Indianapolis, IN 46221 |  |
| Clergy | |
| Priest Zachariah Trent – Rector Priest David Maroney – Attached Archpriest Joseph Gibson – Retired – Attached Deacon Joshua Coolman | Subdeacon Peter Rentsch Subdeacon Luke Seraphim Beecham |
| Committees/Societies | |
| Book Corner Ministry Benevolence Ministry Hospitality Ministry Adult Education Ministry Finance Ministry Library Ministry | Childrens Education Ministry Worship and Liturgical Ministry Buildings and Grounds Ministry Parish Life Ministry St. John’s Camp Ministry |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| <p>The third annual West Indianapolis Kids Day Festival in September. Food, fun and games were offered and a good time was had by all.</p> <p>The annual fall retreat was held. Fr. Andrew Cuneo was the speaker and he spoke on the writings of C.S. Lewis.</p> <p>In May, St. John’s hosted Chaplain Mike Mercer, a Hospice Chaplain with Community Health and Peter Rosenberger a writer and speaker, for a symposium on the subject of Caregiving.</p> | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| <p>Weekly collections for the Community food pantry.</p> <p>FOCUS Indianapolis has continued to host a Friday evening dinner open the neighborhood in our annex building. The dinners are currently held on two evenings a month with plans to go to weekly. Eventually the plan is for a weekly event. There have been many volunteers from multiple parishes including St. John. Plans continue develop for the introduction of a “Shower to the People” truck.</p> | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| <p>We at St. John’s are in the beginnings of discussions concerning the construction of our parish hall, offices and classrooms. We are currently using our annex building which is located across the parking lot from the temple.</p> | |
| Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018 | |
| <p>Another multi-parish retreat is scheduled for October. The speaker will be Archimandrite Joseph Morris. Fr. Joseph is the abbot of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery.</p> | |

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting Membership Count | 92 | 94 | 90 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Number of Catechumens | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Funerals | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Marriages | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | 26 | 26 | 28 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating | 22 | 0 | 0 |

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

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| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|--|-------|
| St Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church 914 W. Taylor St Kokomo, IN 46901 | |
| Clergy | |
| Rev. Philip Vernon Lashbrook Deacon Raphael Gary Fadil | |
| Committees/Societies | |
| Building Committee Hospitality Committee Church School Committee | |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| Relay for Life – St Thomas booth CAM Burger Festival participation Had a new infant baptistery made | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| Prison ministry at Miami Correctional Facility Relay for Life CAM (Coordinated Assisted Ministry) Sent 4 campers to St John summer camp | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| Cancer radiation treatments for Rev. Philip, and health issues for older parishioners | |
| Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018 | |
| Annual Harvest Party | |

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting Membership Count | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Number of Catechumens | | | |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Funerals | 1 | | |
| Marriages | 1 | | |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | | 2 | 1 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | 2 | | 1 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating | 7 | 10 | 6 |

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| Parish Name and Address | Photo |
|---|---|
| <p>St. Stephen the First Martyr Orthodox Church 3560 Shawnee Rd Lima, OH 45806</p> |  |
| Clergy | |
| <p>Subdeacon Joshua Hodges Reader Jonathan Wey Reader Daniel Hodges</p> | |
| Committees/Societies | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish Council - Church School - Parsonage Building Committee - Hospitality Committee - Women's Group - Seeker's Group | |
| Since September 2016 | |
| Highlights of Top Three Activities | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Cookie Walk • Feast day + auction • Continued parsonage renovation (walkway to church, front porch, indoor improvements) | |
| Outreach and Charitable Activities | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored Christmas family • Advent canned goods drive • Women's group • Open gate (providing food during a social services gathering) | |
| Major Challenges Faced | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Challenges • Growth • Loss of Priest | |
| Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookie Walk • Neighborhood Christmas caroling • Feast day + auction | |

| | As of September 1, 2015 | As of September 1, 2016 | As of September 1, 2017 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Supporting Membership Count | 8 faithful families | 9 faithful families | 13 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance | 40 | 40 | 35 |
| Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants | 40 | 40 | 35 |
| Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Number of Catechumens | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | September 2014 thru August 2015 | September 2015 thru August 2016 | September 2016 thru August 2017 |
| Baptisms | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Funerals | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Marriages | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Receptions into Orthodoxy | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Church School/Number Enrolled | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| Adult Education/Number Participating - Diaconal Class | 1 | 1 | 1 |