

Report to the Diocesan Assembly

10 November 2015

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, South River NJ

3 November 2015

Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers, esteemed Parish Delegates,
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is among us!

Please ensure that I have the **active email addresses** for your **parish clergy, choir directors, and church school coordinator/director**. Consult with these key persons responsible for various ministries in your parish; if they are not currently receiving official communication from me by email, send me their email address and name so they may be included. I strive to maintain an up-to-date listing of email contacts for all priests, deacons, commission/department heads, choir directors, and church school coordinators throughout the diocese. This is critical to ensuring that all official communications are received by the intended audience. If you have been receiving these communications, you will hopefully agree that they are frequent, timely, and usually of importance to you. The only way this email list can be functionally operational is with your assistance. If any change occurs, let me know immediately. **Send your inputs to:**

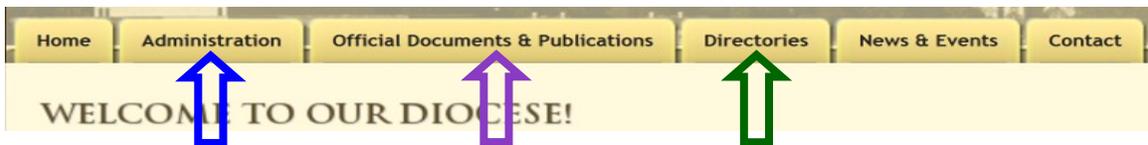
frski@rochester.rr.com



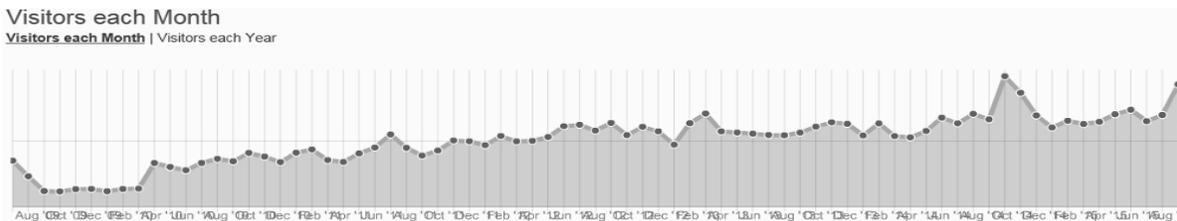
Our diocesan website has been dynamic thanks to numerous suggestions, continual submissions of news items, and activity in the various ministries in the diocese. Since our Assembly last year, 96 headline news items have been posted! I strive to make information easily accessible and useful in form and content. Items of sustained interest remain on the homepage and are represented in “permanent” icon-links.

Often there will be an icon-link in the top location featuring a special event or a special interest that is timely. Recently an icon-link to this Assembly has been published, and it provides the primary source for all Assembly forms, documents, and reports; this mode of dissemination results in large financial savings in mailing and processing fees!

Parish Directory links to a database of all parishes and clergy (sponsored by the OCA website) and a very helpful searchable database of canonical Orthodox parishes throughout the United States and Canada; you can “find a parish” simply by entering a city/state or zip code! **About Orthodoxy** links to the excellent and concise resource based on the publication “*These Truths We Hold*” (compiled/edited by a Monk of Saint Tikhon's Monastery; 1986, Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press). **Lessons in Our Faith** offers a selection of instructional videos by Archbishop Michael. Each video is 8-12 minutes in length and may be viewed on any computer or mobile device. They are very popular! A biography of **Archbishop Michael** is available. The archbishop’s calendar ~ **Bishop’s Schedule** ~ is updated monthly. **Vision for Our Future** introduces the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor [DDB]** initiative and an invitation to become a DDB by making a convenient contribution on-line. **The DDB Program** link highlights the “honor roll” of current and past contributors. **“Jacob’s Well”** offers on-line versions of the official diocesan magazine. **Clergy Stories** features video interviews with some of the distinguished senior pastors (and their wives) of our diocese. **Diocesan Commissions and Departments** icon-links to their respective web-pages; of special note is the **Commission on Liturgical Music [CoLM]** which features a directory of choir directors, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy guidelines & music, printable service booklets, and an ever-growing array of 110 selections of liturgical sheet music (some with audio) offered by diocesan musicians as arrangements or original compositions. **Diocesan Assembly** provides information (documents, reports) of previous Assemblies. **Parish Council** presents information and videos from annual Parish Council Conferences and valuable resources for parishes. **Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention** has up-to-date information and resources to address this critically important aspect of parish life. There are also convenient icon-links to the **Orthodox Church in America** and the **Assembly of Orthodox Bishops**.



At the top of the diocesan website, you will find several tabs. “**Administration**” provides a complete listing, with contact information, for Bishop Michael, the Chancellor, Treasurer, and all diocesan Commissions, Departments, and Institutions. “**Directories**” offers a link to Saint Andrew’s Camp and parish/clergy listings. “**Publications**” includes the Diocesan By-laws, Archpastoral letters to the diocese, issues of “*First Fruits*” and “*Beyond the Plateau*,” Sexual Misconduct Policy, and more.



On the diocesan website you will also find a listing of upcoming diocesan events, official news releases, financial reports, and much more! You may ask, “*How effective is the website in communicating the life of our diocese?*” Good question! We now average well-over 300 visitors per day; the graph above shows the growth in monthly visits since 2009. I hope you have visited the website regularly in the past and found it to be a good source of information and guidance. Please, utilize this communication resource in the future.

Visit the website often, and provide me with your ideas, suggestions, and feedback so we can do even more, even better! nynjoca.org

Within a few days of our gathering, I hope to have the address of His Eminence available as a video along with “2015: The Year in Review” on the diocesan webpage. I hope as many of our faithful as possible will find it possible to see and hear the message we receive from our hierarch, and know that they are uniquely precious members of Christ’s Body working and living out their salvation in our diocese and their parishes. I pray that they, and all of us, will be inspired and enthused to do the work set before us by the Holy Spirit and confirmed through our Assembly.

Please join me in prayers and supplications for the continued grace, strength, discernment, and well-being of our beloved Archbishop Michael. I cannot express, for I do not fully know, the magnitude of his labors and concerns on our behalf. I praise God with a thankful heart for the steadfast faith, humility, service, witness, endurance, courage, vision, guidance, and profound love of His Eminence. May our Lord grant peace, health, salvation, and furtherance in all good things to Archbishop Michael; a blessed shepherd of the holy Orthodox sheep-fold abiding in New York and New Jersey; a good and faithful servant of the one Good Shepherd. ***“Eis polla eti Despota!”***

Thanks ... to all those who have shared their “good works” and “good news” with the rest of us by submitting them for publication on the diocesan website. May God continue to bless you abundantly!

I have only one request:
“Keep the hits coming!”

Your brother in our Lord, Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ken James Stavrevsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Father Ken James Stavrevsky
Office of Communications
Director