

NEW JERSEY DEANERY
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
Report to the 2019 Diocesan Assembly

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Your Eminence, brother clergy, and lay delegates and observers to the Diocesan Assembly,
Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Our deanery currently consists of twenty-seven parishes, missions, and institutions. It has been a challenge this year to fill all of them with full-time priests. In some cases, we have retired priests serving on a part-time basis. We pray that vocations are answered, and that this situation is rectified in the near future.

The clergy of the deanery meet throughout the year. Deanery meetings are held at host parishes on a rotating basis. At these meetings, the work of the Church at the deanery level is discussed, and decisions are made that are deemed necessary to accomplish this work in a God-pleasing and effective way. These meetings also serve as opportunities to form and strengthen brotherly bonds between clergy. We are grateful that His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, is a frequent participant in these meetings.

Archbishop Michael provides yet other opportunities to strengthen clergy bonds not only between the priests and deacons, but between their families as well. Twice yearly, His Eminence hosts clergy family get-togethers to help achieve this goal. The clergy and their families truly appreciate and are thankful to His Eminence for these wonderful events. The clergy holiday dinner was held at the Brownstone in Paterson. The clergy picnic was held this year at Annunciation Church in Brick NJ.

In pastoral changes,

- On the feast day of the Meeting of Our Lord, Subdeacon Bohdan Chaikivskyi was ordained to the Holy Diaconate. Deacon Bohdan is currently in Ukraine awaiting the granting of an R-1 Visa.
- Deacon Alexander Smida was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Sunday, February 10. Subdeacon Veljko Pejovic was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on Saturday, September 14, and took the name, "Michael". Both are attached to Annunciation Church in Brick NJ. Father Alexander serves as a supply priest. Deacon Michael is assisting Father Daniel Skvir with serving the Divine services at Holy Transfiguration Chapel in Princeton NJ.
- Father Gregory White was released from his duties as Rector of Holy Spirit Church in Wantage NJ, and is serving in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. Since the time of Father White's departure, Holy Spirit Church has been served by Archbishop Michael and various priests. The parish is still in need of a full-time priest.
- Father Stephen Evanina was released from his duties as Rector of St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappingers Falls NY. After being served temporarily by various clergy, the parish was assigned Father Eric George Tosi as their Rector effective July 1, 2019.
- Father Paul Kucynda was granted retirement effective June 1, 2019. That same day, Father Stephen Evanina was assigned as parish priest to Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne NJ.

- A major priestly award was bestowed upon Father Sergius Kuharsky when he was elevated to the dignity of Mitred Archpriest by Archbishop Michael. The service was held on the Feast of the Ascension at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in South River NJ.
- Father Igor Kseniuk was released from his duties as Rector of St. John the Baptist Church in Passaic NJ and now serves in the Diocese of the South.
- Father Maryan Chaykivsky was released from his duties as Rector of St. Spiridon Church in Perth Amboy NJ and assigned as Rector to St. John the Baptist Church in Passaic NJ effective August 15.
- Father Nikolay Khalimonov is currently serving St. Spiridon Church in Perth Amboy NJ as of August 15.
- Father George Hasenecz was released from his duties as Priest-in-charge at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner NJ. Effective October 15, 2019, Father George will serve as Priest-in-charge at Holy Spirit Church in Wantage NJ.
- Father Tristan Joseph Gall was released from his duties as Assistant Priest at Holy Transfiguration Chapel in Princeton NJ. Effective October 1, 2019, Father Tristan Joseph is assigned as Acting Rector to St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner NJ.
- Subdeacon Edward Dawson was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on September 29. He is attached to Mother of God Joy of All the Sorrowful Church in Mays Landing.

Holy Transfiguration Church in Pearl River NY received a sprucing-up this past summer during Operation Pearl River. Clergy and faithful from throughout the Diocese participated throughout the designated week primarily to prepare and paint the church interior walls and ceilings. Some landscaping work was also accomplished. Many thanks to those who participated in any way to make this happen.

On the Sundays of Great Lent, the Deanery served two separate Mission Vespers services – one in the northern region of the deanery, and one in the southern area. Collections taken at the services resulted in donations to the Building Project at St. Andrew's Camp, and to various deanery needs that presented themselves during the year. The Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration took place at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City NJ.

Our deanery held the Parish Council Conference and the Church School Teachers/Parents Conference for both deaneries of New Jersey and New York City. Our gratitude is extended to the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in South River NJ and Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus NJ which hosted these events. The annual Diocesan Clergy Conference was hosted this year by St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappingers Falls NY. This fall, the Diocesan Commission on Liturgical Music conducted yet another successful workshop led by Dr. David Drillock at Holy Trinity Church in Rahway NJ. The annual recognition dinner for the deanery's Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors was held at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Bayonne NJ.

As a deanery, we continue to strive to serve God and witness to His Good News. We pray that He continues to guide us in our efforts, and we give thanks to Him for providing the leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael who shepherds us along the journey to His Heavenly Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Gary Joseph Breton, Dean