

NEW JERSEY DEANERY
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
Report to the 2023 Diocesan Assembly

Thursday, November 2, 2023

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

Our deanery currently consists of twenty-four parishes and two chapels; all of them are being served by priests. In several cases, priests or deacons are assisting, or have assisted, parish priests who are physically limited in what they are able to do. Several retired or unattached priests are available to substitute for priests who need to be away from their parish's altar for a Sunday or a weekend. We continue to pray that vocations are answered. We implore the faithful of our parishes to encourage young men to serve in the altar and to consider eventually serving the Church as members or the clergy.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy this year, the Vespers for the day was served here at Saints Peter and Paul Church in South River. The main celebrant was the Right Reverend Irinej, Bishop of Eastern America, The Serbian Orthodox Church. The homilist was the Right Reverend Thomas, an auxiliary bishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church of North America. Our Archbishop Michael also participated in the service. A large number of faithful and clergy attended the service and the dinner that followed.

In September, Archbishop Michael hosted a Clergy Picnic for the deanery clergy and their families at the Dean's home in Point Pleasant Beach. These gatherings provide priests and their families opportunities to relax and strengthen relationships among fellow clergy and families. It was a wonderful day.

Two Parish Council Conferences were held in the deanery this year. Jan Van Duyn, our Diocesan Treasurer, presented at the conferences held at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus and Holy Trinity Church in Randolph. The topic was "Money and Salvation". Feedback from participants was very favorable.

A Church School Workshop was held at Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne this past month. The topic was "Catechesis – Learning the Faith at All Ages".

In pastoral changes, Father Joseph Lickwar was granted retirement and was released from his responsibility as Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City. Father Solomon Longo was assigned as Acting Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City. Father Samuel Davis was granted a release from his responsibilities as Mission Priest at St. Simon of Cyrene Mission in New Brunswick. At his request, he was also released from the omophorion of Archbishop Michael effective October 2, 2023. Deacon Bohdan Chaikivskyi was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and serves as a supply priest while he finishes his studies at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman) continues to experience physical challenges this year; the Church of the Holy Transfiguration is receiving assistance in conducting the Divine Services from various deanery clergy. Father Daniel Skvir continues to be assisted by Father Alexander Smida in the pastoral duties at Holy Transfiguration Chapel in Princeton.

In September, the diocese honored the Mitred Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Shirley Lickwar with a service of thanksgiving and a dinner to commemorate their retirement, their 60 years of marriage, and Father Joseph's 60 years of priestly service to the Church. May God grant them Many Years!

Two deanery parishes, the Church of the Holy Cross in Medford (50 years), and the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Church in Princeton (25 years), celebrated significant anniversaries this year.

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