

2024 Annual Report for Saint John the Soldier Orthodox Mission Station, FT Drum/Watertown, NY.

Wow, what a year it has been since we last wrote to the Diocese. This time last year, we had just taken over our Worship space and began converting it from a Western liturgical worship space to an Eastern liturgical chapel.

Before



Since then, we have removed the platform; in preparation for an iconostasis, we had to extend the altar area to bring one of only two windows into the altar. We are still working on getting excess furniture out of the building so we can strip and paint the floors and redo the walls. Once that is done, we will hang additional iconography that we have or have been pledged to us.

After



It's important to note that the changes to the building were not the only significant events of the past year. Sub-deacon Stephen successfully graduated from St. Tikhon's. We were fortunate to experience a mild winter, allowing us to hold Vespers every Saturday. Since May, we have been conducting Hours and Typica on Sunday mornings. Additionally, some of our members have been visiting parishes in SS. Peter and Paul, Syracuse, St Olympia in Norwood, and St. Gregory of Nyssa in Kingston, ON (they are all about 1 to 1 hour and 20 minutes away).

The year came together on 27 September, when Fr Gregory of St Olympia celebrated the first Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Soldier. We are thankful for all the prayers and support of the Diocese from Buffalo to Long Island, the shores of the St Lawrence River and Lake Champlain to the beaches of New Jersey, and all points in between.

