

NEW JERSEY DEANERY
THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Report to the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Thursday, October 31, 2024

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.

The deanery clergy meet periodically throughout the year.

One Parish Council Conference was held in the deanery this year. Jan Van Duyn, our Diocesan Treasurer, and her husband Mitch, presented at the conference held at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner. Mitch filled in for Trudy Ellmore, Diocesan Secretary, who was originally scheduled to co-present with Jan. She was unable to do so due to a physical issue although much of the content of the conference was provided by Trudy.

The customary Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, typically served in one of our deanery parishes, was not held in 2024 due to the conflict with the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most-holy Theotokos. The custom will resume in 2025.

The deanery mourns the recent repose of the Very Reverend Joseph Chupeck, who served in the deanery prior to his retirement from service as a parish priest. May his memory be eternal!

There were no significant pastoral changes made in the deanery since the last Diocesan Assembly.

In August, Archbishop Michael hosted a Clergy Picnic for the deanery clergy and their families at the rectory of Annunciation Church in Brick. These gatherings provide priests and their families opportunities to relax and strengthen relationships among fellow clergy and families. It was a wonderful day.

Also in August, a successful Diocesan Youth Day was held at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus.

Four deanery parishes, St. John the Baptist Church in Spring Valley (110 years), Holy Trinity Church in Randolph (60 years), St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappingers Falls (60 years), and Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne (60 years) celebrated significant anniversaries in 2024.

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