

## Central/North Florida Deanery Report--2018 Diocesan Assembly

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The Central/North Florida Deanery covers the northern geographical half of the great state of Florida and consists of six parishes, and four missions. Overall things are well. Our greatest need is a priest for our oldest parish, St. Simeon, in Titusville, FL.

### **Annunciation Russian Mission, Jacksonville, FL (2012)**

Hieromonk Arkady (Migunov) *Priest-in-Charge*

This past year Annunciation purchased a five-acre parcel two exits south of Jacksonville, adjacent World Golf Village in St. John's County. Presently they are going through the arduous task of engineering their site and building design to meet stringent county requirements for Church construction. Overall income and attendance is stable and strong. They have a Russian school where children are learning to read and write in Russian. In addition to his work in Jacksonville, working with Fr Dan Hickman, Fr Arkady nurtured the planting of the Russian Mission in Orlando.

### **St. Alexis Mission, Palm Coast, FL (1995)**

*Served by area Clergy*

For many years, the Mitred Archpriest Nicholas Harris served St. Alexis Mission. Last year many know Fr Nicholas has serious health issues that prevented him to celebrate liturgy and a "retired" Antiochian priest Fr Phillip Drennan had been helping out. Starting the end of last summer Fr Phillip, with the blessing of his bishop has taken over the reigns in the parish and is seeking a release to the OCA so as to officially serve as the priest-in-charge of St. Alexis. Having visited the parish a few times this past year, it is simply a loving sweet community of Orthodox Christians from many backgrounds and some converts who simply love God and seek to do good.

### **St Andrew the First Called, New Port Richey, FL (1976)**

Priest Patrick Smith, *Rector*

St. Andrew's has growing pains. All their challenges are because of their healthy growth. Presently they are remodeling their facilities and expanding the nave to accommodate their increased numbers more efficiently. Despite their hardships the parish continues to grow. As often is the case, numerical growth has outpaced and steps are being taken to better educate the parish on the necessity of their financial participation in the ongoing life of the Church. St. Andrew's is a textbook example of a revitalized community.

### **St. Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL (1994)**

Archpriest Theodore Pisarchuk, *Rector*

St. Justin Martyr (SJM) has been in great need for an associate priest and a youth director for some time and this past year our fervent prayers were answered. Dn Jacob Hatch (SVS 2006) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and Daniel Kindell, and experienced youth director became our fulltime youth director. Last summer SJM launched a parish smartphone app that has been well received. SJM will begin live streaming services this fall. Presently they are in

beta mode troubleshooting audio issues. The goal of live streaming is to meet the needs of shut-ins, the sick, reach out to the unchurched and inquirers.

The parish council is now beginning to address issues of space and seating in the nave and will be looking into solutions including expanding the nave. The church was designed with expansion in mind. Fr Ted is on sabbatical this summer.

### **St Mark, Bradenton, FL (1979)**

Priest John Chudick, *Rector*

St. Mark had a good year of numerical growth and financial stewardship. In December Archbishop Alexander made his first Archpastoral visit to St. Mark's. The Church School Program is growing and they are adding more teachers in the fall. St. Mark's is busy with community service to the less fortunate: the homeless, Meals on Wheels, and Hospice. They also have a parish project of preparing "Hygiene Packs" for victims of the ever growing numbers of hurricanes in Florida. Fr Stephen Plumlee who is retired/attached leads the Parish Lay Ministry Program.

### **St Philip the Apostle Mission, Tampa FL (2005)**

Priest Joseph Ciarciaglino *Priest-in-Charge*

The parish continues to grow with a regular flow of catechumens and inquirers. Half of the school age children will be attending St. Christopher camp on "scholarships" raised by the parishioners. The parish has an ongoing food drive for those in need and collects baby goods for moms who have decided not to have an abortion. A continuing touchstone of this community is the ongoing work of Akonyibedo Health Center in Northern Uganda (<http://www.ugandaclinic.org/>). They support Akonyibedo Health Center directly through parishioner donations and through solicitation of outside sources and Fr Joseph travels there as needed.

### **St. Raphael Orthodox Church, Inverness, FL (2002)**

Igumen Sergious (Gerken), *Rector*

St. Raphael Church continues to grow adding 10 families this past year. They had a great year financially with a \$127k positive cash flow. Presently they are negotiating to purchase a house and land across for the church to use for both a rectory and fill the need for overflow parking. St. Raphael keeps a very full schedule of services. St. Raphael has an outreach to The Villages celebrating vespers twice per month. About one-half the parish commutes 30 or so minutes Sunday mornings from The Villages and a long-term goal is to plant a church in The Villages. The parish consists of mostly retired folks but Fr Sergious will not let them retire from the work of the Gospel. They have a monthly charity collection.

### **St. Simeon Church, Titusville, FL (1966)**

*Vacant*

Following Pascha this year Fr Krist announced his retirement. At present he continues to remain in the Titusville and receives a small stipend but plans to eventually move from the area. In the past year Fr Kyrill Williams began commuting from Tampa to Titusville with the Diocese covering expenses to bridge the gap until a new priest is found for which we are

extremely thankful. With exception of just a few, most members are retired. We really, really need a priest for St. Simeons!

### **St Stephen Orthodox Church, Orlando, FL. (1969)**

Priest Daniel Hickman, *Rector*

As far as attendance finances St. Stephen's has had its best year in more than a decade. In May with the arrival of Fr Andrey Syrkin, St. Stephen's hived off the Orlando Russian Mission. Following the proven model of Annunciation Russian Mission, the Orlando Russian Mission meets the second and fourth Sunday of the month for Liturgy at 1130a following the English liturgy. *(For more info see Orlando Russian Mission report below.)*

In addition, St. Stephen's is preparing to hive off its second mission in south Orlando. They are presently segregating their money and saving it and looking for a facility. Once a location is found the plan is for Fr Dan and Fr Andrey to rotate serving Obednitsa on Sunday evenings until a priest is found.

St. Stephen's is doing so well because of their focus on missions. Fr Dan runs St. Christopher camp.

### **Orlando Russian Mission (2018)**

Priest Andrey Syrkin *(Attached to St. Stephen's)*

Beginning in 2008 Fr. Arkady Migunov began serving the Russian community at St. Stephen's once per month on Saturday morning for Divine Liturgy. Liturgy is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday on the month, Akathist every Wednesday evening and Matins every Saturday evening following Great Vespers. All services are in Slavonic. Fr Andrey is very approachable and personable and has been well received both by St. Stephen's and the Russian community.