

## ***South Florida Deanery Report***

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

### *Ss. Peter & Paul Church (Miami)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 1 Marriage.
- ❖ Completed a major charity drive, collecting about 2,000 pairs of shoes for Haiti.
- ❖ Completed two fundraisers: Parking cars on 8<sup>th</sup> Street; Renting the parish parking lot to TeleMundo TV.

### *Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (Miami Lakes)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 5 Marriages; 4 Child Baptisms; 1 Adult Baptism; 6 Adult Chrismations; 2 Funerals.
- ❖ Average Sunday attendance: 85 – 110
- ❖ This past year, the Cathedral has continued to grow, both in terms of converts to the faith, and in new arrivals to the area or people who had previously fallen away. The pledged member list has for the first time in years entered triple digits (113 adults).
- ❖ There are presently 7 Catechumens (2 have completed the classes and are moving towards being received into the Church soon).
- ❖ The Annual Autumn Lecture series featured Ancient Faith author and podcaster Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick. Attendance was approximately 80 persons.
- ❖ The Sisterhood spearheaded two ongoing charitable activities. The first is a collection of clothing and other items for the Pro-Vita Orthodox Orphanage in Valea Ploputui, Romania. The orphanage offers a home to children who the mothers were planning to abort. A priest and his family run the orphanage. The Cathedral is sending approximately 250 pounds of collected items by cargo ship every quarter. The second charitable function is the “Adopt-A-Seminarian” plan. The parish is currently taking a monthly collection for one seminarian family in need at St Tikhon’s Seminary. The current family is that of Dn. Mikel Hill. Average monthly collection is \$400.
- ❖ Classes continued to be offered weekly throughout the year: Saturday evening “Adult Study” and bi-weekly book study with Fr. Philip; Bible Study with Fr. Joseph on Wednesday night and Thursday morning; and catechism and marital preparation classes.
- ❖ Tithing continues to support the Cathedral, and occasional income is received from hall rentals. Beginning last year, the Cathedral ceased renting the hall to non-Orthodox persons who intend to use the facility for any event linked to a sacramental or religious purpose, maintaining consistency in its practices.
- ❖ The Sisterhood has begun organizing social events to enable parishioners to spend time together outside of normal ecclesial functions. The first event, held the Friday after Pentecost, was the “Wild, Wild West Party,” with a Country-Western theme.

- ❖ The Orthodox Book Center, which is now the largest Orthodox store in the Southeast, held its “Grand Opening” in October, after finishing its set-up and product ordering.
- ❖ After many years of dedicated service, Gary Popovich retired from the board position of Senior Steward. He received a Grammaton for his contributions to the Cathedral. He will remain on the board. Chris Herbert was chosen to be the new Senior Steward.

*St Nicholas Church (Fort Lauderdale)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 3 Marriages; 28 Baptisms; 3 Adult Chrismations; 4 Funerals.
- ❖ Average Sunday attendance: 60 persons.
- ❖ The parish continues its building and beautification project.

*St Herman Church (Lake Worth)*

- ❖ This past year, Fr Michael formally retired, and Fr Nicholas Bargoot began serving in his place at the parish. Fr Nicholas was formally installed as the new rector on June 27.
- ❖ The parish metrical books are missing. There has been 1 wedding and 1 funeral since Fr Nicholas arrived.
- ❖ Monthly Russian food festivals continue to be successful.
- ❖ Church School for the children and Russian School are currently being organized.

*St Peter the Apostle Mission (Jupiter)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 1 Baptisms; 1 Funeral (miscarriage).
- ❖ Seekers/Catechumens: One family that is in active “seeker” status and is attending catechism weekly; another family has shown interest, but has difficulty attending (work and financial difficulties).
- ❖ A property search continues as the mission is currently y looking at two properties: a storefront rental that is on Indiantown Road (the main thoroughfare) in Jupiter and another storefront/office for sale on A1A in Jupiter (another main thoroughfare). Both just came up so they are only in the preliminary stages of discovery.
- ❖ Average Attendance: 40 members (and some snowbirds) with attendance around 25 or so during the Summer and up to 35 during the season.
- ❖ Services/Activities: In addition to regular Sunday Liturgy, Great Vespers is served in the home of a parishioner about once or twice a month, with attendance between 4-6 people (about 10% of the parish). A weekly book study has about the same attendance (same people actually) as well as a “movie night” once a month. There are usually two or three parish picnics during the year, either at the home of a parishioner, at the school, or in a local park when possible. There is an effort (in its nascent stage) of creating a core choir to lead congregational singing.

*St James Church (Port Saint Lucie)*

- ❖ No report submitted.

*St Demetrius Church (Naples)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 3 Baptisms; 2 Chrismations; 1 Marriage.
- ❖ Attendance during the year was slightly above average (70) for the winter months and slightly below average (35) for the summer months.
- ❖ The annual food festival/raffle was disappointing as there were at least three other festivals in Naples on the same weekend. The raffle portion was fine but the food festival netted only around \$2,500.
- ❖ There were funerals for three of our long time members and benefactors which impacted the parish financially upon their deaths. None of the families of those reposed made a significant gift to the parish.
- ❖ The Sisterhood continues to work with St. Matthews House, a homeless facility in Naples, by volunteering and providing food stuffs for their pantry.
- ❖ Pascha of 2015 had the largest attendance to date, with over 120 persons.
- ❖ There has been continued interaction with the other Orthodox jurisdictions which are represented in Naples.

*Holy Cross Church (Fort Myers)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 1 Marriage; 1 Baptism.
- ❖ A newly couple from the Naples area joined the parish
- ❖ Average attendance at present is at least 20 persons.

*Holy Spirit Church (Venice)*

- ❖ Sacraments: 1 Baptism; 1 Adult Chrismation.
- ❖ Four new members were added who were already Orthodox.
- ❖ Continued with a Sunday Church School program with 8 children.
- ❖ The Adult Christian Education programs and have active participation (12-16).
- ❖ Celebrated the Parish Anniversary (35 years) in February, with Archimandrite Gerasim, who served and preached and make kind remarks at the banquet. Gave out four distinguished service awards. Published a memorial book and had a good number of guests, especially thanking the priests who faithfully served the parish during the times of difficulty.
- ❖ Continued to improve the church edifice with the gradual re-building of the iconostasis, gradually adding Festal icons, replacing the floor in the sanctuary and solea with marble, and putting granite countertops in the kitchen.

- ❖ Hosted a very successful Lenten Retreat with Fr. Dn. Mark Barna on an Orthodox perspective on death, dying and burial. He did an excellent job. The parish is negotiating with a local funeral home and cemetery and hope to soon have an Orthodox cemetery.
- ❖ Fundraisers have been very successful, but the budget relies on them too much (about 1/3 of the operating budget). Tithing needs to increase and a pledge system instituted.
- ❖ Average attendance in the Winter months (January-April) is 110. In the Summer months the average is 50-60. It slowly builds in September-December.
- ❖ The spiritual health is getting better. There were too many years without a pastor prior to when there was no consistent pastoral leadership. Many parishioners do not practice the fullness of the Sacramental and Liturgical Life of the Church, but there has been some improvement.
- ❖ Parish growth is gradual and steady, so there is hope for the future. The Lord continues to bring new people. The parish webpage is the main source for visitors.