

## South-Central Deanery Report

### All Saints Mission

#### Victoria, TX

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Dimitri Cozby, Priest in Charge*  
allsaintsvictoria.org

The major event this year for the Mission was the pastoral visit by His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, on the weekend of January 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>. During the Liturgy on Sunday, His Eminence tonsured one man a sub-deacon and another a reader for the parish. He also presented a certificate of recognition to a family, which has been very important in the founding and continuing life of our parish, and especially in the building of our temple.

During the past year we have celebrated three infant baptisms, and one adult was received by Holy Chrism. We have one family (two adults) currently receiving instruction in preparation for chrismation.

### All Saints of North America Orthodox Church

#### Albuquerque, New Mexico

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Fr Nikolay Miletkov, Rector*

By God's grace in November of 2017 we paid off our loan to the Diocese of the South! The payments that we previously made towards the loan payment now accumulate in our building fund.

All Saints of North America Parish currently has 76 pledging members. Average Sunday attendance is around 80. Since last summer we received seven people into the Orthodox Church.

Our weekly schedule consists of: Silent recitation of the Jesus Prayer on Tuesday mornings followed by Continuing Education/Book Study; Wednesday Vespers followed by Catechumen class; Thursday morning Divine Liturgy; Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Liturgy.

Central to our parish life are our Sunday School, Youth Group, Men's & Women's Groups and Slavonic Liturgy.

Fr Nikolay remains involved with the OCF at the University of New Mexico and also participates regularly in the monthly New Mexico Orthodox Clergy Fellowship Meetings.

The Sisterhood of St. Anna continues to organize fundraising events and facilitate charitable giving for local, national, and international causes.

We also continue to host the quarterly public star gazing events of the Albuquerque Astronomical Society. Giving back to the local community has improved our visibility and further enriched our parish life.

In 2017 the Russian Department of the University of New Mexico invited Fr Nikolay to lead one session of their new course *Saints and Sinners*. The class looks at the important role the Orthodox Church plays in Russian history, culture, and literature. Fr Nikolay has been asked to come again and teach that class session in the Fall Semester of this year. We are encouraged by this relationship between our parish and the Russian department at UNM: it is a wonderful outreach opportunity.

In January of this year our parish began to serve a meal on a monthly basis at a local homeless shelter. This new ministry has been a great blessing for us!

In December of 2017 Fr Marko Bojovic from the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Western America brought as a gift to our parish a hand-painted icon with a relic of St Sebastian of Jackson. He also gave a public lecture about the life and work of this newly canonized North American Saint.

Our parish was blessed this year to host the Pan-Orthodox Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Reader Silouan Parchert continues his work on the Diaconal Vocations Program.

### **Archangel Gabriel Mission**

#### **Azle, Texas**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Basil Zebrun, Priest-in-Charge*  
archangelgabriel.church

Azle, TX is located about 45 minutes west of Ft. Worth. The mission effort has grass roots origins. Five families of St. Barbara's live within ten minutes of the Mission's present location, while two other family units are about 30 minutes away in Springtown and Weatherford, respectively. Both towns are also located west of Ft. Worth. We have been meeting regularly once a week on Tuesday evenings since September 2016. Attendance at Tuesday night Vespers followed by a meal averages between 20 and 25 persons, with more in attendance for monthly Liturgy and special occasions. For the visit in September of His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, we saw approximately 55 people in attendance.

Initially the group met weekly in homes. In early 2017 members worked for weeks to renovate an 1800 square foot storefront rental into chapel, hall, bathroom, office and kitchen space. In some cases, members absorbed the cost of renovation. Priest Thaddeus Werner, then an Air Force

Chaplain in San Antonio, donated a beautiful portable Iconostasis. The Iconostasis was expanded this past year through donations and work accomplished by mission members. St. Barbara's currently pays the Mission's monthly rent, as well as utilities and insurance. Additionally, members and friends of the Mission have donated icons and chairs, as well as custom-made icon stands and altar table.

The Mission has a website and media team that helps greatly with advertising. The mission is building up its cash reserves, using funds for additional material needs, anticipating the day when a priest will be sent to the Azle/Weatherford/Springtown area.

There are currently 25 people (*adults, teens and children*) that belong to the Mission, with additional members from St. Barbara's who help out on occasion with singing. Reader Stephen Bodnarchuk from St. Barbara's helps direct the choir, coordinating both music and choir rehearsals. At times there are as many as 7 or 8 people in the choir. Several principle members of Archangel Gabriel are part of the founding group of St. Barbara's. They bring their love for, and years of experience in the Church, to the new Mission effort. In addition, we have other very dedicated and talented people as part of the community who help to keep everything going on a monthly basis.

### **Holy Apostles Orthodox Church**

**Bixby, OK**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Priest Ambrose Arrington, Rector*  
[holyapostlesorthodox.org](http://holyapostlesorthodox.org)

In 2017 we celebrated 4 baptisms and one wedding. No funerals, glory to God. We currently have 8 serious inquirers, of whom 3 are catechumens. Average Sunday attendance last year was 87, and we have approximately 50 enrolled in our Church School. We established a Society dedicated to St. John the Merciful for visiting the home bound, and are working to establish a Myrrh-bearers Society to provide care for the departed. Services are offered in the church 6 days a week (Liturgy on Sundays and Thursdays), classes for inquirers are offered every week, education for children and adults takes place on Sunday after Liturgy. Holy Week and Pascha services were very well attended this year.

### **Monastery of the Archangel Michael**

**Canones, NM**

*2018 Monastery Report submitted by Abbot Silouan*

We repent, we serve the Divine Liturgy, and we try to find calm and inner stillness.

We support ourselves by making candles.

We publish the newsletter DOXA four times a year.

Pilgrims come for on retreat and stay in our guesthouse.

There are six monastics in our community, six, because we are short of perfection.

In September 2017 Abbot Silouan and one of the monks went on pilgrimage to Romania and to Mount Athos.

### **Holy Nativity Monastery**

#### **Kemp, TX**

*2018 Monastery Report submitted by Abbess Barbara*

Jan 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

[nativitymonastery.com](http://nativitymonastery.com)

Nativity Monastery enjoys a robust and positive relationship with the Pan-Orthodox community in North Texas and beyond. As Orthodox Christians have become more familiar with the monastery in Kemp through themed retreats, burials and memorial services, celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays and major feast days, and, as its facilities have improved, the monastic community has attracted more visitors of all ages. In its nine years in Kemp, the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Monastery is emerging as an important resource in augmenting the spiritual and temporal experience of Orthodoxy beyond the parish. In the last few years young people have begun to come more frequently to experience the monastic life and the liturgical life of the Church in a small, quiet, rural setting for a deeper experience of their faith and to meet Orthodox youth from other parishes. Not a few come in contact with Orthodoxy for the very first time in the burial of a loved one in the St. Xenia Cemetery on the Monastery property.

The monastic community has been most fortunate in the dedication of priests who have contributed to the liturgical life of the monastery. Archpriest John Anderson (SSOC), as the chaplain of the Monastery, serves the Divine Liturgy on Saturday mornings. Father David Bozeman (St. Nectarios Mission) frequently serves the Divine Liturgy on feasts that occur on weekdays. Father David also serves the Pre-sanctified once a week throughout the Great Fast. Father David offers informal sessions on a variety of spiritual topics for the nuns. Father Gerasim (SSOC) assists the nuns in

their monastic life and advises the community on administrative matters in addition to serving the Divine Liturgy. Priests from other jurisdictions, especially when bringing a group to the monastery, conduct memorial services, Vespers, Akathists, and other prayer services, as well as the Divine Liturgy. Most notable are Archpriest Michael Storozuk (St Paul), Archpriest Seraphim Holland (ROCOR), Archpriest Vasile Tudora (GOA), and Priest Philip LeMasters (AOC). It is rare that a week passes without the celebration of the Divine Liturgy to augment the daily cycle of prayer.

On September 16, 2017, Archbishop Alexander elevated Nun Barbara as Abbess of the monastery. Reader John Kohl, frequently assisting Fr John Anderson at the Divine Liturgy, was elevated as Sub-deacon.

A beautiful icon of the Holy Cross, eight feet tall and visible from the road, now welcomes visitors, announcing that this is a place set aside for Christ's work of salvation. Archpriest Theodore Jurewicz (Erie, PA) donated a large icon of the Panagia that hangs in the retreat center. Father Vasile Tudora from the St John the Baptist Church in Eulesse donated ten other hand-painted matching icons (3'x5'). Two more icons from the same group have been installed in the sanctuary of the Monastery's chapel.

Concrete walkways now link the residence with the retreat center. A new concrete path around the residence facilitates processions. Last year dead trees were removed and live oaks, hollies and crepe myrtles were planted. An irrigation system insures that these additions will survive drought and summer heat. New fencing now surrounds the entire property.

Permanent grave markers have been designed. Families have begun to install these on the graves of their loved ones. Each year the number of burials at St. Xenia cemetery has increased. The Monastery has also invested in burial equipment for lowering coffins.

Peach trees, planted behind the house, are now yielding fruit. Produce from two key-hole gardens supply the kitchen with fresh vegetables in season. This spring additional space has been dedicated to grow other vegetables and herbs.

The nuns strive to support themselves as much as possible by their own work. While contributions in gratitude for hospitality and prayers provide some income, it is the growth and stability of candle production that provides a source of steady income for the monastery. A consistent clientele of Orthodox parishes from several jurisdictions order beeswax candles and soy votive candles each month. The candle making operation is also of great interest to the younger orthodox visitors.

In June 2018 the Monastery received a group of young women for a retreat to introduce them to the monastic life. Archimandrite Gerasim, Father

David Bozeman, Father Vasily Tudora, Presvytera Mirela Tudora, Preoteasa Titiana Popa, and Mrs. Lydia Paraskevas instructed the participants in various aspects of Orthodox life, history and culture. A similar group of young women will return during the first two weeks of June 2018.

On September 30, 2017 Priest Sean Levine spoke on “Marriage, Asceticism and the Journey to Holiness.” On November 11 the Monastery directed a retreat for College students and young adults with father David Bozeman speaking “On Delusion.” On the patronal feast observed on the Saturday after Nativity, Hiero-deacon Theodore Niklasson gave an address: “Understanding Shame and Guilt and their Influence upon Addictive Behavior.” The St. Basil’s Children’s Choir from Holy Nativity Mission in Shreveport, LA sang at the Divine Liturgy. On March 24, 2018 Presbytera Jennifer Levine led a visited a women’s retreat, entitled: “Finding Balance in our Lives.” On April 20<sup>th</sup> another large children’s camp assembled, presided over once again by Father Vasile and Presbytera Mirela. The Children’s Choir from Shreveport sang at the Liturgy. Sub-deacon Michael Rehmet talked about his journey to the Orthodox Church. Each year Priest Philip LeMasters brings a group of college students from McMurray University in Abilene, TX to visit. Finally, on April 23 the Kursk Icon of the Theotokos visited the Monastery. Father Seraphim Holland (ROCOR) walked through the entire property with the icon.

**St Anthony Orthodox Church**  
**San Antonio, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Leo Poore, Rector*  
orthodoxsanantonio.org

At the beginning of this year His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, visited our parish for Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the feast of Theophany.

In February, our parish approved the funding of the three major projects of the church property, which is considered a Historical Site of the city of San Antonio. These projects include the repairing or replacement of the windows in the nave, the repairing of the roof, and the much-needed leveling and paving of the church's small lot across the street, which is used for parking.

At the neighboring Lackland Air Force Base, Priest Timothy Yates has replaced Fr. Thaddeus Werner. We enjoy the time that Fr. Timothy and his family are able to spend with our parish.

In the last year three people were baptized, three were received through Chrismation, and two marriages were celebrated.

### **St Barbara Orthodox Church**

**Ft. Worth, Texas**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by* Archpriest Basil Zebrun, *Rector*  
saintbarbarafw.org

2017 and the first part of 2018 has been a busy period for St. Barbara Orthodox Church. In addition to our regular schedule of weekly services and inquirer/catechumen classes, as well as monthly Church School classes, we continue Tuesday night Vespers, as well as to serve the Divine Liturgy once a month in Azle, TX. Archbishop Alexander blessed this Mission with the name of the Holy Archangel Gabriel in July. While Fr. Basil Zebrun celebrates most services in Azle, Priest Chrysostom Arthur from St. Seraphim Cathedral has occasionally served Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. (*See more in separate report above*).

St. Barbara's is delighted to help sponsor Mr. Antwian (*Anthony*) Davis as a student at St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary in New York. Antwian will begin his third year in September. He is the main sacristan for the Seminary, travels on occasion with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and works with other students to help introduce Orthodoxy to inner-city New York families. Antwian is now the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Barbara parishioner that has studied at Seminary: three have become priests, while one is a lay seminary professor. We look forward in the next two years to sending another young couple to Seminary.

The first phase of the St. Barbara Building Program has concluded with a design and site plan approved by the parish and blessed by His Eminence Archbishop Alexander. Both are the result of numerous architect interviews in 2016, and meetings in 2017 between Council and Building Committee members, and Mr. Michael Hoffer (Church architect). A total of 18 people from the parish took part in the design process, prior to the Special Parish Meeting in April 2018. Furthermore, several personal discussions took place between Mr. Hoffer and Fr. Basil, with additional exploratory trips taken to St. Seraphim Cathedral and St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church in Ft. Worth. Valuable input was also provided by a number of priests and laymen at various North Texas and Diocesan churches.

St. Barbara's hosted this year (*2018*) its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Pysanky Festival, which remains a beautiful and unique outreach effort, as well as a source of funds. In conjunction with the Festival, after Pascha, the parish conducted

Pysanky Classes with over 20 people taking part. Most students were non-Orthodox wanting to learn more about this ancient folk art, as well as Paschal customs of Orthodox Christians.

In addition, St. Barbara's continues to host each year a delicious and popular January Chili and Cornbread Competition; a beautiful Candlelight Nativity Eve Holy Supper; a wonderful Parish Picnic at a parishioner's Lake House; a Fall Parish Ministries Fair in the Church Hall with booths manned by Council members; enjoyable Youth and Teen activities coordinated by members of the Church; as well as informative Book Studies conducted by a future seminarian. In August, Dr. Vitaly Permiakov, a former parishioner and professor at Holy Trinity Seminary, offered an evening Pan-Orthodox presentation entitled, "*Does the Layperson Need to Know Theology?*" which was very well received by those in attendance.

During 2017 we had 12 receptions into the Church: infants, children and adults. Average Church attendance is 100 people per Sunday Liturgy. This past Pascha (2018) we saw a Paschal attendance of 171.

**St Basil the Great Mission**  
**Weatherford, OK**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Priest Nicklas Aiello, Priest-in-charge*  
[www.saintbasil.org](http://www.saintbasil.org)

This has been a very challenging year for St. Basil Mission—with significant losses and gains. We lost our parish council president and spouse who retired and moved back to their home in Michigan. Just before Great Lent we also said good-bye to the Schommer family. Leo Schommer was also our Reader and Treasurer. Another couple decided to “take a break” from Church (also before Lent). Six people doesn't seem like much, but the mission, after struggling for six years, had finally been up to a regular Sunday attendance of 16 to 18 people—and it wasn't unusual to have well over 20. A new couple attended for a while, but we have seen them only a few times since. It is again not unusual to be back down to 10 people on a Sunday liturgy.

On the positive side, we received into the Church and added to our membership our catechumen Eugene (Tikhon) Theiszen, an active Mennonite Pastor that I've been working with since 2009! We also received as a catechumen a young student at our local university.

The people we have lost have nothing other than gratitude and love for the mission and their time with us. Likewise, I have had the opportunity to be more involved in the local ministerial alliance (all Anabaptist

Protestants), and have established closer ties with the other priests in OKC—which works to solidify our place here.

In anticipation of visitors we have continued to beautify our space. Since completing our royal doors especially, our nave is arguably the most beautiful worship space in Western Oklahoma ... and we're not done. We have served since our founding in 2012 Divine Liturgy twice weekly and vigils—with matins and vespers the days in-between—six days a week. Between the beauty of the worship and the beauty of the little temple, God willing, in time we will wear them down.

**St. Cyril Orthodox Mission**  
**The Woodlands, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Priest Benedict Crawford, Priest-in-Charge*  
stcyril.us

St. Cyril Orthodox Mission was founded in November 2004, and celebrated its first Divine Liturgy in August 2005. The current priest was assigned in August 2016.

At present our total membership includes 39 adults and 23 children, one catechumen, and two inquirers. Our average Sunday attendance this year has been about 56. In addition to the usual weekend schedule, we have a Tuesday evening class on the faith, plus weekday Vespers and Divine Liturgy for feasts. In the past year we received one person through Holy Baptism, eight persons through Chrismation, and have served two funerals.

The past year has once again been a time of transition for our mission. In November the building we had been renting for the past eight years was sold, forcing us to find a new meeting place. A member of our parish had been building a large chapel in his back yard, in Humble, Texas, about 25 miles south of the Woodlands. He has made this building available for our use. We have been meeting there since late November. The building is more than large enough for our current size, and while still incomplete, it has given us a beautiful place to celebrate the services for the time being. The members of St. Cyril's remain committed to establishing a location in the Woodlands/Conroe area, and are actively looking for an appropriate property to rent or buy. At the same time, we have seen significant interest from the Humble area, and there is the hope that perhaps, in God's time, the diocese may be able to open a new mission in this building.

We were especially blessed this past Lent to have Mother Gabriella from Holy Dormition Monastery in Michigan to come visit us and offer a

retreat, which was well attended by our own parishioners and others from the surrounding area.

**Sts Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church**  
**Hartshorne, OK**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archimandrite Gerasim*

Archpriest John Anderson has served the Divine Liturgy on three Sundays in Hartshorne during 2018. We also celebrated the Patronal Feast on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> with about thirty people in attendance. An instructor at Eastern Oklahoma University has brought his students on several occasions to church. In addition, we have had visits from local Roman Catholic clergy that are taking notice of renewed activity at Sts Cyril and Methodius. There are only a handful of local Orthodox faithful, but they are intent on keeping the parish community alive.

**St George the Great Martyr Church**  
**Pharr, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Antonio Perdomo, Rector*  
[stgeorgetx.org](http://stgeorgetx.org)

In 2017 chrismated two people and baptized one. In the sixteen years that I have served here, there have been close to 90 Baptisms and Chrismations. On Sundays often we have 50—70 in Church. We are in need of more space.

The discussion on security throughout our country concerns us at St George as well. I ask your vigilance over the parish. We have annual fire, health, Food Bank, USDA inspections for the festival; these agencies always seem to require more things from us, specifically in the area of food safety handling. We need more storage space with adequate shelving.

Silouan Burns is attending St. Tikhon's Seminary this year. I visited his family after Metropolitan Council meeting.

We fell short on tithing most months during this past year, however, we made up for it with our Festival and other fundraisers. This past year we paid our full share of the Loan. Since my arrival we have paid off the mortgage for the Church and old hall. We have spent over \$250,000 in building this new hall to completion. We currently owe about \$80,000, but have paid off our loan to the Diocese through savings that we had. We also built a laundry room.

Matushka Elizabeth is the elected Deanery Delegate on the Diocesan Council. I continue to be an at-large delegate for the Metropolitan Council. I am serving my second term.

**St Jonah the Wonderworker**

**Alpine, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archimandrite Gerasim*

<http://www.stjonahalpine.org>

During the latter part of 2017 and 2018 the St John Mission has struggled in the absence of a resident priest. In 2018 Priest Chrysostom Arthur has begun to make periodic trips to Alpine from Dallas. This has included the Great Blessing of Water and the blessing of the houses of parishioners. On Lazarus Saturday he baptized two people and served Divine Liturgy on both Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

At the beginning of July a retired priest will visit Alpine to see if this is a good fit for him and for the parish.

**St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission**

**Denton, Texas**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Justin Frederick, Priest-in-Charge*

[www.stmaximus.org](http://www.stmaximus.org)

This year marks the seventeenth year since the founding of the mission. The past two years, by God's grace, our numbers have burgeoned. In 2016, we broke through 90 for the first time to average 91 souls in attendance at Sunday Liturgy for the year, while an average of 34 attended Vigil. In 2017, we broke 100 for the first time, averaging 109 for the year on Sundays and 40 at Vigil. So far in 2018, we are averaging 130 on Sunday and 54 at Vigil. The parish desperately needs a proper temple in which to gather for worship. We are actively raising money and seeking God's will in whether to purchase a larger piece of property or build on the property we have. Since our last Diocesan Assembly, we have baptized three infants and received another six persons into the Church. We had one funeral, the arrangements for which were all made the parish's Myrrh-bearers' Ministry. Special offerings and our alms budget help support three local charities: one that helps the indigent, one that ministers to unwed mothers, and the prison ministry of a fellow priest. Special offerings are also taken up to support seminarians, missions, the IOCC, and the like. Our choir just presented:

**Come, Receive the Light!**: Music of the Paschal Season” at the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Euless, TX directed by Sub-deacon Anthony Stokes. This concert was a fundraiser for the St. Maximus Church Building Fund. We continue to offer a full schedule of services and classes (we did an in-depth study of Ephesians last year, currently we are studying the works of St. Basil the Great; there are catechesis class both on Sunday and during the week) including most months a first-Saturday-of-the-month Divine Liturgy in Church Slavonic. We offer a regular Thursday Divine Liturgy, which is well attended by mothers and their homeschooled children at which we have been preaching through the Old Testament in homilies directed at the children. Outside of Sunday liturgy and Coffee Hour (which is always a potluck meal), following the example of Archbishop Dmitri, the parish gathers often for picnics (Pascha, Memorial Day, our first annual Oktoberfest in October), for a parish Thanksgiving meal the Sunday before the Nativity Fast, a couple of yearly open houses at the rectory, and an All Saints Party October 31, among others. This has done much over the years to build the sort of community that attracts people to the Church.

**St Nektarios Orthodox Mission**  
**Waxahachie, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Priest David Bozeman, Priest-in-Charge*  
<http://stnektariosdfw.org>

St Nektarios Orthodox Mission is in the middle of its sixth year and approaching the end of the third year of the OCA Planting Grant. We have remained steady in numbers and in financial giving over the last year. Our average Sunday attendance is approximately thirty to thirty-five people. We hold weekly Sunday School classes for our elementary school-aged children. We have maintained a healthy budget and met all our giving goals this year as well as each of the preceding years. We made some efforts on developing our parish life by holding several events including our annual IOCC yard sale fundraiser, which allowed us to open our doors to the community and allowed them to be charitable to Orthodox Christians around the world. We also have given classes for several years to the broader Waxahachie community on Orthodox iconography, which have been well received. I continue my work at Nativity Monastery, celebrating Divine Liturgy monthly as well as offering classes.

We received one catechumen in October through chrismation. We also held one funeral in January. Overall, the last year has been fairly quiet

with modest growth. We look forward to the challenges of leaving the Planting Grant and establishing ourselves more firmly in Waxahachie. St Nektarios Church also spearheaded the Lone Star Banquet Fundraiser for St Vladimir's Seminary in February.

**St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Mission**  
**Denison, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archpriest Michael Storozuk, Priest-in-Charge*

This last year has been a difficult trial for St Paul Mission. Archpriest Michael Storozuk has been weak and there have been periods of time in which he was not able to serve due to lack of strength and problems with medication. One of the big milestones took place in August as Sub-deacon Herman Garrison, his wife Ruth, and their family set out for St Tikhon Seminary.

In September the parish hosted the Dallas Deanery Clergy Retreat at which Archbishop Alexander celebrated the Divine Liturgy and elevated Reader Juvenal as Sub-deacon.

Reader Elijah medical experienced complications with surgery and has not been able to lead the choir this past year. The faithful have stepped forward and are steadily progressing in church singing. One baptism and two funerals took place since last Diocesan Assembly.

**St Sava Orthodox Mission**  
**Allen, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Priest Photius Avant, Priest-in-Charge*  
[www.stsavaoca.org](http://www.stsavaoca.org)

St. Sava Orthodox Church in Allen, TX has been blessed with a fruitful year. Our weekly schedule, in addition to Sunday Divine Liturgy and fellowship, includes Divine Liturgy on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as well as Catechumen Class and Great Vespers on Saturday evening. We have received six new members by Holy Baptism, five new members by Holy Chrismation, and four new members by Confession of Faith. We have had two weddings and two funerals. Our Sunday School program ministers to our children ages two to eight, and our Youth Group ministers to young ones age eight to seventeen. As of January, St. Sava's has instituted Small Group meetings in the homes of the faithful, which meet Sunday through Thursday evenings. The Small Groups serve to strengthen the bond of filial love

among our members as they regularly have fellowship and benefit from spiritual instruction and discussion. We continue making contributions to our local homeless shelter, The Samaritan Inn.

We are overjoyed as we are currently going through construction of our new temple, projected for completion by January 2019. Although the City of Allen unpleasantly surprised us with a change order for \$50,000, by which we had to extend our water line, install another fire hydrant, and create a fire lane, our online fundraiser is steadily receiving gifts toward payment of these items beyond our budget. We are still receiving payments from our 2017 capital campaign, which received \$300,000 in pledges, as well as our Christmas campaign, which received \$50,000 in pledges. Our annual budget, as of our parish meeting in January of 2018, is \$192,000. God has blessed us abundantly, and we seek to share those blessings as we bear witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ in the community at large.

**St Seraphim Cathedral**  
**Dallas, TX**

*2018 Parish Report submitted by Archimandrite Gerasim, Dean*  
[www.stseraphim.org](http://www.stseraphim.org)

St Seraphim Cathedral continues to enjoy steady growth. The highlights of this year were the arrival in June of Deacon Theophan Warren (STS), and the ordination of Deacon Chrysostom Arthur to the Holy Priesthood by Archbishop Alexander in September.

Sub-deacon Vladimir Grygorenko completed the Cathedral iconography program adding murals in the exo-narthex during Great Lent. Participation in the *Eikon Youth Fellowship* at times numbers 12 teens. There are approximately 63 students enrolled in the Sunday school headed by Marina Dugan.

On Tuesday evening Priest Chrysostom Arthur leads an inquirers' class, while on Sunday after Divine Liturgy Archpriest John Anderson teaches a Catechumen Class.

Since July 2017 we have had one adult baptism, seven infant baptisms, and the reception of four converts.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent St Seraphim Cathedral hosted the Pan-Orthodox Vespers with guest-speaker Priest Raphael Barberg of St Elijah Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City.

On April 13–15<sup>th</sup> we hosted the OCF Southern Region Conference.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> the Baylor University Slavic Department students and faculty visited our parish for a tour of the Cathedral, a presentation on the Orthodox Church, and they stayed for Great Vespers.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Soprano Rezeda Raskiewicz accompanied by Elena Tsvetkova on piano performed a Concert of Vocal Music.

This year several young women have had regular choir training and sang with the choir at Liturgy. In addition, this year Larisa Cary began instruction in Slavonic singing and voice instruction.

St Seraphim Cathedral has also participated in *All Saints Summer Camp*, sending ten youth plus volunteers financially supported by Cathedral fundraising.

This summer we plan to send a small team to Project Mexico, also with financial assistance from the cathedral community.

The Cathedral helped support the Lone Star Banquet to support St Vladimir's Seminary on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Cathedral clergy and laity have also regularly attended and participated in North Texas Orthodox Missions events, such as the Youth Ministry, Bookstore, and Adult Education workshops in early 2018.