

# Central Florida Deanery Report

## 2012 Diocesan Assembly

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### **Holy Trinity, Safety Harbor, FL**

The demographics of Holy Trinity have shifted dramatically in favor of young families and converts since the arrival of Fr Kyrill in 2009. During this past Lent they had 12 catechumens. They have added services-Wednesday evening Vespers, Matins Tuesday and Thursday, and the Third and Sixth Hours before Liturgy. Sunday attendance is now 50-60 and they are outgrowing their present facilities. The parish is making a concerted effort to improve outreach. They have improved their website and are active on Facebook and Twitter. They are looking to increase giving and reduce their financial burden to the Diocese.

### **St. Alexis Mission, Palm Coast, FL**

The mission is served on Sunday mornings only by Fr. Nicholas Molodyko-Harris.

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

Like Holy Trinity, nearby St. Andrews has also seen a dramatic demographic shift favoring the youth and converts since the arrival of Fr Patrick in July 2010. Presently they have 8 catechumens and attendance has increased. People who have fallen away returned and the church again operates in the black.

### **St. Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL**

St. Justin Martyr has rebounded from the woes of the recession. Attendance has bounced back and we have a nice group of catechumens and inquirers. Income is up 5%+ and income year to date is significantly ahead of expenses. The parish cemetery continues to grow and we continually reinvest funds to improve it. This year we refinanced our loan at 5.7% saving about \$1000/month in interest and we plan to have it paid off before the note is due. Online giving averages \$2500-\$3000/month. In the next year we plan to begin expanding the fellowship hall. It is anticipated that the Russian Mission at SJM will be hived off September 1<sup>st</sup> and they will begin worshipping every week in Slavonic coincidentally in almost the same location SJM incubated from 1997-2004. The hiving off of the Russian Mission will have a significant impact on SJM, both emotionally and financially. The two groups get along well and enjoy each other. Fr Arkady is an important part of SJM also. Attendance for the Russian Mission averages 45 and they have 70 committed families.

### **St Mark, Bradenton, FL**

This year they celebrated 33 years as a parish community. They received their final certificate of occupancy on the church and successfully negotiated a new mortgage.

Fr John reports that they are extremely grateful to Fr. Gleb McFadder, Milos Konjevic and Bishop Mark (Maymon) for meeting with our parish council to address our financial situation. We not only looked at current practices, but also identified areas for improvement. Our

treasurer has worked tirelessly with Milos and Fr. Gleb to review and update our financial program.

### **St Philip the Apostle, Tampa FL**

Tampa is the third hardest hit of all areas in the U.S. in the economic crisis. This year it has finally visited its effects on our parish. Due to seeking employment out of state this past year we lost four families totaling eight parishioners. However we added several new members, have two catechumens and two inquirers. Last summer we sent one short term missionary to Guatemala and in August will send another to Kodiak. Again for twelve days we witnessed to Christ and to Orthodoxy at the State Fair manning our booth ten hours per day. On January 21-22 we held a 24 hour continuous prayer vigil seeking God's forgiveness for our country for the sin of abortion.

### **Saint Raphael Orthodox Church, Inverness, FL**

This area is home to many retired couples living in extensive planned communities in a suburban setting. The parish also has a mission-outreach with a twice monthly Vespers at a fast-growing suburban community known as, "The Villages". This outreach is bringing lapsed Orthodox Christians back to the Church as well as servicing our more distant and less mobile members. This year, we were especially pleased to host a pre-Lenten retreat given by Fr. Alexander Atty, Dean of St. Tikhon Seminary.

### **St. Simeon Church, Titusville, FL**

Titusville is the city just outside of Cape Canaveral. Demographics have become a significant challenge and raises concerns for the future of St. Simeon's. Fr Krist Nicklaus works a secular job in order to keep St. Simeon's forward and is to be congratulated for his faithfulness.

### **St Stephen Orthodox Church, Orlando, FL.**

Attendance is up nearly 10% since last year and income is up 6%. They have recently added a new Wednesday night program, Vespers followed by a Bible Study. They will be installing a playground for the youth in the summer.