

Central Florida Deanery Report 2015 Diocesan Assembly

The Central Florida Deanery, which covers the northern geographical half of the great state of Florida and consists of seven parishes, two missions and a mission station. Over the past five years there has been a remarkable revitalization in three parishes and one very successful church plant.

Annunciation Russian Mission, Jacksonville, FL (2012)

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

Annunciation is a firmly established church plant. Their biggest challenge is their present facility. Nearly as soon as they moved in they out grew it. They have established a building fund and they are looking for land to build on or a suitable building as a stepping stone. As in many other parts of our Diocese finding suitable well located parish has been a challenge because of zoning and the cost of commercial property. Fr Arkady's regular missionary journeys continue, serving Russian parishioners in the Orlando area at St. Stephen the Protomartyr and Russian parishioners in the Gainesville area at St. Elizabeth G.O. Church. Each location has a monthly Saturday morning Slavonic Liturgy.

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

*Served by area Clergy**

Services are celebrated both in English and Slavonic. Fr Nicholas Harris who is retired serves the community and drives two hours one-way every week to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy.

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

Priest Patrick Smith, *Rector*

Prior to Fr Patrick's arrival in July 2011, St. Andrews was in significant decline and there was talk of the parish closing. Today St Andrews is flourishing. Income is up, attendance is up, median age is down, and the nave is full. Nearly half the people in attendance on a Sunday morning are children. The parish has been busy beautifying and renovating both the temple and fellowship hall, expanding the playground and adding new play equipment. They have outgrown the fellowship hall and have added a covered area outside to use for "overflow" and for additional Sunday school space. In the past year Fr Patrick has added services, bible studies and one more Sunday school class.

St. Andrew's has begun the process of looking for a better located, larger facility or land to build a future temple.

St. Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL (1994)

Archpriest Theodore Pisarchuk, *Rector*

In December 2014 St Justin's purchased the 4 adjoining acres that were north and east of the fellowship hall. They now own almost 600lf on the main thoroughfare and control the adjoining property that could have potentially become a light commercial development. The parish is in the process of clearing and seeding ½ acre portion of this land immediately behind the fellowship hall for a picnic area in an effort to keep children away from the parking lot. This

purchase has changed the long term overall footprint of the site plan. Beginning August 1st the parish will have a much needed Pastoral Assistant on staff.

St Mark, Bradenton, FL (1979)

Priest John Chudick, *Rector*

The parish has begun the process of developing plans for a fellowship hall and education center. The parish presently has about \$750k in debt and is working with Milos, DOS Diocesan Treasurer in studying strategies to reduce their debt and find funding for the fellowship hall and education center. As an outreach to the community they participate in local food festival raising funds for a local charities and children programs.

In addition to being a parish priest, Fr John works fulltime outside the parish and is busy raising his son. He works closely with his parish leadership.

St Philip the Apostle Mission, Tampa FL (2005)

Priest Joseph Ciarciaglino *Priest-in-Charge*

The great recession was greater in Tampa than in most parts of the country and the lingering effects finally are diminishing with new people moving into the area resulting in parish growth.

A work that defines St. Philips is the Akonyibedo Health Center in Northern Uganda (<http://www.ugandaclinic.org/>). Fr Joseph and the faithful established this medical clinic and continue to support it. Fr Joseph will soon be traveling to Uganda again in part to see about drilling a water well for the medical clinic and local people.

Saint Raphael Orthodox Church, Inverness, FL (2002)

Igumen Sergious (Gerken) *Acting Rector*

Over the past year attendance has increased 40%. The parish has outgrown its facilities. The fellowship hall is full and overflowing. While the property is seemingly large enough to accommodate growth, there are many easements that limit potential building expansion. They have formed a committee to investigate any possible future development. This is a vibrant parish of “retired” folks. Fr Sergious’ regular missionary journeys take him both to The Villages and Gainesville twice a month on Tuesdays to celebrate Vespers and conduct a bible study.

St. Simeon Church, Titusville, FL (1966)

Priest Krist Nickolas *Priest-in-Charge*

Demographics continue to be the biggest challenge for St. Simeon with the end of the Shuttle program. Ever year the parish takes a small amount of money from their savings to meet their expenses. With exception of just a few, most members are retired.

Fr Krist is very active in local ministries in addiction counseling. He no longer works secularly and is full time at the parish.

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

Priest Daniel Hickman, *Acting Rector*

Over the past few years Fr Daniel has been introducing healthy stewardship principles into the life of the parish and it is paying off. Income in 2015 is 38% ahead of 2014. Fr Daniel is a

student of church health and has carefully improved and/or introduced programing for seniors, middle and high schoolers. They are active in homeless ministry and supporting the work of Orlando area's Sts Cosmas and Damian House which cares for AIDS patients. They are also working with the South Florida Deanery in re-establishing their deanery summer camp.