

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2017 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean
Secretary: Father Paul Schellbach

Fr David Shewczyk, Assistant Dean
Treasurer: Father George Volkovinsky

Glory to Jesus Christ!

WORSHIP: The parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery have maintained a full cycle of liturgical services during the course of the year. Whereas some parishes do not have a resident pastor, the minimal Resurrectional cycle of Sunday liturgies has continued with the faithful help of retired and nearby clergy. The Wilkes-Barre Deanery is deeply grateful for the support and attentiveness of Archbishop Mark and the help of all clergy pitching in to serve our parishes.

Father John Nightingale, assigned to Saint Basil's parish in Simpson, suffered a serious fall during the season of Great Lent that led to a lengthy hospitalization and recovery. Father John's injuries are such that he will no longer be able to serve liturgically. The Diocese, Clergy of the Deanery, and Faithful of the Diocese have rallied to provide moral and financial support to Father John and his family. Ongoing prayer and support are important to his transition from rehab to home and new season of ministry.

Saint John's Parish in Nanticoke. In June of 2016, V. Rev. Traian Stafiuc was appointed Rector of the Parish by Archbishop Mark.

Saint John's Parish in Dundaff. In October of 2016, Father Denis Swencki stepped down from serving the parish for many years. Father Nicholas J. Solak was assigned as Temporary Administrator of the Parish.

Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Uniondale. Father Innocent Neal was assigned as Acting Rector of the Parish.

Holy Resurrection Parish in Alden Station. Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint Vladimir's Parish in Lopez. Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

Saint Basil's Parish in Simpson. Father John Nightingale was relieved of his duties at the Parish following his accident. Father Nicholas J. Solak was assigned as Temporary Administrator.

Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Trinity** in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Cross** in Williamsport, **Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **Saint Nicholas** in Olyphant, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, and **Holy Annunciation** in Berwick continue to be blessed by the diligent and faithful service and pastorship of their longstanding priests.

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church continues to be a part of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

Clergy and faithful gathered during the season of Great Lent for Lenten Mission Vespers and other Services. These services were held at:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral. Homilist: Father Chad Hatfield
- Saint Gregory Palamas ... All Saint's in Olyphant.
- Sunday of the Cross ... Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre.
- Saint John Climacus Saint John in Dundaff.
- Saint Mary of Egypt Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral. Homilist: Archbishop Mark

The Proposed 2017 Lenten Mission Services are scheduled to be:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.
- Saint Gregory Palamas.... Saint Basil Simpson.
- Sunday of the Cross Saint John the Baptist Edwardsville.
- Saint John Climacus Saint Michael's in Old Forge.
- Saint Mary of Egypt Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.

FELLOWSHIP: Fellowship accompanies most diocesan and deanery services and events.

1. Deanery gathering was held at the Diocesan Center with Father Chad Hatfield on March 21st.
2. Deanery meeting was held May 17th.
3. Deanery picnic was held August 25th.
4. Deanery hosted Sister Vassa Talk on October 17th (Williamsport) and October 18th (Wilkes-Barre).
5. Deanery hosted the Church Mutual Workshop for parish priests and council members on November 05th.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Educational and outreach activities of the parishes in the deanery continues. Many parishes host Fall lectures and Lenten lectures. Some of the parishes in the Wilkes-Barre area join together for vacation bible schools and teen gatherings. Concerts and ethnic festivals were also held.

The Clergy Continuing Education held throughout the year were attended by many, but not all, deanery clergy.

MINISTRY: Parishes of the deanery continue to perform the sacraments of the Church, visit the sick and infirm, feed the hungry and poor, minister to the imprisoned and preach the gospel in their communities.

Of significant concern in the life of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery is the decline in census from many of the parishes. It is anticipated that some parish will be facing closure in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr Nicholas J Solak, Dean