

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2018 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean
Secretary: Vacant

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 in 2016 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. Father John was released from the hospital after nearly a one-year stay. He is adjusting to his regiment of home-care.

Saint John's Parish in Dundaff. Father Nicholas J. Solak began the year as Temporary Administrator of the Parish. Father Jason Franchak was assigned as Pastoral Administrator of the Parish on July 3, 2017.

Saint Basil's Parish in Simpson. Father Nicholas J. Solak began the year as Temporary Administrator of the Parish. Father Jason Franchak was assigned as Rector of the Parish on July 3, 2017.

Holy Resurrection Parish in Alden Station. On May 02nd, 2017 the Parish separated itself from the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, the Orthodox Church in America, and the communion of canonical Orthodox Churches. After sincere concern and archpastoral support to help the parish reverse their course was rejected by parish lay leadership, the Holy Antimens, the reserve Sacrament, Holy Chrism and Unction were removed from the parish.

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

All-Saints Parish in Olyphant. The parish rector, Very Reverend Paul Schellbach, transferred to the Diocese of the South on May 22, 2017. The Reverend Matthew Joyner was assigned to the parish on May 27th 2017. Father Matthew was subsequently reassigned to another parish in the Diocese on November 12th, 2017. The parish is presently vacant.

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

The Proposed 2018 Lenten Mission Services are scheduled to be:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.
- Saint Gregory Palamas.... Archangel Michael, Jermyn.
- Sunday of the Cross Holy Annunciation, Berwick.
- Saint John Climacus Saint John, Nanticoke
- Saint Mary of Egypt Holy Cross, Williamsport.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.

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

1. Deanery meeting was February 07th and November 13th.
2. Deanery hosted Father Patrick Reardon talk on October 25th (Wilkes-Barre).

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 my 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 continues to be the decline in census from many of the parishes. It is anticipated that some parish may be facing closure in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr Nicholas J Solak, Dean