

# Wilkes-Barre Deanery

## Report to the 2019 Diocesan Assembly

---

Fr Nicholas J. Solak, Dean

Assistant Dean: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

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 David Shewczyk**, long time pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Wilkes-Barre, retired in 2018. His many years of dedicated service in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and, in particular, in the Wilkes-Barre Deanery positively impacted many families, faithful, and younger clergy through many decades.

**Father Daniel Kovalak**, long time pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Williamsport, retired in 2018. Father Daniel served faithfully in many capacities in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, Saint Tikhon's Seminary, and the Orthodox Church in America. Father Daniel leaves a good legacy of leadership in the Church for others to follow.

**Father Timothy Cremeens**, pastor of Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, retired at the end of 2018. Father Timothy helped the faithful of the Cathedral during a time of significant change and transition. He enhanced educational programs at the Cathedral in within the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

**Father Joseph Martin**, retired pastor of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, passed away in 2018. Father Joseph was a vital member of the clergy brotherhood in the Diocese and the Wilkes-Barre Deanery. He served faithfully during his long tenure as a parish priest as well as the years of his retirement.

**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.** Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

**Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale.** With the transfer of Father Innocent Neal, the parish is vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by available clergy.

**Holy Resurrection Cathedral** in Wilkes-Barre received a new pastor, Father Gregory White, in 2019.

**Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre** received a new pastor, Father Innocent Neal, in 2018.

**Holy Cross in Williamsport** received a new pastor, Father Seraphim Reynolds, in 2018.

**Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **Saint Nicholas** in Olyphant, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, **Saint Michael's** in Old Forge 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. 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.

The Proposed 2019 Lenten Mission Services are scheduled to be:

- Sunday of Orthodoxy ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.
- Saint Gregory Palamas.... Holy Trinity Wilkes-Barre.
- Sunday of the Cross .... All Saints Olyphant.
- Saint John Climacus .... Saint Nicholas Olyphant.
- Saint Mary of Egypt .... Holy Trinity Stroudsburg.
- Palm Sunday ... Wilkes-Barre Cathedral.

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

**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 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