



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Dear Rev. Fathers, Diocesan Council Members, and Department Chairs,

The 58th Diocesan Assembly will be held on Thursday and Friday, **January 27 and 28, 2022** at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, in Wilkes-Barre, PA. All our active clergy, delegates and department chairs are required to attend this Assembly. Registration will begin on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. followed by the formal opening of the Assembly at 4:00 pm, dinner at 5:00 pm and Great Vespers will be at 6:00 pm. The agenda is attached and will also be posted on our website ([www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org)).

All those attending may make their reservations at the **Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham** located at 1185 Route 315, Wilkes Barre, PA 18702. Their phone number is 570-970-3760. **They are holding a block of rooms in the name of Holy Trinity Group Block at \$80.00 plus tax, and reservations must be made by January 14 to get that rate.** Be sure to mention you are part of the group for Holy Trinity when booking your room. We cannot guarantee the room rates after that date.

Please complete the attached Document of Certification for your Lay Delegate for the 58th Diocesan Assembly and submit it to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible, but no later than December 20, 2021. Assembly observers are welcome to attend with the blessing of the parish priest. The Document of Certification for Observers should also be completed, signed and returned to the Diocesan Chancery no later than December 20, 2021.

We ask that the Deans, Treasurer, Auditors, Metropolitan Council Representatives, Diocesan Council Secretary, Liturgical Life Committee, Missions, Office of Young Adult Activities, and the Communications Department prepare their reports and forward them to the Diocesan Chancery electronically ([dioceseoepa@gmail.com](mailto:dioceseoepa@gmail.com)) no later than December 15, 2021 for posting on the Diocesan Website.

At our Assembly, the Diocesan Council will be elected. If you know of worthy candidates for the Diocesan Council, please ask them to submit a brief biographical sketch, including educational background and work experience. We would like each candidate to answer the following questions in their biographical sketch: 1) *What is the greatest benefit of being an Orthodox Christian?* 2) *What is the greatest need in our diocese and what is one thing you would like to do about it?* 3) *What is the greatest strength of our diocese and what is one thing you would like to do to maintain it?* Candidates should also have the recommendation of the Parish Rector, Administrator or Dean. Duties and Responsibilities of the Diocesan Council may be reviewed in our Diocesan Bylaws found on our Diocesan website at <https://doepa.org/files/By-Laws/Final-Diocesan/Approved-DOEPA-Bylaws-01-29-2016.pdf> (Article X, which begins on page 11.). Please remember that in order to participate in the Assembly meetings parishes must be current with their monthly diocesan support.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, May you enjoy a Joyous Nativity and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

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Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan \* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

Yours unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

cc: V. Rev. Martin Browne, Chancellor

Enclosures: Proposed Agenda  
Document of Certification for Lay Delegate  
Document of Certification for Observers