

Annual Report

Gettysburg Orthodox Christian Mission

Highlights

- Saturday, August 27th: Archbishop Mark presided at Vespers, served by Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky, at Monahan Funeral Home. Archbishop Mark introduced Archpriest Leonid and Matushka Laura Schmidt to the community. Fellowship was held following the service. Father Leonid and others began to make plans for the first Liturgy.
- Sunday, September 11th: The mission held its first Divine Liturgy at the Holiday Inn Express at the Outlets. 35 members and guests attended. Sacred vessels, paraments, and vestments were generously provided by Archbishop Mark, Christ the Saviour Church in Harrisburg, and Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg.
- We held one other Liturgy in September and three in October.
- Wednesday, October 26th: The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania opened a bank account on behalf of the mission, allowing us to conduct business until we are given a name and official status.
- We held Liturgy every Sunday in November.
- Sunday, November 27th: St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem held a lenten meal that raised over \$4,000(!) for the Mission.
- We held Liturgy every Sunday in December.

Outreach

- Facebook ads and word-of-mouth invitation constituted our main strategy for growth.
- In 2023, we plan to add Vespers on Saturday evenings, Adult Education once per month, and a monthly donation to the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen.

Major challenges faced

- Consistent attendance. We have many children, and this has been a difficult season for absences due to illness.
- Our attention has been focused on building up our core group. We have yet to reach newcomers to Orthodoxy.

Statistics

- Active members count: 13
- Children under 18: 16
- Average Sunday Divine Liturgy attendance: 20
- Church School students: 13