


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
St Michaels Orthodox Church https://stmichaelof.org 512 Winter St Old Forge, PA 18518 570-457-3703	
Clergy	
Rev Michael Shepherd, Acting Rector frmichael@stmichaelof.org V Rev Theodore Orzolek, Attached V Rev Elias Krentisky, Retired Attached	
Committees/Societies	
Steering Committee OCF - Fr Michael does weekly daily vespers at the Byzantine Chapel in Ciszek Hall with 2-3 parishoners who help sing in the choir and offer support to the college students. St Tikhons Summer Camp Orthodox Christian Youth of NEPA - a pan Orthodox youth group that St Michaels participates in	
Since January 2022	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Purchase & Installation of a new security system for the parish church -Officially replaced old "dues" system with tithing/proportional giving designed and ordered new envelopes to reflect & ongoing work on bylaws to be in accordance with diocesan bylaws for 2023 Annual Parish meetin -Parish growth seminar Holy Trinity with Bill Marienes -Choir director to assist with church choir and rehearsals 	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)	
Bible Study Book Reading Seekers and Catechumen Class prior to Saturday Vespers	
Major Challenges Faced	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Growth within an aging parish and population area - Aging population understanding and education of tithing -Growth in church to fill a parish council with eligible candidates -Rental property - becoming a financial liability. 	

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Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2023 to December 2023

- 2023 Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers with choir performance after service
- 2023 February Wedding
- 2023 Pascha Reception of family of 5
- 2023 St Tikhons Summer Camp, 3 parishoners will be counselors and 4 children will attend
- 2023 August Dipes and Wipes Drive for expectant mothers
- 2023 Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive
- 2023 Nativity Bazaar and St Nicholas day Festival

As of October 1, 2022

Active Members Count

19 with 60 non voting/non communicant members

Children (under 18)

4

January 1 thru December1, 2022

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance

We had a steady increase of people returning but not yet have communed or recieved confession. When I started here there were 12 people at liturgy and 6 were my family. We average 35 people a Sunday. Various people coming back to visit but not staying.

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants

20

Average Saturday Vigil Attendance

15

Number of Catechumens

0 - but we have a family of 5 who is seeking and have been attending Liturgy for the past month.

January 1, thru December 1, 2022

Baptisms

3

Funerals

4

Marriages

0

Receptions into Orthodoxy

1

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Church School/Number Enrolled	4
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	1