


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT
for the 2023 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral <i>(Orthodox Church in America)</i> 591 North Main Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705	

Clergy
Rev. Fr. Gregory White Sr., Rector gregory.white@stots.edu Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak – Pastor Emeritus Protodeacon Fr. Sergei Kapral

Committees/Societies
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, (FOCA) Chapter, Ms. Sandra Kapelan Representative Ongoing support of the local Right to Life Group, <i>Pennsylvanian's for Human Life</i> . Our involvement is led by our parish Secretary Kim Fritzges. Their organization continues to support single moms that have accepted the challenge of raising their child instead of opting out by turning to abortion.

Since January 2022

Highlights of Top Three Activities

Parish growth seminar @ Holy Trinity with William Marienes, 15 members & two clergy were in attendance! Annual celebration of Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers followed by a luncheon Working with St. Tikhon's Seminary to coordinate choir coverage for worship services. Throughout the past year, we have worked with 5 different seminarians (interns) by giving them the opportunity to experience directing choir in a different parish setting. Our choir members have also benefited from this experience. Music from a wide variety of different jurisdictions have been used. Memorial service for Metropolitan Herman
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Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)
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Adult Bible Study, topics ranged from the book of Revelation, Passions and Virtues, to the Divine Liturgy, times and dates are posted on line, all are welcome! By request a diaper drive was held for the local Pro-life Ministry, <i>Pennsylvania's for Human Life</i> . A variety of toiletries, soap, washcloths, and shampoo were donated to the unwed mother's ministry in Edwardsville, PA

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During the Nativity season an additional monetary gift of \$500 has been given to the Prolife Ministry, *Pennsylvanian’s for Human Life* to support single mothers.

Major Challenges Faced

Aging parishioner demographic,

Historical lack of financial support, understanding stewardship, tithing, and attending services. **Most still cling to the understating of the dues method that they were taught for generations. “They pay their dues so that they can be buried from the church someday.” A direct quote!**

Cost of ongoing maintenance of a Cathedral size complex.

Getting new blood and buy in on parish council, we did make some significant progress in 2022! Two of our newer council members are under the age of 28! **Our outgoing parish president had served as president for the last 7 years and as a council member for the past 50 years!**

Parishioners are more fearful than ever about the safety challenges of attending services in this older neighborhood, especially attending Vespers in the Presanctified Liturgies in the evening hours.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2023 to December 2023

There is some interest amongst new council members to plan a festival! Discussions will be held with the newly installed council starting in January.

Info has been shared about the newly formed Deanery Youth group. The hope is to create interest that leads to attendance.

The challenges of holding special events that involve encountering outsiders are hampered by the fear left over from the pandemic!

As of October 1, 2022

Active Members Count	54 range from a few times a year to weekly attendance!
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Children (under 18)	8
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January 1 thru December1, 2022

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	18 – 25, There is ongoing fear of Covid, the neighborhood and winter weather. Some have replaced their need for worship and attendance by viewing livestreaming in place of attending Divine services, a post Covid problem.
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Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	17 – 20
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Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	9
Number of Catechumens	0
	January 1, thru December 1, 2022
Baptisms	0
Funerals	7
Marriages	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	8, but attendance varies greatly 3 are brought by grandparents on occasion, 3 others are brought every other week at best due to custody and two are attending a parish closer to their home at this time.
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	4, Our newly elected Parish Council President & Vice President have both attend our group on a regular basis since I've been here!