

# DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

## for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church            980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017</p> <p>(610) 867-0402</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Rector: Priest Nikolai Breckenridge</p> <p>Attached Priest: Mitred Archpriest James Mason</p> <p>Deacon: Geoffrey LoBalbo</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p><b>Committees:</b> St. Nicholas Choir, St. Nicholas Altar Society / Pierogi Project, St. Nicholas Sunday School, Treasures of Russia, St. Nicholas Cemetery Committee, St. Nicholas Finance Committee</p> <p><b>Ministries:</b> Christian education, Property care, Security and safety, Fellowship and hospitality, Communications, Charitable giving.</p>	
Since January 2023	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hosted the Archdiocesan Assembly</li> <li>- Hosted the 2023 Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers for the parishes of the Lehigh Valley Clergy Brotherhood</li> <li>- First year of participation in the “Heavenly Host” program with pins and ranks given to 8 parish children</li> </ul>	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities ( <i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i> )	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coffee Hour collections for various people in need</li> <li>- Food and clothing drive collections</li> <li>- Collection and donations to help the Shipley Family after the loss of Matushka Priscilla</li> <li>- November lecture series (2023 was on Stewardship)</li> <li>- Essentials of Orthodoxy Class (first 8 of 16 Sessions)</li> </ul>	
Major Challenges Faced	
<p>Vespers attendance as a percentage of membership is still quite low.</p>	

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We need a more robust stewardship model, as there is too much reliance on fundraising. That energy could be better used for spiritual growth.

Cost of major HVAC and other facility expenses.

### Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

**Ongoing HVAC replacement**

**More adult education**

**Further development of Pan-Orthodox cooperation**

	As of October 1, 2023
<b>Active Members Count</b>	159 Total Members (126 Adults)
<b>Children (under 18)</b>	33
	January 1 thru December 1, 2023
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	100 - 105
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	70 - 80
<b>Average Saturday Vigil Attendance</b>	10 - 15
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	3
	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
<b>Baptisms</b>	6 (4 Children, 2 Adults)
<b>Funerals</b>	5
<b>Marriages</b>	1
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	1

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<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	29
<b>Adult Education/Number Enrolled</b>	No year-round scheduled Adult Education November Lecture Series had ~ 10 combined in person/zoom Essentials of Orthodox had – 25 – 30 in person