


**DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT  
for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly**

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Michael's Orthodox Church 131 N. Willow Street Mount Carmel, PA 17851</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Priest Aleksey Paranyuk</p>	
Committees/Societies	
Since January 2023	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<p>(1) St. Michael's and Veterans Day celebration during which a Liturgy is held and living and departed veterans are honored at the end of the service. Father Aleksey provided a blessing and a St. Michael icon card to the veterans present. Patriotic songs are sung in the hall before breakfast is served. The parish had several visitors from the community, as well as clergy from other parishes in the area. There were 50 in attendance.</p> <p>(2) Annual summer parish picnic was held in August. Nearby parishes and friends of the parish were invited. The event was well-attended and all enjoyed the annual visit from the local ice cream truck.</p> <p>(3) Sunday School was restarted.</p>	

## DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (*Fundraisers are not Outreach*)

- (1) The parish partnered with Central Susquehanna Opportunities (CSO) to establish a Community Garden. In addition to the vegetable garden, classes were offered by parishioners on gardening and cooking; and CSO provided classes on meal budgets, nutrition, and how to shop healthy. Excess produce was provided to the local food bank.
- (2) A Parish Thanksgiving Dinner was held to promote fellowship.
- (3) A parish Holy Supper will be held on Christmas Eve.
- (4) The community and friends of the parish are invited to all special events; and visitors are always welcomed. If visitors provide contact information, we follow-up with them.
- (5) The parish hosted a Lenten Mission Service that was well attended.
- (6) The Annual St. Nicholas Day Preparation continued with a coat drive to support Central Susquehanna Opportunities work (10 coats and \$900 provided; a matching grant provided the group another \$900). Over 200 Christmas cards were sent to parishioners, friends of the parish and nursing homes, with children of the parish making over 60 of the cards. A small army of elves decorated the church for Christmas and practiced singing carols. Cookies were baked and delivered to the local nursing homes and elderly parishioners. Breads will be baked to distribute to all in attendance at Nativity Liturgy and delivered to our home bound parishioners. Father Aleksey read the story of St. Nicholas to the children after Vespers and the children were asked to leave their shoes outside the church in case St. Nicholas passed by during services.
- (7) Cards are provided to parishioners and friends of the parish for every holiday, birthday, anniversary, get-well, and thinking of you. Cards are also prepared for nursing homes on special occasions, along with flowers for Mother's Day.
- (8) Periodically, treats and small gifts from the parish are provided to nursing homes. The parish provided, several times, pierogies to the nursing home to be served for a meal.
- (9) Meals are provided to home-bound parishioners after events and projects.
- (10) The parish supports two local food banks, and the United Way At-Risk Children's program.
- (11) 10% of the profit from several pierogie projects were provided to the Ukrainian Refugee Relief effort. Nativity, Lenten, and Special Appeals were held, with donations directed to various needs.
- (12) Held Paska Baking class and distributed the Paskas as a gift to our parishioners - 60 Paskas were made and distributed.

# DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

## Major Challenges Faced

The challenges that our parish faces arise from the *facts*, which in turn present us *opportunities* to discover ways to grow and do outreach:

- (1) *Fact*: economically depressed area. *Opportunity*: how can we better minister to our parishioners and the people in Mount Carmel area in their present situation?
- (2) *Fact*: a large number of parishioners are on a fixed income. *Opportunity*: how can we put to good and God-pleasing way what we have?
- (3) *Fact*: competing with external youth sports. *Opportunity*: what are the ways we can get the youth involved in all aspect of the Church life?
- (4) *Fact*: some parishioners and families have not resumed attending services since COVID and some are not attending on a regular basis. *Opportunity*: continue the support of those who are unable to fully participate in the life of the Church.

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

- (1) Community Soup Day
- (2) Expansion of the Community Garden and expanding the partnership to include the Borough of Mt. Carmel.
- (3) Paska Baking class open to the community
- (4) Possible pierogie-making class
- (5) Summer Annual Parish Picnic
- (6) Choir education classes for the youth
- (7) Women’s appreciation breakfast
- (8) Hopefully at least one Lenten Mission will be scheduled for the coal region parishes
- (9) St. Nicholas Activities – local caroling and distributing cookies
- (10) St. Michael’s and Veterans Day annual celebration

**DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly**

	As of October 1, 2023
<b>Active Members Count</b>	52
<b>Children (under 18)</b>	13
	January 1 thru December 1, 2023
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	25-30
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	12-15
<b>Average Saturday Vigil Attendance</b>	12
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	0
	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
<b>Baptisms</b>	0
<b>Funerals</b>	6
<b>Marriages</b>	1
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	0
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	4
<b>Adult Education/Number Enrolled</b>	n/a