

DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address

All Saints Orthodox Church
211 Willow Avenue
Olyphant, Pennsylvania 18477

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsolyphantpa>

Photo



Clergy

Rev. Priest Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Rector

Committees/Societies

All Saints Parish Council

Since January 2023

Highlights of Top Three Activities

1. During 2023, All Saints provided for the most robust liturgical cycle it has had in over a decade. As the center of the Parish's life, these services have included not only Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Lord's Day, but regular services during the week on Wednesday Mornings, Vespers and Liturgy for all major feasts. Weekdays Services during the fast that include Small Compline with the Great Canon, Lenten Hours and Presanctified, Daily Services for Holy Week extending into Bright Week, as well as services intended to bring together local parishes for special celebrations. Developing a more solid bond between the Orthodox Communities in Olyphant, 2023 saw more active joint services between of All Saints and our sister parish of St. Nicholas. This included joint Presanctified Liturgies During the Great Fast, services for Holy Saturday Matins (St. Nicholas), Vesperal Liturgy on Holy Saturday (All Saints), Bright Monday Liturgy (All Saints), and Bright Saturday Liturgy (St. Nicholas). Both parishes have jointly come together when His Eminence has served within the Borough.
2. All Saints had the blessing of having a Summer Intern for the months of June and July. The internship was underwritten by the parish securing a grant by the Elsie Skvir Gannister Foundation. Our intern, Fr. Gregory Fedorchak and his wife, Matushka Krista, were a wonderful addition to the parish's life over the summer, During these two months Deacon Greogory served at all of the services of the Church, assisted in parish visitations and outreach oppertunities to the local community, attended parish council meetings and fundraising and planning efforts. Of special note, outreach activities related to Fr. Gregory's internship included having a display at the July "Third Thursday" in Downtown Olyphant, as working with Fr. Paul and the faithful of the parish in hosting a very successful public Concert and Open House that drew close to 100 people from the local community to the parish.
3. The Church underwent a significant generational renovation project of the its domes and southern windows. The \$37,000 restoration included the painting of the domes in a darker blue, regilding of the cupola crosses, painting of the woodwork frames of the Southern facing stain glass windows, and the re-glazing of protective glass over the stained glass. Through generous support of the faithful supplemented by a fundraiser focused on

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the renovation, the project was completely covered. On 12 November, the domes and windows were blessed by His Eminence and Fr. Paul with the assistance of Olyphant Fire Department Ladder Company 2.

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

1. All Saints provided a little over \$5,000.00 in charitable contributions that impact both the local community of Olyphant and the broader world. Activity in this area included \$2,000.00 Drive for needy students at Mid-Valley High School, relief efforts through IOCC, as well as direct financial support to parishioners in need.
2. The parish council established a pastoral discretionary fund for the primary purpose of providing relief to those in the local community in need of food and basic supplies.
3. During this time three individuals have joined the Catechumenate, and are undergoing catechetical instruction.
4. In July, our parish's Intern and several members of All Saints set up a booth at Olyphant's "Third Thursday" community event, and engaged in discussion with community members about the Church and the community of All Saints.
5. On 27 July, the Parish held a free Open House and Public Concert that drew close to 100 participants.
6. On 2 December 2023, All Saints hosted a Wilkes-Barre Deanery's Divine Liturgy followed by a talk given by OCMC Missionary Nathan Hoppe about his work Albania.

Major Challenges Faced

1. Need for continued outreach activities for the purposes of church growth and building greater awareness of the presence of All Saints in the Community.
2. Development of a regular adult / youth educational program for the vibrancy of the parish.
3. Continued efforts to build on past successes in expanding proportional giving to the point at which all parish expenses are covered by regular parishioner giving.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

1. All Saints has secured a Gannister Grant for a Seminary intern for Summer 2024. Partnering with members of the St. Tikhon's Seminary Community, it is anticipated that All Saints will host a repeat Summer Open House and Public Concert at a date to be determined.
2. During 2024, All Saints will host an event to honor the 65th Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Daniel Geeza at a date to be determined.

As of October 1, 2023

Active Members Count

63

Children (under 18)

10

January 1 thru December 1, 2023

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance

45-50

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Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	15-20
Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	10-15
Number of Catechumens	1
	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
Baptisms	0
Funerals	6
Marriages	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	1
Church School/Number Enrolled	Parish has not Re-instituted a Formal Church School Program
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	2