


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT
for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

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

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

Committees/Societies
<p>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.</p>

Since January 2023

Highlights of Top Three Activities

<p>Archbishop Mark installed 3 new college aged Catechumens this Summer A vibrant Orthodoxy 101 Class has grown out of the Adult Study Group. All are welcome</p>

Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)
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<p>As mentioned above. 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! Women's fellowship group.</p>
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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. Some state that, “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

Inspiring legacy parishioners to have the same buy in as the new Catechumens. They have influenced the parish in a positive way. But most do not see or accept a need their to change.

We still have **parishioners** that think abortion is and acceptable form of birth control!

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries - January 2024 to December 2024

Generate interest in a Festal celebration for St. Alexis Toth

	As of October 1, 2023
Active Members Count	73 are “on the books”, with approx... 50 or so claim to be active. We still average only 19 on a Sunday, and some still stick to their once-a-year attendance. When I bring it up to them, they tell me, “That is the way they were taught for generations”!
Children (under 18)	5
January 1 thru December 1, 2023	
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	18-22
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	16- 19
Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	8
Number of Catechumens	3 new college students

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	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
Baptisms	0
Funerals	4
Marriages	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	5, but attendance varies greatly 3 are brought by grandparents on occasion, 2 others are brought every other week at best due to custody. To be honest. It is sad that there are some that have the attitude that this time is for taking a break during coffee hour, instead of the importance of making a commitment to place their children or grandchildren into a class where they can learn the Faith. It is just where we are at.
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	6