


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church 2300 W. Huntington Dr. Wilmington, DE 19808</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Rev. Fr. Silouan Burns – Rector Rev. Dn. James Carpenter – Deacon</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings & Grounds • Prosphora Baking Guild • Altar Servers • Fellowship Hour (10 team rotation of parishioners - full meals served weekly after Sunday's Liturgy) • Church Cleaning Crew (8 team rotation to clean the Church and all the facilities as well) • Youth Group Ministry • Faith, Hope, & Love Girls Fellowship • Children's Choir 	
Since January 2023	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heavenly Vision Project – A fundraising project to beautify our temple – still in progress. Currently a full-scale iconography project is underway that involves the entire Church being completed. The sidewalls in the Nave are done, and now the backwall is completed. It has had a transformation effect on our worship space. In the Spring we will have the front wall done. 3 phases to go... 2. Youth Groups – We now have a Girls Fellowship group named Faith, Hope, and Love that meets every month. We also have launched a full youth group meeting once a month that includes a Bible study, some fun, and dinner. 3. Adult Bible Study – We now have an adult Bible Study, currently working through the Gospel of St. Luke. 	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach (for the poor/need) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family Promise – this is a local program that provides meals for transitional families that St. Michael's is a part of – those who have lost their homes or are in temporary housing. We prepare meals and provide them to these families. ○ Small food pantry (keep a shelf stocked with essentials that both our parishioners and those from the community can help themselves to – we have a few that come to us from outside the parish.) ○ Gift cards – we keep gift cards to the local grocery store (ACME) and the nearby WaWa and hand them out as needed. 	

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- Good Samaritan Ministry – this is a ministry to aid those with financial hardships primarily in our parish but also outside of it. Over \$27,000 of aid was provided this year!
- Liturgical Cycle – Continual growth here – Weekday Vespers every Tuesday, at least two weekday liturgies a month, usually Wednesday mornings, Resurrectional Matins now being introduced for Sunday mornings.
- Foundations Class – our adult education class focuses on the basics of Orthodoxy.
- Adult Bible Study mentioned above – launched this year launched with the fall semester.
- Youth Group Ministry – also mentioned above, launched with the fall semester.
- Faith, Hope, & Love – girl’s ministry, launched launched with the fall semester.
- Young Adults Ministry – Our young adults are active and frequently fellowship with one another – meeting in various parishioner homes, having fun outings such as hiking or attending fun events, and spiritual outings – several times this year they went on pilgrimages to St. Tikhon’s and other monasteries.
- OCF – University of Delaware

Major Challenges Faced

- More Growth – last year it was a large amount of converts. We have more converts this year, and Glory to God, lots of children born too! A good challenge, but this doesn’t show any sign of waning yet...
- Limited Space – Due to the continued growth and no place to fit so many, we are now thinking of what a mission would look like and where.
- Loss of the use of our bell – a challenged that arose in 2022 and has dragged through 2023. Last year we lost the use of our “loner” bell from the Navy. We now have acquired a bell to use, but it is not a long-term solution. We are exploring the idea of constructing a bell tower in the future with a larger Orthodox bell system.
- Choir revamp – Our choir moved down from the loft and we have made some changes that have helped improve the choir, but it stirred the proverbial hornet’s nest. All seems to be settling down now.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

- Father’s 5th year anniversary as a priest and Dn. James 10th year anniversary as a deacon.
- Nicholas DiDonato should finish the DVP program sometime late summer or early fall.
- Continuation of the Heavenly Vision project, mentioned above.
- Parking Lot project - Additional parking to be added in the rear.

As of December 7, 2023

Active Members Count

217

Children (under 18)

73

January 1 thru December 1, 2023

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance

130 - 140

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants

100 - 110

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Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	45 - 55
Number of Catechumens	4
	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
Baptisms	11
Funerals	3
Marriages	3
Receptions into Orthodoxy (Chrismation only)	4
Church School/Number Enrolled	~45
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	~15