

DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p style="text-align: center;">Saint Mark’s Orthodox Church</p> <p>452 Durham Road, Newtown, PA 18940</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Archpriest Raymond M. Browne, Rector</p> <p>Protodeacon Gregory Moser, Attached.</p> <p>Subdeacons Sergei Arhipov, Dustin Joseph Crosby, Marek Szeliga</p> <p>Reader Samuel Regen</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p>Building Committee, Stewardship Committee, Jubilee Committee, Holy Myrhhbearers Sisterhood, St. Stephen the Protomartyr Young Adult Society,</p>	
Since January 2023	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<p>Establishment of a cemetery section for Orthodox at nearby R.C. Cemetery</p> <p>Reception of four adults into the faith this year and the baptism of a newborn member of our family</p> <p>Annual Church Picnic/Archbishop’s visits</p>	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)	
<p>Weekly Akathist, first of the month dedicated to the Protection of the Theotokos for our parish development needs, last of the month for those suffering from cancer, the others depending on who is on the menaion, and we have a special prayer service for the sick and Litya for the Departed.</p> <p>Adult education series, Mirrors of Truth, which has started off the church year with 5 monthly meetings focusing on idolatry in the Scriptures and in the world today. Another one set for Nativity Fast on the musical tradition of the church, starting with the musical dimension of the Divine Liturgy. Parish Retreats in Great Lent and Nativity Fast, this year on The Shroud of Turin and the Passion of Christ. Upcoming for this Nativity: Man Made Gods and God made Man: Incarnation vs. Idolatry. Upcoming next year a series on Time as understood by Orthodoxy and by Modern Physics.</p> <p>Regular meetings with catechumens on one to one basis, Currently meeting with five inquirers on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Charitable activities include continuous participation in Wrightstown Food Cupboard; monthly service at Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Distribution of \$12,500 surplus from last year to local charities which serve the area, five burnt offerings,</p>	

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one every ten weeks, in which the weekly collection is donated to a special charity, including those for the blind, autistic persons, veterans, homeless shelter, women and children’s shelter from domestic abuse.

Annual support of Thanksgiving charity at St. Basil’s House in Trenton, an Orthodox outreach ministry. Also annual support of Woods Services Secret Santa for young people in care and developmentally disabled adults.

Major Challenges Faced

Finalizing a plan for physical expansion

Developing and executing a fundraising plan to finance our parish expansion.

Forming a unified community of newcomers and old timers.

Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

Fiftieth anniversary of parish will be celebrated with His Eminence on October 12th.

Look forward to the reception of several additional adults with five new ones engaging with the parish since the chrismation of the last of this year’s five receptions/baptism.

As of October 1, 2023

Active Members Count

88

Children (under 18)

32

January 1 thru December 1, 2023

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance

55

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants

45

Average Saturday Vigil Attendance

8-10

Number of Catechumens

Currently 5 inquirers

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	January 1, thru December 1, 2023
Baptisms	1
Funerals	2
Marriages	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	4
Church School/Number Enrolled	12
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	15 is average attendance, individual participation varies.