


DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2025 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p>St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church 980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610) 867-0402</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Rector: Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge Attached Priest: Mitred Archpriest James Mason Deacon: Geoffrey LoBalbo</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p>Committees: St. Nicholas Choir, St. Nicholas Altar Society / Pierogi Project, St. Nicholas Sunday School, Treasures of Russia, St. Nicholas Cemetery Committee, St. Nicholas Finance Committee Ministries: Christian education, Communications, Charitable giving.</p>	
Since January 2024	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of the Heavenly Host Program - Visit from the St. Tikhon’s Seminary Mission Choir - Many more Catechumens than in the recent past 	
Outreach Directed to Growth, Adult Education and Charitable Activities (<i>Fundraisers are not Outreach</i>)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee Hour collections for various people in need - Food and clothing drive collections - Considerable collection for St. Tikhon’s Seminary, in connection with a visit from the Mission Choir - Zoom Lectures on the 7 Ecumenical Councils 	
Major Challenges Faced	
<p>Vespers attendance as a percentage of membership is still quite low. We need a more robust stewardship model, as there is too much reliance on fundraising. That energy could be better used for spiritual growth. Cost of major facility expenses.</p>	

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Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2025 to December 2025	
More Adult Education (especially with the influx of Catechumens)	
Further development of Pan-Orthodox cooperation	
As of October 1, 2024	
Active Members Count	194 (141 Adults)
Children (under 18)	52
January 1 thru December 1, 2024	
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	110 - 115
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	80 - 90
Average Saturday Vigil Attendance	20 - 25
Number of Catechumens	8
January 1, thru December 1, 2024	
Baptisms	7
Funerals	5
Marriages	1
Receptions into Orthodoxy	1
Church School/Number Enrolled	37
Adult Education/Number Enrolled	No year-round scheduled Adult Education Lecture Series had ~ 10-15 combined in person/zoom