

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Report to the 2025 Diocesan Assembly

Fr Innocent Neal, *Dean* + Fr Jason Franchak, *Assistant Dean* + Secretary: Vacant + PDn Sergei Kapral, *Treasurer*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania is comprised of 14 Parishes. 11 parishes are served by full-time or bi-vocational clergy and have a full cycle of liturgical services. We are thankful for the commitment of our clergy assisting the very challenging work in our communities.

We currently have 3 vacant parishes that are served by our faithful supply clergy. Many thanks to Fr. Peter Henry, Fr. David Hester, Fr. Michael Evans (reposed), Fr. Mikel Hill, Fr. Barnabas Fravel, Fr. Stephen Kopestonsky, Fr. Dennis Hendershot, and Fr. Gregory White.

In September of 2024 Holy Resurrection Cathedral requested to permanently close with the community joining Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes-Barre.

VACANT PARISHES

- **Saints Peter and Paul in Uniondale** is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy.
- **Saint John's Parish in Edwardsville** is currently vacant but consistently served by available clergy.
- **Saint Vladimir's Parish in Lopez.** Continues to be vacant but consistently served on a weekly basis by V. Rev. Dennis Hendershot.

ACTIVE PARISHES

Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre, **Holy Cross** in Williamsport, **Holy Trinity** in Stroudsburg, **All Saints** in Olyphant, **St. Nicholas** in Olyphant, **St. Michael's** in Old Forge, **Saint Michael's** in Jermyn, and **Holy Annunciation** in Berwick, **Saint John** in Nanticoke, **Saint John** in Dundaff, and **Saint Basil** in Simpson continue to be blessed by the diligent and faithful service and pastorship of their priests.

CLERGY RETIREMENT & ASSIGNMENTS

The Wilkes Barre Deanery recently experienced the retirement of Father Gregory White who faithfully served Holy Resurrection Cathedral for 6 years. May God grant him and Matushka Kathy many blessed years in retirement! Pdn. Sergei Kapral was transferred to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. Dn. Michael McCartney was transferred to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. Sdn. Gregory Polk was ordained to the Diaconate. Father John Black was assigned as parish administrator of Sts. Peter & Paul in Uniondale, PA. Father Barnabas Fravel was assigned as parish administrator for St. John's in Edwardsville. Fr. Innocent

Neal was assigned Parish Administrator for Holy Resurrection Cathedral. Jan 1, 2025, Fr. Nicholas Solak was released from his assignment as Rector of Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg. Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic will begin as rector of Holy Trinity beginning February 1st.

REPOSED CLERGY

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery lost two faithful and much-loved clergy in our community, Fr. Vladimir Petorak & Fr. Michael Evans. We are grateful for their many years of faithful service to the Diocese and for the faithful support of the Matuski and their families.

Great Lent 2024: 3 Mission Vespers Services were held throughout the Lenten season. We are thankful for the Parishes that have hosted these events.

FELLOWSHIP/EDUCATION/OUTREACH: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant celebrated their 120th Anniversary on St. Nicholas Day.

MINISTRY: Parishes of the deanery continue to perform the sacraments of the Church, visit the sick and infirm, feed the hungry and poor, minister to the imprisoned, and preach the gospel in their communities. All Deanery priests worked diligently in the unique context of their situations.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Innocent Neal, Dean