

CENTRAL FLORIDA DEANERY

*DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY, 2007
Archpriest Mark Stevens, Dean*

INVERNESS

*ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN MISSION
Father David Balmer*

With Christ's help, the number of active communicants of St. Raphael of Brooklyn Mission has crossed the 60 mark. Normal attendance is up, and a committee has been established to address the space problem. In addition, the mission has an active program to find lapsed Orthodox Christians (many homebound or semi-mobile) and to return them to Christ's Church.

On Sunday, July 8th St. Raphael celebrated our 7th anniversary with a banquet that drew over 60 people, including nine from the Greek mission in Ocala, including their priest. Father George Breyan and Matushka Natalie also were present.

The building next to the church has been remodeled into a hall, and is named "Holy Myrrhbearers Hall." Other noteworthy items: St. Raphael has five catechumens; Saturday evening Great Vespers is served; feast days are observed; Great Lent and Holy Week included a full cycle of services. Paschal services were attended by 77 people.

John Mason teaches regular adult classes. The choir has been expanded under the direction of Matushka Mary, and regular practices are scheduled. Mary also teaches Pysanky egg decorating in the hall. An application for a grant from the Gainster Orthodox Foundation has been made to publish and distribute large-print prayer books. Finally, Paul Drake, a seminarian at St. Tikhon's, is spending a summer at St. Raphael's as an intern.

SAFETY HARBOR

*HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Father Peter Tutko*

On July 2nd the city of Safety Harbor FINALLY approved plans for the building of the new church building for Holy Trinity Parish. The initial clearing of trees has begun, and the entire parish is looking forward to getting the site ready for building by the end of July. Praise God! And there is more good news: new members have been added to the parish, and everyone is excited about the new construction, which surely will bring more new members.

TAMPA

*ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE MISSION
Father Joseph Ciarciaglino*

The "voting membership" increased from 5 to 10 in the last nine months at St. Philip the Apostle mission. Our "snowbirds" have added an additional 5 adults. In that same period of time, the number of children has grown from 2 to 4. On July 1st the first convert at St. Philip's was received through Chrismation.

Religious education classes are held each Sunday during the school year. Wednesday

evening Bible classes are also regularly offered. The mission is spearheading the effort to offer a bereavement outreach program, which will be a pan-Orthodox ministry in the Tampa Bay area. Also, a weekly food and other staples collection for the needy is an ongoing effort of the mission.

Since the last diocesan assembly ten new icons have been added to the church, including a large (4 ft. by 8 ft.) icon of the Last Judgment. Four candle boxes and candles in front of the iconostasis icons have recently been added.

TITUSVILLE

ST. SIMEON CHURCH

Father Krist Nickolas

NEW PORT RICHEY

ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED CHURCH

Father Pavel Yurin

Under the capable leadership of Father Pavel, St. Andrew's Church has received several new active members recently. Many new young families have found a home at St. Andrew's, including a number of Russian immigrants. Communicants average between 75 and 100 on Sundays. Divine Liturgy is being celebrated on Sundays and Major Feasts and saint's days along with Great Vespers on the eves. All of the "traditions" of our parish in organizing fundraising dinners and festivals continue. Most of the baptisms this year were infants from Russian and Ukrainian families. One young family was sent to St. Tikhon's Seminary from our parish, and two seminary families are currently supported. The parish's reader will now become the third seminarian from St. Andrew's sent in the last few years – perhaps soon St. Andrew's will have contributed three priests to the Diocese of the South!

PALM COAST

ST. ALEXIS OF WILKES-BARRE MISSION

Retired Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris serves this small congregation on a regular basis. Services are held in a Roman Catholic Church in Bunnell.

BRADENTON

ST. MARK CHURCH

Father John Chudik

St. Mark Church is currently engaged in a building program to construct a new temple. It is hoped that the temple will be ready for worship this year. A summer vacation church school, attended by a dozen children, was successfully completed.

JACKSONVILLE

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR CHURCH

Father Ted Pisarchuk

The parish has just cleared 1.3 acres of woods for a sports field, an additional 36 parking spaces, and a basketball court. The sprinkler system has been installed and seeding with Bermuda grass has begun.

The building committee presently is planning the future expansion of the church and fellowship hall. To this end a campaign for funds is being prepared. The buildings were designed with future expansion in mind. Immediate needs were solved with the additional parking area.

Fr. Sergius has never been busier keeping with his segment of the parish (Seasoned Citizens), and it is a joy to have the Rucker family with us.

Last year a youth director, a recent graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary, was added to the staff. He works 20 hours per week, and the youth have greatly benefited. They are having lots of fun, and hopefully are growing in faith. The youth are a focus of ministry, and the youth comprise of one fourth to one third of Sunday attendance.

In June, thirteen people served on a mission trip to Project Mexico. Attendance and income is up over last year. Much of Fr. Ted's work has become administration. A Russian mission meets weekly, and the hope is that a Russian-speaking priest will be found to serve in Slavonic. The core group of Russians is fervent in its desire to learn their faith, and over the last year quite a few Russians have been baptized and buried.

ORLANDO (LONGWOOD)

ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR CHURCH

Father Mark Stevens

St. Stephen Church has been blessed in many ways since our last Diocesan Assembly. In no special order, a few highlights include:

Attendance has averaged 150+ on Sundays

The choir has increased and polished its repertoire of liturgical music

Church school enrollment is well over 70 children

Programs for outreach continue to be formulated and implemented

Two seminarians from St. Stephen are supported financially

The parish's monthly newsletter continues to grow in depth and in appearance

The website has been strengthened, with content added and updated regularly

The parish continues to receive converts and catechumens

A new crop of babies (six born in the last two months) delights everyone

Despite setbacks, the continuing ministry to Orlando area immigrant Russians

By far the largest current project includes paying off the mortgage on the education building built in 2003 (this should be accomplished within the next few months) and the final planning and construction of a proper temple built for the glory of God and in which to worship Him.