

Central Florida Deanery Report

2011 Diocesan Assembly

Holy Trinity, Safety Harbor, FL

Holy Trinity parish is growing. They presently have five catechumens. Fr Kyrill is full time and there is now a full weekly liturgical including Matins and Vespers. The Adult Education class is well attended. The renovation of Parish Hall near completion, with 90% of the work and materials donated, including appliances for a parish kitchen. They are going through the process of getting a new street sign approved by the city and a new monthly youth program on Saturdays has begun.

St. Alexis Mission, Palm Coast, FL

The mission is served on Sunday mornings only by Fr. Nicholas Molodyko-Harris.

St Andrew the First Called, New Port Richey, FL

Because of the economy, changing demographics, and other factors St. Andrews was operating in the red and was in danger of closing. Fr. Patrick Smith, who prior to going to seminary attended St Andrew the First Called was brought in to attempt to revive the parish. Saturday evening Vespers were reestablished along with Feast Day Liturgies. A Sunday School program was begun and a Saturday evening Bible Study was been started. Attendance for both is good. They now have a functioning website. Barely a week does not go by without new visitors and families are beginning to join the church. Finances are still tight, but the money always arrives after the people. Initially signs are that this will be a successful turnaround.

St. Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL

Like many parishes, St Justin has been significantly impacted by the economy. Over the past year more than 25 regular attendees have moved away because of work. During this same time we have added some new wonderful people and we do have new catechumens. Finances are lean, but we are meeting all our bills. We continue to focus on outreach and developing our cemetery.

Fr Arkady leads the Russian Ministry. It serves about 70 Russian speaking families with average attendance of about 50 people Slavonic Liturgy is served the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month. In an effort to bolster the Russian mission a Slavonic vespers has been added on Saturdays. Beginning this summer all major Old Calendar feasts are also celebrated in Slavonic. In an effort to gain exposure for the Russian mission, we will be hosting a Russian Festival on Oct. 2nd. As an outreach the Russian mission is providing ESL classes for Russian speaking people. There is also a Russian Sunday school program.

In addition Hieromonk Arkady (Migunov) serves a Slavonic Liturgy every third Saturday for Russian community at St Stephen the Protomartyr in Orlando, FL and every first Saturday of the month for the Russian community in Gainesville, FL hosted by the local Greek Orthodox Church.

St Mark, Bradenton, FL

St. Mark's just completed its final landscaping and is awaiting a final Certificate of Occupancy. Fr John works full time outside the Church.

St Philip the Apostle, Tampa FL

The parish continues to grow with Sunday attendance now consistently in the mid thirties. We had one Chrismation and the return of a fallen away Orthodox. The parish continues to get younger. Cradle Orthodox slightly out number converts. We celebrated our first wedding. We have three inquirers and will most likely begin the catechumenate for two of them shortly.

In February we again manned our booth at the Florida State Fair. In July we sent a parishioner to Guatemala on a short term mission trip through OCMC. We continue our year round food for the poor drive and continue to insure that over ten percent of our income is used for outreach and charity. Through the generosity of St. Mark parish in Bradenton we have added their old dome to our building. The dome was refurbished and installed by parishioners.

Saint Raphael Orthodox Church, Inverness, FL

Saint Raphael serves Orthodox Christians in a three-county area near the Gulf Coast of central Florida. This area is home to many retired couples living in extensive planned communities in a suburban setting. The parish also has a mission-outreach with Vespers at a retirement community known as, "The Villages". Saint Raphael was founded eleven years ago and was recently named elevated to parish status. Highlights this year included a retreat led by Mother Magdalena of Holy Transfiguration Monastery of Ellwood City, PA and a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Mark of Baltimore. This year saw extensive improvements to the Narthex, the installation of completely new windows and a special set of front doors to the temple to the glory of Jesus Christ.

St. Simeon Church, Titusville, FL

Titusville is the city just outside of Cape Canaveral and with the end of the Space Shuttle program, demographics has become a significant challenge and raises concerns for the future of St. Simeons. Fr Krist Nicklaus works a secular job in order to keep St. Simeon's forward and is to be congratulated for his faithfulness.

St Stephen Orthodox Church, Orlando, FL

Attendance has increased and income has stabilized. So far this year they have received 9 new members through baptism/chrismation and have five catechumens. One parishioner has enrolled at SVS. They have begun a monthly homeless ministry and sent four missionaries to Project Mexico. Before the next Diocesan Assembly they will have a new playground for the youth. The parish council is engaged in a strategic planning process that we hope to complete by the end of the year. Fr. Dan has a new office and keeps regular office hours and the coffee hour has been moved from the nave of the church to a large room in the Education building. The parish has made great strides in streamlining administration.