

Central Florida Deanery Report 2014 Diocesan Assembly

We have had two significant changes in the deanery this year. Fr David Balmer of St Raphael retired and moved from the area for Matushka Mary's health care needs and to be near family. We welcome Fr Igumen Sergious (Gerken) into the Diocese who has been assigned as Acting Rector of St. Raphael. Also Holy Trinity Church was closed. You can read about that below.

Annunciation Russian Mission, Jacksonville, FL (2012)

Rev. Hieromonk Arkady (Migunov) *Priest-in-Charge*

Average Liturgy Attendance: 65

Total Membership: 100

Annual General Fund Income:\$81,000

Building Program Status: Presently renting a warehouse office that they converted

Rental Payment: \$1725/month

The community has grown out of their rental space and is now establishing a building fund and looking for a facility.

Holy Trinity, Safety Harbor, FL (closed)

The most significant news of the deanery was the closing of Holy Trinity Church in Safety Harbor, FL. In 2009 the parish was threatened with foreclosure and the Diocese stepped in and rescued/bailed out Safety Harbor. Milos Konjevich on behalf of the parish renegotiated a lower interest rate with the lender. Holy Trinity then was enrolled in the Diocesan Managed Debt Program. During Holy Week 2009 Fr Kyrill Williams arrived as the restart priest. Attendance bounced back and things seemed to be doing better. In 2012 it was noted that the parish was in arrears in its tithes and MDP payments. While the attendance was there the parish did not have the financial commitment necessary to go forward.

A watershed moment occurred when Fr Kyrill was offered a parish in the Diocese of the West. In business there is the expression, "The numbers don't lie." It is never personal, you just do what the numbers say, and in this case we could not find a priest willing to pastor Holy Trinity, nor did the community come up with a plan to meet their financial obligations.

St. Alexis Mission, Palm Coast, FL (1995)

*Served by area Clergy**

Average Liturgy Attendance: 30-35

Total Membership: n/a

Annual General Fund Income:\$30,000

Building Program Status: Parish rents an RC Church since inception

Annual Rental Cost: \$217/month (\$2,600 annually)

The slight majority of parishioners are Russian. Services are celebrated both in English and Slavonic. Fr Nicholas Harris who is retired serves the community and drives two hours one-way every week to celebrate the services. Because they do not have a priest in residence and rent a building, services are only served on Sunday morning.

St Andrew the First Called, New Port Richey, FL (1976)

Priest Patrick Smith, *Rector*

Average Liturgy Attendance: 80

Membership: 70

Annual General Fund Income: \$80,000

Building Program Status: The parish owns its facilities and has no debt.

Just a few years ago St. Andrews was in decline and in danger of closing. Today the community has a revitalized Sunday school program, a full church on Sundays and is looking for land to build a new and larger church. In the meantime they are renovating and beautifying their facilities and grounds.

St. Justin Martyr, Jacksonville, FL (1994)

Archpriest Theodore Pisarchuk, *Rector*

Average Liturgy Attendance: 145

Total Membership: We have 250+ regular attendees (80+ youth)

Annual General Fund Income:\$270,000 (projected)

Building Program Status: We are in the process of doing a strategic plan

Mortgage Payment: \$4,289/month

Mortgage Balance: \$460,000 (approx.)

2012-2013 was a season of transition at SJM with the hiving off of Annunciation Mission and approximately 50 parishioners and 20% of our budget. 2014-15 will also be a time of transition at St Justin's. After faithful serving the youth at SJM Dn Jacob Hatch for 8 years "retired" as Youth Director and continues to serve as deacon. By God's grace two of the newer members of our community had experience in youth leadership elsewhere and has taken up the mantel. The transition has been seamless. Also this year after 10 years as Associate Priest, Fr Sergius (Gerald) Clark retired. Fr Gerald continues to be a great help but has no more "official" duties. Coming up this fall our Choir Director of 14 years is resigning due to health reasons. He is a talented music professional and it will be hard to replace him.

SJM is in desperate need or an Associate Pastor and we have funds set aside for this position. We are also in the process of developing a strategic plan so that a community we can make decisions on staffing, program, future facilities development and adjacent land acquisition.

St Mark, Bradenton, FL (1979)

Priest John Chudick, *Rector*

Average Liturgy Attendance: 75-85

Total Membership: ?

Annual General Fund Income:\$155,000

Building Program Status: They own their church facility

Mortgage Payment: In the MDP program

Mortgage Balance: \$800,000

Comments: none

St Philip the Apostle Mission, Tampa FL (2005)

Priest Joseph Ciarciaglino *Priest-in-Charge*

Average Liturgy attendance: 32-35

Total membership: 40 (including children)

Annual General Fund income: app. \$50,000.00

Building Program Status- Own

Monthly mortgage payment: \$1,977.95

Mortgage balance: \$279,608.00

On January 12, 2014, the Akonyibedo Health Center (under the patronage of St Nektarios) in Northern Uganda was dedicated by His Eminence Archbishop Jonah, Metropolitan of Uganda with Fr Joseph in attendance. The Akonyibedo Health Center is an outreach of the faithful of the community of St. Philip. To learn more <http://www.ugandaclinic.org/>

Saint Raphael Orthodox Church, Inverness, FL (2002)

Igumen Sergious (Gerken) *Acting Rector*

Average Liturgy attendance: 36

Total membership: 50 year round, 10 seasonal

Annual General Fund income: Budget \$87,000

Building Program Status- Mortgage held by DOS

Monthly Mortgage Payment - 10% of gross income + \$200

Mortgage Balance - \$28,864

The community is to be congratulated for the great work they did in keeping things running smoothly in the absence of a priest and the clergy of the deanery are to be complimented for all the filling in they did while St. Raphael was "between priests."

St. Simeon Church, Titusville, FL (1966)

Priest Krist Nickolas *Priest-in-Charge*

Average Liturgy attendance: 25-30

Total membership: 14

Annual General Fund income: \$36,000

Building Program Status- The parish owns their facilities.

Demographics are the biggest challenge for St. Simeon with the end of the Shuttle program. Ever year the parish takes a small amount of money from their savings to meet their expenses (usually \$1-2\$K). With exception of just a few, most members are retired. Fr Krist recently had a stroke and it has left him with a blind spot in his left eye's periphery vision.

St Stephen Orthodox Church, Orlando, FL. (1969)

Priest Daniel Hickman, *Acting Rector*

Average Liturgy attendance: 128

Total membership: 67

Annual General Fund income: \$151,109

Building Program Status: They own their building and have no mortgage.

St Stephen's received ten new members through baptism or chrismation in 2013. We had one funeral. Average Sunday attendance was 128 and 47 families pledged financial support for

2014. We offered midweek classes on prayer and theology in addition to our regular Sunday School class for children and adults. We started a seniors group which meets bi-weekly for study, prayer, and fellowship. The sisterhood offered Vacation Bible School and raised money for children's programs with a parish rummage sale. We serve meal to the homeless on the fourth Friday of every month and support St. Vladimir's Seminary, St. Francis House (a home for AIDS patients in Orlando), and the Ephraim Project (a local ministry to the homeless).