

## Diocese of the South (OCA) 2017 Annual Assembly

### Appalachian Deanery Report

The Appalachian Deanery is composed of 9 parishes, 5 of which are listed as “church” status and 4 as “mission.” There is also one inactive Mission, St. Herman of Alaska Mission, Charlottesville, VA. The Deanery covers the geographical region made up of the states of Kentucky, Tennessee roughly east of the Tennessee River, and most of Virginia (the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC fall under the Archdiocese of Washington, DC). We have two missions (St. Tikhon, Chattanooga, TN and St. Ambrose of Milan, Roanoke, VA) under the care of Diocesan clergy. In addition to ongoing efforts in Farmville, VA and Berea, KY, the formerly inactive St. Ambrose of Milan Mission in Roanoke, VA returned to the status of an active mission. The retired Archpriest Samuel Gantt is assisting the Dean to assist the growth of this mission.

The Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Norfolk, VA accomplished the acquisition of property and renovation of the building to begin regular services just prior to Pascha. They have a much better location in which to grow. It is such an amazing thing to see the relief and joy on the faces of the faithful to accomplish this long standing goal. Putting a lot of their own sweat into the it, they have provided a half million dollar project and only hold bank debt of \$150k.

St. Andrew Church, Ashland, VA has seen families relocate and yet holds its own. A wonderful exterior upgrade gives a pleasant appearance to the neighborhood and catches the eye of visitors. Gifts allow the potential for interior iconography to adorn more of the ceiling and walls.

St. Anne Church, Oak Ridge, TN completed a preliminary study and determined to plan the building of a permanent temple on the vacant land next to the current building. The parish has grown significantly and is excited to embark on the building plans.

St. Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, KY continues to grow despite the normal transient trends of a parish. The attendance and tithe growth encourages the faithful as they continue to see the benefit of their previously accomplished building plan. They are looking to implement an online giving program to make giving and cash flow more regular. They continue to play a significant role in the greater community of Nicholasville/Lexington, and among the Orthodox Christian parishes.

St. Cyprian of Carthage, Midlothian, VA was given the status of Church, accomplishing the Consecration of a permanent Altar, compensation of a full-time Rector and no remaining debt on the property. As the parish continues to grow, the Master Plan is being reviewed and consideration for a next step in planning a building is underway.

Protection of the Virgin Mary, Clarksville, TN completed the construction of an Iconostasis just prior to Pascha, and while suffering great tragedy in their parish family, continue to show growth in members and very active seekers. There is a very positive outlook in Clarksville, and very sign points to steady growth aided by a very functional and beautiful facility.

St. Tikhon of Moscow Mission, Chattanooga, TN continues to grow and is enlivened by several new young families with children. These families are seekers, catechumens and recent converts to Orthodoxy. There is very good reason this mission will continue to show growth this coming year as available clergy continue to offer weekly services.

St. Maria of Paris Mission, Cleveland, TN also enjoys the space of a larger facility, and as that space is made more beautiful for Divine Services, the faithful settle into the task of reaching out to the community of Cleveland. The campus of Lee University continues to provide interested visitors, and the parish family has a renewed energy with better facilities within which to worship and provide ministry.

The St. Ambrose of Milan Mission was established in 1979, but soon after Fr. George DeTrana was slowed by the cancer that caused his repose, the mission slipped into an inactive status and active supporters depended on area parishes to attend. A committed core group, along with retired Archpriest Sam Gantt, have recently reformed the mission that was reaffirmed by Archbishop Alexander as an active mission of the Diocese on June 23, 2017. There are a number of seekers from Blacksburg/Christiansburg, and there is an earnest desire to see the mission flourish.

Other areas under consideration for mission effort around the deanery (besides Farmville, VA and Berea, KY) include Nashville, TN, "Tri-cities" (Bristol, VA – Kingsport, TN – Johnson City, TN), Petersburg, VA, and Lewisburg, WV (with the blessing of Diocese of WPA).

### **Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Norfolk, VA**

<http://www.dormitionnorfolk.org>

Priest John Cox

V. Rev. Paul Pynch (attached in retirement)

Average Sunday attendance: 65

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 12-15

Average weekday service attendance: 6-8

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 100

Attendance for Pascha 2017: 75

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: -15%

### **St. Andrew's Church, Ashland, VA**

<http://www.firstcalled.org>

Priest Adam Sexton

Average Sunday attendance: 40

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 12

Average weekday service attendance: 15

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 70  
Attendance for Pascha 2017: 60  
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: NA

**St. Anne Orthodox Church, Oak Ridge, TN**

<http://www.stanneorthodoxchurch.com>

Archpriest Stephen Freeman

Average Sunday attendance: 125  
Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 20  
Average weekday service attendance: 15  
Total Parish (Members/seekers): 200  
Attendance for Pascha 2017: 180  
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: +11%

**St. Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, KY**

<http://www.athanasiusoca.org>

Priest Justin Patterson  
Deacon Simeon Siskar

Average Sunday attendance: 125  
Average Vigil/ Great Vespers attendance: 30  
Average weekday service attendance: 25  
Total Parish (Members/seekers): 209  
Attendance for Pascha 2016: 190  
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: +6.5%

**St. Cyprian of Carthage Church, Richmond (Midlothian), VA**

<http://www.stcyprianoca.org>

Archpriest David Arnold  
Priest Mark Hodal  
Priest Daniel Talley (attached)  
Archpriest Samuel Gantt (attached in retirement)

Average Sunday attendance: 91  
Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 33  
Average weekday service attendance: 15  
Total Parish (Members/seekers): 147

Attendance for Pascha 2017: 143

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: Even

**Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Mission, Clarksville, TN**

<http://www.orthodoxclarksville.org>

Priest Thomas Langdon

Average Sunday attendance: 40

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 12

Average weekday service attendance: 10

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 75

Attendance for Pascha 2016: 64

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for year ending 12/31/2016: +11%

**St. Tikhon of Moscow Mission, Chattanooga, TN**

<http://www.sainttikhons.org>

Mission served by Diocesan Clergy: Archpriest Peter Smith, Archpriest David Arnold, Priest Daniel Talley, Priest Jonas Worsham, Priest Seth Earl

Average Sunday attendance: 40

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 7

Average weekday service attendance: 5

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 60

Attendance for Pascha 2016: 40

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for the year ending 12/31/2016: +10%

**St. Maria of Paris Mission, Cleveland, TN**

<http://www.stmariaorthodoxchurch.org>

Priest Kevin Rigdon

Average Sunday attendance: 42

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 12

Average weekday service attendance: 9

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 76

Attendance for Pascha 2016: 75

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2014-15: +11%

**St. Ambrose of Milan Mission, Roanoke, VA**

<https://oca.org/parishes/oca-so-ricsam>

Mission is served by available Appalachian Deanery clergy, Fr. Samuel Gantt, Fr. David Arnold, Fr. Mark Hodal, Fr. Adam Sexton  
(Priest Aidan "Al" Kimel, retired status in ROCOR)

Average Sunday attendance: 18

Average Vigil/Great Vespers attendance: 12

Average weekday service attendance: NA

Total Parish (Members/seekers): 23

Attendance for Pascha 2017: NA

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings for the year ending 12/31/2016: NA