



South Florida (Miami) Deanery Report

2017 DOS Assembly

St Peter & Paul Church, Miami * Cathedral and Deanery Clergy

This parish has undergone major changes this past year. It's 13 year rector, Fr. Alexander Padlo, retired in October and has moved up the road to Lake Worth. It is being served through the Cathedral clergy and other deanery clergy as needed. The community is looking forward to a new priest who can continue the good work done and carry it forward. It is just West of Downtown Miami which is undergoing a building boom. His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander had an evening visit at the parish in January.

Major work has been done with a shoe string budget in renovating the upstairs two bedroom/two bath rectory. This is still in process. Additionally, the upstairs one bedroom/one bath apartment has also undergone renovations. Hopefully, within the next few months this apartment will be a regular source of income for the parish.

It is a very strong liturgical parish which loves the services and has an excellent small choir. Sunday attendance is between 12 and 30, a little less in the summer.

Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Miami Lakes * Fr. Philip Reese, Fr. Joseph Lucas

It has been a successful and yet challenging year at the Cathedral. It saw the passing of very important members: Alex Pouschine - council member and assistant treasurer, Katheryn LaCroix - former volunteer secretary, and Valentine Jakolenko - volunteer handyman. They will be sorely missed – Memory Eternal! Jim Shiskin, Cathedral treasurer for over 50 years (and our first diocesan treasurer) is stepping down from that work. Those who are involved in the transition are only beginning to see the extent of his work and sacrifice. Many years to Jim!

The ministry of the Cathedral has temporarily extended to our sister parish in Miami, St. Peter & Paul, with the Cathedral clergy rotating to keep them covered with the Divine Services and other pastoral needs.

Fr. Joseph Lucas received a grant geared toward clergy travel and learning. He and his family have been in Europe, finally settling in Romania before returning to Miami in mid-August. He plans to give talks on his experiences with the Church there.

There are several educational offerings: Bible Study, Catechism, Book Studies, and Sunday School. Additionally, one or two retreats a year with invited speakers take place as well. Charity work projects include: clothing and materials collected and sent to a Church sponsored orphanage in Romania, local needs met (at least in part) to those who approach us, and monthly offering to a Seminarian and his family at St. Tikhon's. Sunday Liturgy ranges 80 to 115, 65 to 90 in the summer.

His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, presided at the parish Feast Day in January and gave a retreat on finding Christ in the Old Testament. The parish has a Deacon, Fr. Dn. Carlos Miranda.

This past year: 9 Baptisms, 4 Chrismations, 2 Weddings, 4 Deaths

St. Nicholas Church, Ft. Lauderdale * Fr. Kirrill Gvosdev

This parish has a unique ministry in serving not only the usual American parishioners of various backgrounds, but also many Russian speaking new comers who have rather dramatically moved into our general area. Fr. Kirrill, who is raised American but is Russian speaking, is uniquely able to carry out this two fold mission.

There is a ROCOR parish, St. Matrona of Moscow, not far in Dania Beach, and Father reports that many parishioners migrate back and forth.

Recently a neighboring business, who wishes to build more offices and parking, has made an initial approach to the parish about the possibility of purchasing the church property. If the price is right, it could facilitate the purchase by the parish of a nice piece of land further West where the bulk of the parishioners live.

Father reports a Holy Pascha attendance of about 500, and average Sunday attendance of about 125, less in the summer.

This year: 25 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 3 Funerals

St. Herman of Alaska, Lake Worth * Fr. Nicholas Bargoot

Lake Worth is just South of West Palm Beach and North of Boca Raton - a good location for potential growth. It has undergone an increase of Sunday attendance from 25 to 40 in the winter and 20 to 25 in the summer. Saturday Vespers sees between 5 to 10.

A Bible Study has been initiated with currently 5 to 10 in attendance. Additionally, Sunday School is being organized, and a Saturday Russian School also takes place.

The parish saw this year 7 Baptisms (Adult and Children), 2 Weddings and 2 Funerals.

A new choir leader has led to improvement and stability in singing. Hard work by the parishioners have brought improvements to the appearance of the church property - inside and out.

In October, Fr. Alexander Padlo relocated to the then unused parish rectory on the property where he currently resides. He provides a kindly presence within the community there and is able to assist Fr. Nicholas as needed.

For the time being, the parish continues to conduct food festivals to supplement its income.

St. James the Apostle Church, Port St. Lucie * Fr. Maximus Urbanowicz

This beautiful little church has fairly recently undergone its transformation through the new iconostas and iconography. But the beautification will continue with a wood carved chandelier which will be made by the monk Elias who is from Maine - the same woodworker who made the iconostas.

It is an active parish with a Sunday attendance between 100 to 120 in the winter, and 70 to 80 in the summer. Saturday Vespers sees a range of 8 to 12. The parish sponsored this year the deanery's East Coast Lenten Mission Vespers. The parish also sponsored a talk on "Christian Ending."

A regular Bible Study takes place at the parish with between 8 to 12 in attendance. There are 15 to 20 children in Sunday School, and 4 of the children attended the recent camp near Orlando.

The parish has a Deacon, Fr. Dn. Paul Hilko

This year the parish saw: 2 Baptisms and 2 Chrismations.

Holy Cross Church, Ft. Myers * Fr. Leonid Palceski

The parish continues its work under the leadership of its long time rector, Fr. Leonid. They have one of the better choirs in the deanery and sang at the West Coast Lenten Deanery Mission Vespers in Naples.

Holy Cross has a Sunday winter attendance between 30 to 35, and summer between 25-30. Saturday Vespers is 6 or 7. A weekday Great Feast could see as many as 18.

Three catechumens are being prepared to enter Holy Orthodoxy. There are about 3 picnics a year at the church which fosters fellowship within the community.

This past year, there has been 1 Baptism.

Holy Spirit Church, Venice * Fr. Stephen Lourie

- Zero baptisms, no chrismations.
- Families moved out of Florida and we now have no Sunday Church School program.
- We run quarterly adult Christian Education programs and have active participation (12-16).
- We continue to improve our church building with the gradual re-building of our iconostasis, added all new Festal icons, new holy doors. Mystical Supper to be added soon.
- We now have an Orthodox Cemetery, and two saints are now buried there.
- Our fundraisers are very successful, but our budget relies on them too much. About 1/3 of our operating budget. Very little tithing.
- Our annual retreat was very good, Fr. Joseph Lucas did an amazing job, much thanks to him.
- Our average attendance in the Winter months (January-April) is 110. In the Summer months we average 50-60. It slowly builds in September-December. Nobody pledges.

- The spiritual health is getting better. Many do not practice the fullness of the Sacramental and Liturgical Life of the Church, but we are working on it.
- The financial health is stable but in need of improvement. There is too much dependence on fund raisers, not enough consistent giving and very little tithing.
- Our growth is gradual and steady so there is hope for the future. The Lord just keeps bringing people!! Our webpage is a main source of visitors.

St. Demetrius Mission, Naples * Fr. Gleb McFatter

Attendance during the year averaged around 70 souls for the winter months and around 40 during the summer. Adult membership is 41 for 2017. We have an increase in children with 8-10 attending church school after Liturgy on Sundays.

We continue to see an increase in the number of slaves attending and participating in parish life.

We were blessed with 5 Baptisms and 1 Wedding during the year.

The Sisterhood continues to work with St. Matthew's House, a homeless facility in Naples, by volunteering and providing food stuffs for their pantry.

Our parish sponsored the Deanery West Coast Lenten Mission Vespers this year.

Pascha 2017 had a very good turnout with over 100%.

We continue to interact with the other Orthodox Jurisdictions which are represented in Naples.

St. Peter's Mission, Jupiter * Fr. Philip Kontos

The parish continues to meet at an elementary school cafeteria for Sunday Divine Liturgy. Saturday Vespers take place at parishioner's homes. They continue to look to purchase an appropriate facility at the right price, not so easy in that area.

Their winter Sunday attendance ranges between 25 and 35, summer between 22 and 30. Saturday Vespers between 3 and 8.

Attendance at the regular Bible Study ranges between 3 and 11. Catechism classes are held as needed for newcomers.

The parish conducts a number of cookouts and picnics during the year, as well as a men's breakfast. They are looking to initiate a charitable project in support of pregnant women.

This year the parish saw: 1 Baptism, 2 Chrismations, 1 Wedding and 2 Deaths.

Holy Prophet Jonah Mission Station * Fr. Ernesto Rios, Priest-in-charge

The mission has taken a step back in order to move forward by giving up it's property which needed over \$120,000 in renovations to meet code. It was too much for a group of less than 20 people. Services have reverted to the home of one of its parishioners, Gay Hall.

There are two lay Typica services monthly, as well as the monthly Divine Liturgy served by Fr. Ernesto. There is no service currently in the summer. There are 14 people associated with this mission station with Sunday attendance between 8 to 12.

Archangel Michael Mission Station * Fr. Philip Reese & Deanery Clergy

This small group is lead by an enthusiastic and very energetic woman, Tamara Tretyakova, who together with a small troop of followers dream of a Russian Language church which would be in the middle of the Sunny Isles Beach/Hallandale Beach area - the center of the growing Russian immigration in South Florida. They first approached us in November 2016. His Eminence has visited with this group during his visit to Christ the Saviour Cathedral in January 2017 and has given his blessing to initiate Divine Services. We have been evaluating this situation while serving the Divine Liturgy now two Saturdays a month, mainly in Church Slavonic, at their storefront chapel on a regular basis. Attendance has ranged from 5 to 17 people, all mainly Russian speaking.

As of this writing, Ms. Tretyakova has come to the end of the chapel's lease. With a lack of necessary funding to sustain this worship space any further, a new home base will need to be found and a future strategy be devised. Therefore a step back is being taken in order to hopefully move forward. It's a hard lesson in what kind of commitment is needed to begin a church.