

New Jersey Deanery  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Orthodox Church in America  
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**Report to the Diocesan Assembly – July 19, 2011**  
**Ss Peter and Paul Church**  
**Endicott, New York**

Your Grace, Father Chancellor, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Delegates and Observers to the Diocesan Assembly,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Greetings from the Clergy of the New Jersey Deanery.

There are currently twenty-six parishes which comprise the New Jersey Deanery. One is a Mission Station, Saint John Chrysostom Mission in Absecon, NJ, two are Chapels, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NJ and Saint Martin Chapel, West Point, NY.

Our meetings are attended by approximately 12 to 20 clergy (retired clergy are also active participants). The Deanery clergy meet monthly at various churches of the New Jersey Deanery. We have been blessed to have His Grace, our Bishop Michael attending, and enriching our meetings with his presence.

There was a NJ Deanery Picnic for clergy families, sponsored by His Grace, our Bishop Michael, at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ. It was a wonderful event as well.

A Nativity retreat was held at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ. The retreat, led by His Grace, Bishop Michael, was well attended and very informative.

A Clergy retreat in Clifton was also very well attended by our NJ Clergy and was a great success.

Many of our NJ Deanery youth attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Altar Server Retreat at St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY. His Grace, Bishop Michael sponsored this wonderful weekend retreat.

One of our Clergy, Archpriest David Vernak, is now teaching Liturgics at St. Tikhon's Seminary in addition to his parish obligations.

Lenten and post Lenten Mission services were held at the following parishes:

March 13, *Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers* - Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ  
His Grace, Bishop Michael, celebrated with clergy from many Orthodox Jurisdictions.

Bishop Alejo of Mexico City visited St. John the Baptist Church, Passaic, NJ, on the weekend of March 19, 20 for Vespers and Divine Liturgy.

March 20, *Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas* - Ss Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ.

Homilist: His Grace, Rt. Rev. Alejo, Bishop of Mexico City and the Exarchate of Mexico  
The parish children's choir sang some responses.

March 27, *Sunday of the Holy Cross* - Holy Cross Church, Medford, NJ.

Homilist: Archpriest Daniel Skvir.

April 3, *Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder* - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ.

Homilist: Priest James Worthington.

April 10 - *Saint Mary of Egypt* - Saint Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ.

Homilist: Priest Stephen Evanina.

April 27 - *Bright Wednesday Vespers* - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ

Homilist: His Grace, Bishop Michael.

Pastoral visitations of all of the parishes of the New Jersey Deanery have been made by His Grace, Bishop Michael.

All of the parishes in the New Jersey Deanery have priests assigned, or attached to them and are served regularly.

Again this year, the New Jersey Deanery has sent monetary donations to three priests who are ill or in need of financial help. The New Jersey Deanery has also sent monetary donations to widowed Matushki who were in need of help. The NJ Deanery sent \$500.00 each to the individuals recommended by the Charitable Giving Committee, as well as \$500.00 to Bishop Michael's Distinguished Benefactors Program. Total donations of \$2,500.00.

The New Jersey Deanery Clergy re-elected Archpriest Samuel Kedala, to another three year term as Dean at the last Diocesan Assembly. The newly-elected members of the Diocesan Council from the New Jersey Deanery are: Fr. Stephen Evanina, Clergy representative, Matushka Mary Breton Lay representative; Igumen Joseph (Hoffman), David Maliniak and William Rentz Auditors. The newly-elected members of the Metropolitan Council OCA: Fr. John Shimchick, Clergy representative and Dr. Paul Witek, Lay representative.

A Nativity Retreat was held at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ. The retreat was led by His Grace, Bishop Michael, and was well attended and very informative.

New Sunday of Orthodox Vespers books were printed by the Deanery.

The New Jersey Deanery will host two separate Parish Council Conferences for northern and southern, New Jersey. The first Parish Council Conference was held at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ on June 4<sup>th</sup> (with great success). The second will be held at St. Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ on June 25th.

The 2nd Annual Clergy Retreat of the Diocese will be held on August 31st - September 1st at Holy Assumption Church in Clifton, NJ.

A Lenten Youth Retreat was held April 1-2 at Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ.

The 1st Annual Diocesan Youth Day will be held on August 18th beginning at Saint Mary's Church, Jackson, NJ. The event will a prayer service and breakfast at the parish with various activities, followed by a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure.

I personally thank the Clergy of the New Jersey Deanery for their continued dedication and hard work in the building up of the Body of Christ. They are in the forefront in all aspects of our Deanery, Diocese and our Orthodox Church in America. We thank His Grace, our Bishop Michael for his leadership and encouragement in the work accomplished by our New Jersey Deanery Clergy

I and the Clergy of the New Jersey Deanery ask for your prayers and support as we continue to do the work set out for us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,



Archpriest Samuel Kedala,  
Dean of New Jersey