

**New Jersey Deanery**  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
Orthodox Church in America  
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Report to the Diocesan Assembly – December 11, 2012  
Holy Assumption Church  
Clifton, NJ

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-five parishes which comprise the New Jersey Deanery. 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.

Many of our NJ Deanery youth attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Altar Server Retreat February 24-26, 2012 at St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY. His Grace, Bishop Michael, sponsored this wonderful weekend retreat.

Many of our Clergy participated in the combined celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the ROCOR Cathedral in NY City on December 10, 2011. It was truly a wonderful event with approximately 15 bishops, 15 deacons, 30 priests and 500 faithful!

Many NJ Deanery clergy and faithful attended the Right to Life March in Washington DC.

His Grace, Bishop Michael, held a reception and dinner honoring the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors on Sunday, February 5th at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church-Clifton, NJ. His Grace presented a short program about how the DDB Program has been working as well as his vision for the future of the program and the diocese. DDB Gramotas were presented to the Benefactors. Note: The donations to our DDB fund are running behind this year. The New Jersey Deanery encourages our parishes and faithful to become benefactors.

As has become the new tradition for meetings of the New Jersey Deanery papers are being presented at our meetings. Fr. John Nehrebecki offered the first presentation to the participating clergy on the subject of “The Spirit of the Liturgy and the Order of the House.” Fr. John offered reflections on his own priestly ministry and the various liturgical traditions he encountered throughout the years. We thank Fr. John for his insight and work in preparing such a thought-provoking presentation.

Fr. Gary Breton spoke about clergy compensation as a work in progress. He presented the Deanery with a extensive view of proposed guidelines for our clergy. The presentation was very well done.

At our May meeting a presentation was given by Fr. David Vernak.

Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk gave a very informative presentation on the history and development of the liturgical tradition in the Orthodox Church.

Fr. Joseph Frawley gave a wonderful presentation on “The Intercession of the Saints in the Tradition of the Orthodox Church

Fr. John Jillions, Chancellor, of the OCA spoke to our NJ Deanery clergy about the ongoing duties of the Chancellor. He received and answered many questions from our Deanery Clergy.

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

March 11th-St. Gregory Palamas: St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, NJ

March 18th-Veneration of the Precious Cross: Church of the Mother of God, Mays Landing, NJ

March 25th-St. John Climacus: Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ

April 1st-St. Mary of Egypt: SS Peter & Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ

April 18th-Bright Wednesday Vespers: Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ

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. We welcome new clergy to the NJ Deanery. Priest Thaddeus Franta has been assigned as Acting Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Rahway, NJ and Priest John Culbraith-Frazier has been temporarily attached to St. Gregory Church, Wappingers Falls, NY.

Priest Boris Slootsky petitioned for retirement and was granted the same as of October 1, 2012. We thank him for his many years of service to the Mother of God Church, Mays Landing and to our Deanery.

Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak will be serving the Mays Landing Parish. Priest Stephen Miller of St. John Chrysostom Mission, Ocean City, NJ has been transferred to the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and Mission has been closed.

St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls, NY completed their new addition to the Church and it was blessed by His Grace, Bishop Michael, on the weekend of January 21 & 22.

A Healing Service was served at Saint Spyridon Church, Perth Amboy, NJ March 25, 2012,

The New Jersey Deanery hosted two separate Parish Council Conferences for northern and southern New Jersey. .

A Healing Service was served by His Grace, Bishop Michael, at Holy Apostles Church, Saddlebrook, NJ June 24, 2012,

On Sunday, July 15, there was a NJ Deanery Picnic for clergy families sponsored by His Grace, Bishop Michael, at Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ It was a wonderful event..

A Sunday School Teacher’s Conference was held on August 4, 2012, at Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ.

A Clergy Conference Was held on August 21st – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Holy Resurrection Church Wayne, NJ.

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

The 2nd Annual Diocesan Youth Day was held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The event opened with a prayer service and breakfast at the St. Mary's Church, Jackson, NJ. Various activities were held followed by a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure. His Grace, Bishop Michael, provided Tee-shirts and food at Great Adventure.

An Akathist and anointing with the myrrh from the weeping Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God. Was held at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ. There were over 200 participants.

Saints Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ held her 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration October 28, 2012.

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. Please pray for us 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