

**Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Orthodox Church in America
2019 Diocesan Assembly
East Meadow, New York
October 31 – November 1, 2019**

Report of Operation: Pearl River

Your Eminence, Right Reverend, Very Reverend, and Reverend Fathers, and Lay Delegates,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

With thanks to Almighty God, Operation: Pearl River was an overwhelming success.

I wish to thank His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, for blessing and initiating this wonderful endeavor of refurbishing the temple and rejuvenating the parish of Holy Transfiguration Church, Pearl River, New York.

Several volunteers from throughout the diocese, beginning with Abp. MICHAEL, himself, and many clergy and laymen showed up to clean and paint the interior of the temple July 22 through July 26, 2019.

Washing the ceiling and walls was accomplished on Monday and Tuesday, and the painting was completed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during work sessions that began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m. each day. The entrance gate to the churchyard was cleaned, and a little landscaping was completed as well.

Years of candle and incense soot were replaced with fresh, bright paint; wall sconces and the center chandelier were cleaned, re-bulbed, and rewired, and the carpet steam cleaned giving a much needed “facelift” to the worship space enhancing the warm and inviting atmosphere. Many icons were cleaned before being replaced on the walls.

The physical improvements to the temple are an obvious example of what was accomplished with Operation: Pearl River. Much more than what is visible to the eye, though, transpired during the days of work in which everyone involved bonded with one another in a common pursuit by donating their time and talent to a parish that could never have afforded to hire outside workers to do everything that was accomplished in five short days by volunteers.

There are no words that can adequately express my gratitude, and that of the parishioners, for the outpouring of love from the numerous men and women that graciously turned-out for, or made monetary donations towards, what was not merely an event of the renovation of an Orthodox Church building, but an experience of the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

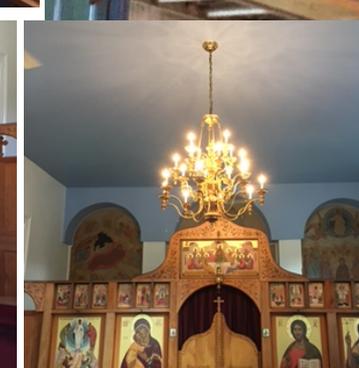
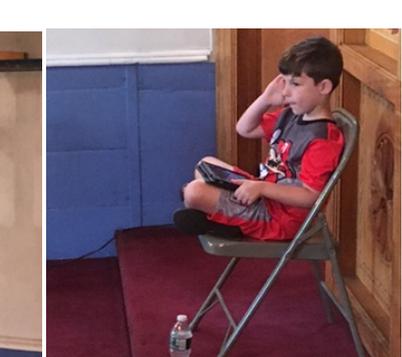
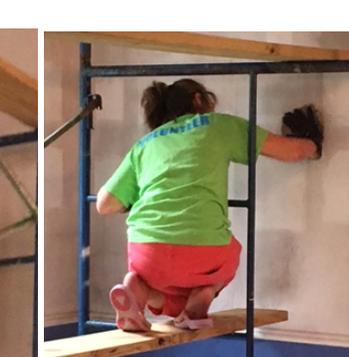
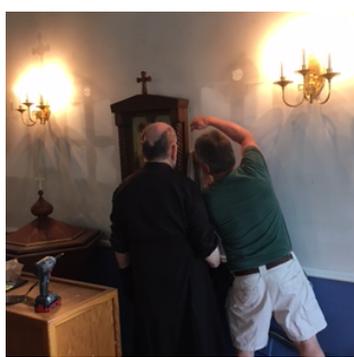
Enjoying morning beverages, working side by side, eating lunch together, coffee breaks, etc., afforded opportunities for fellowship and getting to know people from across the diocese and our sister parishes in a distinctively unique and inspiring way.

I encourage everyone in the diocese to participate in whatever capacity they can when future OPERATIONS are planned for parishes that need our combined and concerted help. The results are not merely renewed places of worship but, just as importantly, renewed spirits in those who engage in such holy work.

Again, many thanks to His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, Archpriest Gary Breton, Dean of the New Jersey Deanery, that promoted OPR, and all those that contributed to the cause in so many different and personal ways.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Reverend Archimandrite Joseph



**Before and After Pictures
Operation: Pearl River
July 22-26, 2019**