

REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN DEANERY TO THE 53rd ASSEMBLY OF
THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Following a deliberate effort for more than a decade, all shared activities of the Michigan Deanery parishes are also shared with other OCA and pan-Orthodox parish communities. The four parishes in the metropolitan Detroit area (Holy Transfiguration in Livonia, Holy Trinity in Detroit, St. Mark in Rochester Hills and Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit) worship, outreach, celebrate and minister with others in the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. The COCC, under the auspices of the St. John Chrysostom clergy brotherhood, is also the umbrella organization for the Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (OCWM) and the Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO) which is now the FOCUS North America Center in Detroit. Deanery parish and personnel are among the leading participants in all of the collective activity.

The two western parishes (Holy Ascension in Albion and St. Demetrius in Jackson) also share their lives with other Orthodox Christian parishes from Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Battle Creek with the monastery of the Holy Dormition (Romanian OCA) in Rives Junction often being the focal point.

The Cathedral Parish of Ss. Peter and Paul in Detroit has been dealt another blow with the loss of serving priest Fr. Alexandru Partioc due to a stroke. Please join us as we pray for his recovery. Supply clergy and Sunday reader services have kept a nominal Liturgical life active for the parish. Please note, despite all of the community's difficulties, the growing outreach and ministry to Detroit's southwest side described in the Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral parish report.

Mission outreach to the greater Kalamazoo area through the work of Fr. Evangelos Pepps from Holy Ascension in Albion is nearing its first anniversary. Please see his report in the packet.

With gratitude for his service over the past three years we bid farewell to Fr. John Wehling of Holy Transfiguration in Livonia who has taken a parish and mission station on the Diocese of the South. We also welcome Fr. Michael Butler as the new rector for the parish.

Further details are given in the parish reports.

In Christ,

V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky,
Michigan Deanery Dean

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT
for the 2014 Diocesan Assembly
email completed form to chancery@domoca.org

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Ascension Orthodox Church PO Box 367 810 Austin Av. Albion, MI 49224	
Clergy	
Fr Joshua Frigerio, rector. Fr. Deacon John Wesner. Fr Angelo Pepps (attached).	
Committees/Societies	
n/a	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities.	
Mid-August annual Orthodox Family Camp a success. Another Seminarian ordained to priesthood.	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Fr. Angelo is trying to get a mission off the ground in Kalamazoo, 45 minutes to our west. OCF activities in neighboring schools. Lots of participation in the life of nearby Holy Dormition Monastery.	
Major Challenges Faced	
Old building upkeep. Sin.	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015	
n/a	

	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count		38	43
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance		55	60?
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants		40	45?
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance		20	20?
Number of Catechumens		4	1
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms		4	2
Funerals		1	1
Marriages		0	1
Receptions into Orthodoxy		2	7
Church School/Number Enrolled		n/a	8
Adult Education/Number Participating		8	8


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Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 20500 Anglin Detroit, Michigan 48234	
Clergy	
Fr. Lev Kopistiansky	
Committees/Societies	
Holy Trinity Brotherhood	
Protection of the Virgin Mary Sisterhood	
Holy Trinity Choir	
Holy Trinity Church School	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Hosted the Miraculous Icon of the Righteous Anna Hosted Lenten Vespers Svc on behalf of the Council of Orthodox Christian Church's of Metro Detroit (COCC). Annual Parish Picnic.....enjoyed by all! Annual Pascha Bread Baking	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Feeding the homeless in Detroit in conjunction with the Orthodox Detroit Outreach at Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) location.....Food prep and downtown on sight food distribution. Church School fund raising for charity (souper bowl luncheon) ...children help choose public charity and funds for our own needy parishioners. Choir/singer participation in benefit concerts.....Orthodox Choir of Metro Detroit....last benefit was for Zoe for Life. Orthodox Christian Prison Ministryparish funds allocated to this ministry for local correspondence to prisonersalso meetings are now starting to be held at the parish. Ongoing parish project of .weekly collection of donated clothing and canned goods..... Our Sisterhood preparing and hosting meals directly to the homeless at our sister parish SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on behalf of the Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO).	

Inquirers / adult church education class
Major Challenges Faced
<p>City of Detroit being an economically hard hit area resulting in high unemployment, youth leaving state for jobs, decrease in parish donations.</p> <p>Parish basement hall was flooded causing massive damage....in process of rebuilding....</p> <p>Lack of manpower.</p>
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015
<p>Hosting Miraculous Icon of the Righteous Anna along with a Nativity Fast Retreat over Thanksgiving weekend.</p> <p>Scheduled stop for the Detroit Historical Society Tour Busthis is one event of the year 2015 celebrating our 100th year parish anniversary.</p> <p>Annual Protection of the Virgin Mary Sisterhood Banquet.</p> <p>Annual Parish Picnic.</p>

	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count		58	58
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance		70	60
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants		80	65
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance		10	8
Number of Catechumens		0	1
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms		2	2
Funerals		6	10
Marriages		1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy		0	1
Church School/Number Enrolled		24	22
Adult Education/Number Participating		12	8

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
<p>Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral 3810 Gilbert Street Detroit MI 48210</p>	
Clergy	
<p>Served on Sunday by V. Rev. Alexandru Partioc, retired and is currently recovering from a stroke. Parish continues Sunday worship with a Reader's Service supplemented by area supply priests when available.</p> <p>V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky, Dean and administrator</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p>Parish Council Ladies Altar Guild Community Outreach & Charity Choir</p>	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering into our sixth year without an assigned priest, parishioners are committed to ensure weekly worship services and maintain a presence in the City of Detroit, meeting the challenges that go with that commitment. • Partnering with Detroit community groups to provide a place for charity, outreach, community gardening, a Head Start School, and facility rentals which meet the needs of a mostly low income and diverse neighborhood. • A concerted effort by a few able bodied parishioners to maintain the large infrastructure and debt affiliated with it. 	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a weekly meal for the homeless and needy at the parish hall; food and clothing 	

<p>distribution, and fellowship. Coordinated through affiliation with FOCUS Detroit/Orthodox Detroit Outreach. Engaging Orthodox Christians and other volunteers from the wealthier suburbs to come to Detroit and serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual “Cookies with Santa”, “Waffles and Wabbits”, and Thanksgiving luncheon for the children enrolled in the onsite Head Start school, neighborhood children & their families. • Partnering with “Keep Growing Detroit” growing a Community garden on lots owned by the parish • Occasional collections for charities or local needs. • Active participation in SW Detroit neighborhood group & SW Detroit Pastor’s Association to build relationships within the community. • Partnership with Detroit Kitchen Connect, providing space for small food entrepreneurs, actively promoting Detroit’s renewal which has increased media attention to church
<p>Major Challenges Faced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding and funding priest who has a “calling” for urban ministry. • Decreased parish core membership & the challenge of attracting people to inner city church where there is no assigned priest. • Paying down both long and short term debt. • An aging infrastructure that that is increasingly difficult to maintain with current limited financial resources. • Minimal liturgical schedule due to lack of assigned priest. • Increasing visibility and activity in an impoverished, diverse urban neighborhood.
<p>Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2013 to September 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating 107 years in Detroit, the oldest Orthodox Parish in Michigan. • Plan to increase liturgical schedule to include bimonthly Saturday Divine liturgy • Plan to increase liturgical schedule to include Lenten services in spring 2015 by partnering with a sister Orthodox parish

	As of September 1, 2013	As of September 1, 2014	
Supporting Membership Count	49	36	
	January 1 thru September 1, 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014	
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	25	20	
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	20	20	
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	n/a	n/a	
Number of Catechumens	0	0	
	January 1 thru September 1, 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014	
Baptisms	0	0	
Funerals	3	3	
Marriages	0	1	
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0	0	
Church School/Number Enrolled	<5	<5	
Adult Education/Number Participating	n/a	n/a	

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
St. Demetrius Orthodox Church 3043 Seymour Road Jackson, MI 49201	
Clergy	
Archpriest Fr. Dusan Koprivica	
Committees/Societies	
Sisterhood	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Relay for Life 24 hour Cancer Walk raised over \$7500 Prison to Paradise Bus tours (We have the prison bus tours stop at our church and we give them icon tour of church and baklava) 12 tours Help Dormition Monastery with meals and serving for their Feastday.	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Help with Monastery Relay for Life Right to Life, Donated icon cards for their fundraising dinner Prison ministry	
Major Challenges Faced	
To bring in new parishioners	

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015			
Fr. Dusan celebrating 25 years as a priest December 19, 2014			

	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count	51	51	49
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	55	55	55
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	50	50	50
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	10	10	10
Number of Catechumens	1	5	2
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms	2	5	2
Funerals	2	3	9
Marriages	0	0	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	2	3	5
Church School/Number Enrolled	21	21	19
Adult Education/Number Participating	12	12	12

DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

for the 2014 Diocesan Assembly

to be returned to both chancery@domoca.org as well as ayavornitzky9924@gmail.com

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Ascension (Albion)'s Transfigure outreach to greater Portage, MI	
Clergy	
Fr. Evangelos (Angelo) Pepps	
Committees/Societies	
Choir and (starting Oct. 1) Outreach Committee - see below	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
<p>1) Had a very uniting 3rd Sunday of Paska with Mother Makrina of Holy Dormition Monastery (Rives Junction): a) Speaking on "The Myrrh-bearing women as our models to love people into God's kingdom" & b) Fellowshiping with many (16?) during pot luck</p> <p>2) Our http://transfigure.us/ website is improved and helping guide people to the life in Christ. Of special assistance is the http://transfigure.us/church-needs-survey/ that gives us people's needs, wants and honest feedback.</p> <p>3) Our upcoming Wed, Oct. 1 "<i>How to grow a mission</i>" mini-workshop w Deacon John (Wesner)</p>	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
<p>1) Occasional weekday liturgies seems to be greatly appreciated esp., by two families who normally attend Albion on Sundays</p> <p>2) Now twice weekly ministering at Tendercare rehabilitation/nursing home, Portage, MI</p> <p>3) A very successful and moving March tour with Deacon John (Wesner) and three teenager assistants that included Lenten Vespers, a talk by Fr. Evangelos on "Transfiguring Life in Christ" and fellowship with residents of the local shelter, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission</p> <p>4) Twice weekly ride returning Sarah Graham, our blind catechumen student back to WMU</p> <p>5) Occasional talks to the Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association</p>	
Major Challenges Faced	
Much commitment of any sort.	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015	
Regular outreach on the WMU campus, some guest speakers we hope to have, ministry again at the Gospel Mission, Christmas caroling at Tendercare (Portage) and other nursing homes, Prison....	

	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count	na	na	5
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	na	na	7
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	na	na	5
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	na	na	4
Number of Catechumens	na	na	1
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms	na	na	0
Funerals	na	na	0
Marriages	na	na	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	na	na	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	na	na	0
Adult Education/Number Participating	na	na	4

Respectfully submitted Sept. 2, 2014 after being approved by Fr. Joshua
in Christ,

fr. Evangelos (Angelo) Pepps


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Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church 36075 W 7 Mile Rd Livonia, MI 48152	
Clergy	
Archpriest Michael Butler (assigned 1 Sept 2014) Protodeacon Jacob Frimenko	
Committees/Societies	
Our council is organized by ministries with a representative from each ministry on the council, as well as a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
--Annual cookie walk brings together multiple generations from within the parish and connects us to the community -- Began a prison ministry. -- Provide monthly meals to the neighborhood at SS Peter & Paul Church, Detroit.	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
-- Kits for the homeless are distributed monthly through St Dominic's, Detroit. -- Parish works with Orthodox Detroit Outreach on feeding the homeless. -- Parish is in process of establishing a chapter of ZOE For Life for the Detroit area.	
Major Challenges Faced	
--Ongoing iconography project to finish. Altar, ground and mezzanine levels almost completed (12 year program). -- Recent heavy rains exposed a major leak in the main cupola with attendant damage to the iconography.	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015	
30 th anniversary of the parish in August, 2015.	

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	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count		179	163
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	August 31, 2013 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance		NA	135
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants		NA	NA
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance		35	NA
Number of Catechumens		2	1
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	August 31, 2013 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms		3	4
Funerals		2	1
Marriages		3	2
Receptions into Orthodoxy		1	0
Church School/Number Enrolled		48	
Adult Education/Number Participating		20	

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
St. Mark Orthodox Church, 400 West Hamlin Road Rochester Hills, MI 48307	
Clergy	
V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky 3710 Alida avenue Rochester Hills, MI 48309	
Committees/Societies	
Parish Council Men's Fellowship Various working ministry groups	
Since October 2013	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Annual Ministries Fair for recruitment and enrollment for work below Created an in parish grant program for funding parishioner ministry initiatives Summer Vacation Church School	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Annual Christmas food and gift distribution to over 200 households; weekly food distribution to several neighborhood families; tutoring at the elementary school next to the church; bi-monthly meals prepared and served to homeless in Detroit; participation in and support of the Rochester Neighborhood House (local charitable); CROP Walk; Sponsorship of OCF at Oakland University; IOCC, SAMP; Prayer shawl ministry; Orthodox Detroit Outreach (pan Orthodox street ministry) support and participation; Hosting Red Cross blood drives; Christmas day caroling and gift distribution at a local nursing home; support to local Crossroads Pregnancy center; numerous charitable and outreach individual parishioner activities nurtured by the liturgical and sacramental life of the parish; two "Outside Speaker" events 1) Fr. John Bethancourt of Santa Fe, NM on spiritual life and 2) Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, narrated a photo history of the American Mission through the current OCA	

Major Challenges Faced			
Incorporating the new members while respecting the older ones			
Transitioning in general			
Improving education programs; increasing adult involvement in ongoing learning			
Greater Liturgical participation			
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - October 2014 to September 2015			
35 th Anniversary of founding – Forgiveness Sunday, 2015			

	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	As of September 1, 2014
Supporting Membership Count		115	120
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance		c.110 (seasonally 80-140)	c. 115 (seasonally 80-145)
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants		c. 85% of attendees	80%-85% of attendees
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance		10-15	10-15
Number of Catechumens		4	2
	Reported for Calendar Year 2012	Reported for Calendar Year 2013	January 1 thru September 1, 2014
Baptisms		4	2
Funerals		1 (non parishioner)	1 member 1 non member
Marriages		0	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy		3	1
Church School/Number Enrolled		41	31
Adult Education/Number Participating		c.20	c.20