Minneapolis Deanery Report September 15, 2017

- 1. The St Nicholas Preservation Society was formed to preserve St Nicholas Orthodox Church in Chisholm, MN, closed officially in 2015 (or so), from being delivered over to buyers who might turn it into an office or apartment building, and to preserve it as a church, used only for ecclesiastical purposes. Before the Diocese of the Midwest could hand the property over to the St Nicholas Preservation Society Disbursement, however, the SNPS had to be formed into a 501C3 organization. This took more than a year. That process was completed in March and the property handed over by His Grace to the SNPS.
- 2. Holy Cross Mission in Chisago City, MN, was closed in 2013. The remaining funds in the Holy Cross treasury were given over to the Diocese of the Midwest and were earmarked by His Grace for disbursement to the mission parishes of the Minneapolis Deanery. After several meetings with the clergy of the Minneapolis Deanery, consensus was reached and in late Spring, early Summer of 2017, His Grace distributed the \$100k equally (minus expenses already paid out to different missions for clergy medical costs and moving costs) among the five missions of the Minneapolis Deanery:
 - St Nicholas in Pella, IA
 - Three Hierarchs in Northfield, MN
 - St Elizabeth in West St Paul, MN
 - Holy Myrrhbearers in St Cloud, MN
 - Holy Resurrection in Fargo, ND
- 3. For the first time in my tenure as Dean (going back to 2007 or so), all parishes in the Minneapolis Deanery are now served by their own rectors or priests-in-charge.
 - a. Fr Herman Klarr and his family were assigned to serve Holy Assumption in Lublin, WI. Fr Hermann also serves St John the Baptist one Sunday a month in nearby Stanley, WI; and St Mary's in Cornucopia, WI every fifth Sunday of the month during the summer.
 - b. Fr William Rettig and his wife, Jillian, were assigned to serve Holy Resurrection in Fargo, ND. This has proved to be a fruitful venture for the Rettigs. Not long after their assignment, Jillian gave birth to a daughter who should prove in future years not far distant to be the oldest of a large Rettig family.
 - c. Fr Stacey Richter and his family were assigned to St Peter the Aleut in Minot, ND. They are now a good 18 hours closer to their children's grandparents, who live in nearby Canada, as in north of the border.

And, that's the news from Lake Wobegon.

Archpriest Paul Wesche Dean, Minneapolis Deanery Diocese of the Midwest (OCA)

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address

Holy Trinity
523 1st Street
Clayton, WI 54004

Clergy
Arpr. Christopher Wojcik
Deacon Jack Rogers
Pr. Thaddeus Nielsen, retired

Committees/Societies

Council, Sisterhood, Choir, Youth Group, Sunday School, Cemetery

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- 2 baptisms
- Vacation Bible School focused on Noah's Ark, with numerous non-Orthodox students attending.
- Recordings of sermons getting lots of 'hits' on website by people all over region, including many non-Orthodox 'followers'.

Outreach and Charitable Activities

- Jointly run a food pantry with local churches. Our parish alone donated over 2100 pounds of food in the past year.
- Rector meets with area clergy regularly to discuss spirituality and local pastoring.
- Held 6 fundraising suppers for outside charities on the Wednesdays of Lent, including for a neighbor in a tree-stand accident.

Major Challenges Faced

- Looming capital needs (like a new roof soon).
- Geographically scattered membership. More than 2/3 of parish drive over 30 miles one-way.
- Priest must work secular job to keep both family & parish in black (esp. health insurance)

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2016 to August 2017

	As of	As of	As of
	September 1,	September 1,	September 1,
	2015	2016	2017
Supporting Membership Count	66	63	63

	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	75	70	75
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	65	60	65
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	4	4	4
Number of Catechumens	2	0	1
	September 2013 thru August 2014	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016
Baptisms	4	2	2
Funerals	0	1	1
Marriages	4	1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0	0	1
Church School/Number Enrolled	31	26	25
Adult Education/Number Participating	40	40	40

As of September 1, 2017 email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address St. Mary's Orthodox Church Corner of Ash & Erie Sts Cornucopia, WI 54827 Clergy V. Rev. Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik, Supply Priest



Committees/Societies

Since September 2016 Highlights of Top Three Activities

Rev. Fr. Hermann J. Klarr, Supply Priest

Mr. George Lazorik, Lay Contact/Parish President

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Major Challenges Faced

- 1) Lack of adequate insulation for winter services
- 2) Lack of financial support

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count			8
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance			13 (Liturgy on 4 th Sunday of the month)
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants			4
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance			N/A
Number of Catechumens			0
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms			
Funerals			
Marriages			
Marriages			

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church	
1604 52nd Ave S Fargo, ND 58104	



Clergy

Fr. William Rettig, priest-in-charge

Fr. Oliver Herbel

Committees/Societies

Parish Council

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- 1. New iconostasis built, general improvement of worship space
- 2. Contact with Eritrean Tewahedo Community in Winnipeg; Matins and time of fellowship held at Holy Resurrection during Paschaltide
- 3. Regular educational opportunities, including book club, catechism, & Church school

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Monthly bonfires/barbecues after Saturday great vespers

Monthly meal service and ongoing donation collection for Dorothy Day House of Hospitality in Moorhead, MN.

Interfaith Expo at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN

Four-session class on 'What is the Orthodox Church' at Catholic Health Initiative's Riverside Place in Fargo, ND

Rummage sale (unsure as to whether we will continue!)

Major Challenges Faced

Physical space - we are at max capacity, especially fall/winter, when we cannot utilize the back yard during coffee hour; parking is a challenge & there is no room to expand or utilize on-street parking

Educational needs - adults & many, many children, and very few lay educators; need for adult education on two levels: for those motivated 'above-and-beyond' (and to potentially become lay educators) & for busy, time-pressed parents

Choir - long-time choir director is stepping down; few motivated to commit to choir or attend rehearsal

Long-distance relationships - how to involve/serve far-flung parishioners, who are 1-3 hrs/more away from the parish?

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

Parish feast day, December 6, event TBD

Church school play/pageant, December 17

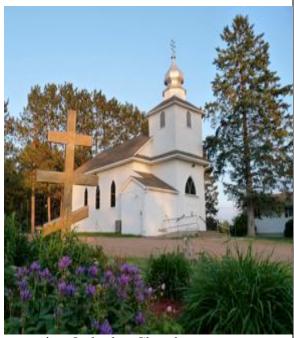
	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	20	23	31
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	38	43	61
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	28	32	46
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	n/a	5	12
Number of Catechumens	2	1	6
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	1	2	10
Funerals	0	0	0
Marriages	1	1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	2	0	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	16	16	24
Adult Education/Number Participating	n/a	7	10

As of September 1, 2017

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Parish Name and Address





Holy Assumption Orthodox Church N1249 County Road F Lublin, Wisconsin 54447

Clergy

Rev. Fr. Hermann J. Klarr

Committees/Societies

Parish Council

Holy Assumption Ladies Aid

Church School

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- 1. Assignment of new priest effective 27 November 2016
- 2. Participation in Lublin Days with serving food, parish float in parade, and selling frozen pierogi
- 3. Re-instituted Annual Parish Picnic to be celebrated on the Sunday after Dormition

Outreach and Charitable Activities

- 1. Monetary donations to IOCC, OCMC, FOCUS, Project Mexico, and Seminary Fund
- 2. Donated backpacks with school supplies to local schools
- 3. Monetary and food donations to local food pantries
- 4. Sponsored family for Christmas

Major Challenges Faced

- 1. Approximately one third of parish membership is 80+ years old
- 2. Approximately one half of parish membership drives over an hour to attend church
- 3. Difficult to attract new members
- 4. Lublin area is economically depressed

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

- 1. Visit from Bishop Paul on second weekend of Lent (March 2-4)
- 2. August 2018 Holy Assumption will celebrate 110th Anniversary

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	31	33	30
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	20		30
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	20		25
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	5		10
Number of Catechumens	1		0
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	1		1
Funerals	5		2
Marriages	0		0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	1		0
	1		-
Church School/Number Enrolled	7		10

As of September 1, 2017

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
St Herman's Orthodox Church 5355 38 th Ave So	
Minneapolis, MN 55417	
Willingapons, Wilv 55417	
Clergy	
Archpriest Paul Wesche	
S' S	
Since September 2016 Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Triginights of Top Time Activities	
Tonsuring two readers and blessing one acolyte to wear the orarion	
Visitors	
Annual pilgrimage to Holy Dormition Monastery, July 26-27	
Renovation and Repair of Church building, Sept-Oct	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Volunteer at FOCUS MN	
Annual donations to;	
IOCC	
OCMC Hagar Rafael Ornhanaga	
Hogar Rafael Orphanage Holy Dormition Monastery	
ZOE	
FOCUS MN	
Diocesan Seminarian Appeal	
rr	
Major Challenges Faced	
Spiritual Laziness, Love for Egypt	
Raising capital for building renovation/repair	
Raising level of Church School participation and consistency of attendance	
Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018	
Mittel-European Dinner, Nov 4	

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	38	40	42
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	68	60	63
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	55	54	58
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	22	22	18
Number of Catechumens	0	0	1
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	2	0	4
Funerals	1	0	0
Marriages	0	0	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	6	0	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	12	20	15
Adult Education/Number Participating	20	20	20

As of September 1, 2017

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
St Mary's Cathedral, 1701 Fifth Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413	
	<u> </u>

Clergy

Archpriest Andrew Morbey, Dean; Priest Benjamin Tucci, associate; Priest Richard Flom attached; Priest William Neumann, attached; Archpriest Vladimir von Tsurikov, attached; Archpriest Gregory Krutchek, attached; Archpriest Myron Manzuk, retired; Archpriest Eugene Tarris, retired; Archpriest Gregory Grivna, retired; Protodeacon Mark Griffin, attached; Deacon David Kostick, attached; Deacon Gregory Krutchek, attached; Deacon Jason Ketz, attached; Deacon Alexey Dupay, attached; Deacon Gregory Ealy, attached

Committees/Societies

Women's Club, Men's Club, FOCA, Saints (Junior FOCA), OCF, Veteran's, Visitation Committee, Missions Committee, Library, Taste of Northeast Festival Committee, Olive Shoot Cathedral Shop, Church School, Vacation Church School, Iconography classes, Bible Study, Adult Education; Theology on Thursdays; Perohe group, Seniors, Wednesday work group,, Young Marrieds, Young Men's Group, Service Attendants, SS Peter & Paul Society, St Alexis (Toth) Lecture series, etc...

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- + Making it through an incredibly busy year! ©
- + Very rich liturgical life and parish activities
- + Successful Taste of Northeast Festival (Sep)

Outreach and Charitable Activities

Participation in FOCUS Minnesota activities and projects. Church School and Junior FOCA service projects and Advent charitable activities. Monthly special collections for charitable projects and ministries (examples IOCC. Orthodox Prison Ministry, OCMC, St Catherine's Monastery, Minnesota Home Nurses...)

Major Challenges Faced

Parking lot replacement. Property maintenance, planning and resource allocation. Developing new ministries to serve new needs

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

Recognition luncheon honoring parishioners over 80;

2018 International Society for Orthodox Church Music symposium (June)

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	382	385	391
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	325	327	332
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants			
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	42	42	43
Number of Catechumens	6	1	3
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	9	20	19
Funerals	9	18	11
Marriages	3	2	10
Chrismations	7	1	4
Church School/Number Enrolled	130	130	130
Adult Education/Number Participating	40	40	45

As of September 1, 2017

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Parish Name and Address

Three Holy Hierarchs Mission

Services:

1651 Jefferson Pkwy, Northfield, MN 55057 (Northfield Senior Center)

Mail:

311 Cherry Street Northfield, MN 55057



Clergy

Rev. Christopher R. Maciolek

Committees/Societies

- Three Holy Hierarchs Women's Fellowship

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- Organized and held our communities first Holy Supper on Christmas Eve.
- Connected with FCI Waseca and began prison ministry.
- Received our first convert from Carleton College.

Outreach and Charitable Activities

- Women's Fellowship is working on the production of sleeping mats made from recycled materials in order to distribute to homeless shelter.
- In process of planning donations for Midwest Seminarians.

Major Challenges Faced

- Still searching for a permanent location in Northfield, MN and all the complications that come along with that.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

- Bishop Paul's visit on St. John Climacus Sunday
- 5th Anniversary of our mission's founding on July 15, 2017

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	10	10	8
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	30	24	23
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	20	20	23
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	17	17	15
Number of Catechumens	1	1	3
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	7	1	1
Funerals	0	0	0
Marriages	0	0	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	1	0	1
Church School/Number Enrolled	8	8	8
Adult Education/Number Participating	8	8	3

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address

St. Nicholas Mission

621 1/2 Franklin Street, Pella, IA 50219

mailing address: 121 E. 13th Street, Pella, IA 50219

Photo



Clergy

V.Rev. Bartholomew Wojcik

Dn. Spyridon Roegner

Committees/Societies

Parish Council

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

- Pascha: midnight service, full church with visitors followed by pot-luck *agape* meal, then the *Agape* Vespers that day followed by an open house party at the president's & choir director's house.
- Bishop PAUL's visit on Transfiguration, coinciding with Fr. Bartholomew's 20 anniversary of ordionation. Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik, *Dean Emeritus*, also concelebrated.
- St. Nicholas Day Vespers & open house with free meal for all guests. (We ask that everyone who can, bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry "in the spirit of St. Nicholas.")

Of special note: We had an introductory video made by Kriha Films posted on our web site's home page and on our Facebook page in February.

Outreach and Charitable Activities

- *On-going* support of the local food pantry.
- Thrice-annual visits to local nursing facilities to serve a *Molieben* on a Sunday afternoon as part of our participation in the Pella Ministerial Association's schedule of churches providing services to nursing homes.
- Fr. Bartholomew participates in the local ministerial association's book club which just finished *The Way of a Pilgrim* and will be starting St. Athansius' *On the Incarnation* in September.

Major Challenges Faced

- Fr. Bartholomew works a full-time side job-- much of it mandatory over-time for the past year.
- Our rented church facility is in an upstairs location in the historic center of town: it is not very visible, not handicap accessible, and not architecturally ideal.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

One of our parishioners is scheduled to be married in 2018 at her home Greek Orthodox Church in Illinois (where her father serves as a deacon). Fr. Bartholomew has been asked to serve at the wedding. Most of the mission membership is planning to attend.

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	17 (financially)	16 (financially)	18 (financially)
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	About 20	About 17	About 20
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	About 20	About 17	About 19
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	About 13-15	About 12-14	About 13-15
Number of Catechumens	0	0	1
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	0	0	0
Funerals	0	0	0
Marriages	1 in MPLS	2*	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	0	0	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	2	2	2
Adult Education/Number Participating	N/A†	N/A†	N/A†

^{*} A former parishioner's wedding was served at St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis. Almost all of the St. Nicholas church attended the wedding. Fr. Christopher Wojcik presided with Fr. Bartholomew concelebrating, and it was recorded it in the Cathedral's metrical book. The former parishioner and her husband moved back to Iowa and St. Nicholas.

Also, Fr. Bartholomew served a wedding at St. Nicholas for a couple on behalf of Fr. Nabil Hanna of St. George Orthodox Christian Church of Indianapolis.

[†] After virtually every service, Fr. Bartholomew has a whole-church open forum Q&A where he fields questions and/or presents questions to be answered. In addition to the Saint or Feast of the day which he discusses after Liturgy, occasionally Fr. Bartholomew also gives a presentation on some churchly subject.

As of September 1, 2017

email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address	Photo
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 956 Forest Street Saint Paul MN 55106	
Saint Faur Will SST00	
Clergy	
Archpriest Jonathan Proctor (assigned) Archpriest Thaddeus Wojcik (retired, attached) Priest Andrew Jaye (attached) Deacon Kelsios Willis (attached) Fr Philip Ramstad (ROCOR) is also in regular attendance.	
Committees/Societies	
Archangel Michael Hall managing board.	
Since September 2016	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Summer Picnic Ongoing FOCUS participation East Side Harvest Festival	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Sunday food shelf FOCUS participants Community Garden Community Service hall Use program Harvest Sunday missions and charities fund	

Major Challenges Faced

Preserving volunteer energy while still moving ahead

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

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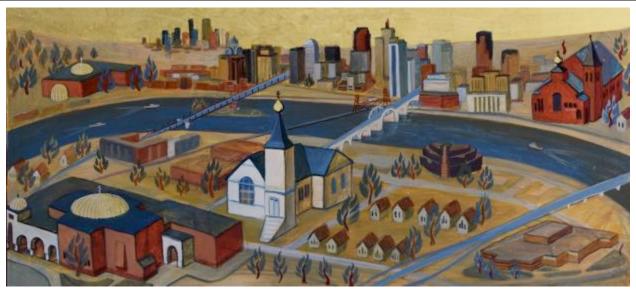
	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	Lost record	106	114
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance		100	100
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants		90	95
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance		25	25
Number of Catechumens		4	2
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms		0	4
Funerals		2	1
Marriages		1	1
Receptions into Orthodoxy		7	5
Church School/Number Enrolled		25	25
Adult Education/Number Participating		15	20

As of September 1, 2017

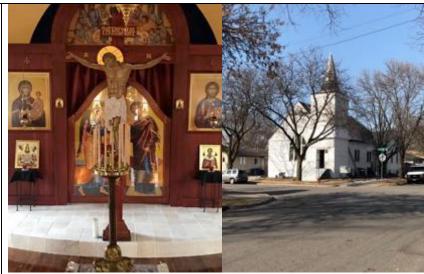
email completed form to chancery@domoca.org by September 15

Parish Name and Address

Photo



St. Elizabeth the New Martyr Orthodox Church 125 Congress St E, St. Paul, MN 55107



Clergy

Priest Marc Boulos

Committees/Societies

Parish Council, Ephesus School, Table Fellowship Ministry, Youth Group

Since September 2016

Highlights of Top Three Activities

With the blessing of Bishop Paul, we purchased a new church building on St. Paul's West Side in February 2017. Renovation of the sanctuary and nave was complete by mid-March. This was a whirlwind project for our parish, but excellent for community building. We were able to host Lenten Vespers for the Minnesota Eastern Orthodox Clergy Association in March, and also blessed to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha in our new home. Bishop Neophitos of Nyeri and Mount Kenya was our guest speaker at the MEOCCA event.

Outreach and Charitable Activities

- All donations from MEOCCA Lenten Vespers were given to Bishop Neophitos in support of his community.
- Support of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota tribe annual Wacipi (PowWow). Among local Native American tribes, the Mdewakanton are the most disenfranchised; our community has been blessed to build a friendship with them. This year, we again raised \$1000 of assistance for the tribe. We also give them monthly financial support.
- In addition to maintaining a small food shelf in St. Paul in support of the local Neighborhood House, St. Elizabeth parishioners are highly active in FOCUS Minnesota.
- Monthly financial support of the Minneapolis Peace House, a community of Catholic nuns and 30-40 volunteers from the Twin Cities metropolitan area who commit to the service of the poor and homeless.

Major Challenges Faced

- In order to keep costs as low as possible, we have had to invest significant time and energy to leverage volunteer labor for our building renovation. The results are fantastic and the project has moved very quickly, but the process has been a healthy challenge. All in all, the community has found new energy.
- One of the ways that we have managed the impact of our change in location (and the increased workload) has been through our small group ministry. We launched a pilot program in January, captured our learnings in June, and have just reorganized with new group leaders and a renewed focus on community service. The program has been very positive, but we continue to learn and improve how we relate to each other as a parish family.

Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2017 to August 2018

Our one year anniversary in our new church is in March 2018.

	As of September 1, 2015	As of September 1, 2016	As of September 1, 2017
Supporting Membership Count	46	43	43
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance	40	40	40
Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants	40	40	40
Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance	10	10	10
Number of Catechumens	1	0	4
	September 2014 thru August 2015	September 2015 thru August 2016	September 2016 thru August 2017
Baptisms	1	0	1

Funerals	1	0	1
Marriages	1	1	0
Receptions into Orthodoxy	2	1	0
Church School/Number Enrolled	18	19	22
Adult Education/Number Participating	30	30	30