

Michigan Dean Report Diocesan Meeting July 2022

Christ is in our Midst!

The Michigan Deanery mourns for the Blessed Falling Asleep of our Beloved Archbishop Paul. With tears in our eyes we welcomed His Eminence's reposed body with a Panahida and Hierarchical Liturgy at his home parish at Holy Transfiguration Church in Livonia, MI on Bright Wednesday and Thursday. The services, the singing, and the fellowship was joyous and healing especially during Bright Week. His Eminence was laid to rest at Holy Dormition Monastery, in Rives Junction, MI. The Michigan Deanery would like to thank all the Hierarchs, clergy, parishioners and faithful participants in this celebration of His Eminence's life, ministry and glorious victory in Christ. God is good, and we thank Him for blessing us with His service and Archpastoral guidance and prayers.

All the parishes in the Michigan Deanery are fully open and back to full capacity in numbers pre-pandemic. All parishes reported a full capacity of parishioners that attended Pascha services. All Parishes received a good number of catechumens and converts. Catechumens are searching for Truth, deeper spiritual substance and stability in the world that we are living in now.

Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral's dining facilities will be open to the neighbors in need by the Fall of 2022. As of now, O.D.O. Food distribution has been "take out" lunches, or meals, feeding about 90 people a week, throughout the year. The Parish Council will establish a short term and long term goal calendar for the Parish as a guiding tool to use to move forward and to visualize progress in their parish growth and ministry. With Fr. Paul Albert planning on retiring next year, the parish needs to remain optimistic and confident in God's guidance for their parish.

St. Mark's Church completed its iconography (frescoes), They need to redo lighting, and redo the Church roof.

St. Demetrius has been helping 7 homeless families since this past Thanksgiving 2021, (who lost their housing after the pandemic rental subsidies stopped) We have fed them a Thanksgiving Meal, Christmas Baskets of food and presents, and an Easter Basket with Gas Cards and Grocery Cards.

Holy Trinity's St. Julianna Ministry of Mercy is growing fast for the West Side of Detroit. They adopted a sister parish St. Julianna in Russia. They assist in distributing Hygiene kits, meals, to the homeless. They participate in O.D.O. and Focus Detroit working with Adam Murphy. They also paired up with St. Vladimir's ROCOR church in Dexter, MI providing beds, and other needs for needy families in the Ann Arbor/Dexter area.

Holy Ascension is in the process of building a new Church Building. They continue to show amazing growth and evangelism for the western part of the Deanery.

Holy Transfiguration is experiencing an exciting growth in parishioners and catechumens. They will continue their iconography Frescoes on two wall panels.

The Michigan Deanery applauds His Beatitude's recent Pro-life message since the Roe v Wade overturn of the Supreme Court. The State of Michigan's Constitution bans abortion. This was upheld by the State Supreme Court. Currently the Governor, and Attorney General is blocking the State Constitution and State Supreme Court's decision, through judicial stalling tactics. A petition by Planned Parenthood to put on the November ballot to legalize abortion for all 40 weeks of pregnancy is being circulated. We are educating people on the rights of the unborn and not to sign this horrific petition. We need to continue support pregnant mothers and the unborn. May we continue to find the courage and strength to be the voice of the voiceless.

The overall spirit of our Deanery is to keep on moving forward, keeping positive and faithful. We look forward to a new chapter of growth and spiritual life with the new bishop to guide us and shepherd us. As we said our final Good bye to His Eminence Archbishop Paul, the seeds he planted in the Michigan Deanery are already taking root and ready to grow. With Faith and Love we thank God for His Blessings upon our parishes and our faithful parishioners. We anticipate continued support through tough economic times and recession and pray that we will continue to grow and build God's Kingdom and proclaim the Good News to all.

Archpriest Fr. Dusan Koprivica

Dean of Michigan Deanery