

## **Kansas City Deanery Report to the Diocesan Assembly October 2-4, 2023**

### **Priests**

1. Fr. Timothy Sawchak, Holy Trinity—Overland Park, KS
2. Fr. Christopher Rowe, Holy Trinity—Overland Park, KS
3. Fr. James Dank, St John of Kronstadt—Lincoln, NE
4. Fr. Michael Kuzara, Joy of All Who Sorrow—Joplin, MO
5. Fr. Basil Ferguson, St. Thomas Church—Springfield, MO
6. Fr. Joel Wilson, Annunciation—St. James, MO
7. Fr. Ephraim Tauck, Theotokos “Unexpected Joy”—Ash Grove, MO
8. Fr. Nicholas Finley, Nativity of the Virgin Mary—Madison, IL
9. Fr. Matthew McDonald, Archangel Michael—St. Louis, MO
10. Fr. Michael Medis, St. Nicholas—Lawrence, KS
11. Fr. Justin Mathews, Holy Trinity—Overland Park, KS
12. Fr. Anthony Roeber, Archangel Michael—St. Louis, MO

### **Deacons**

1. Hierodeacon Theodore (Niklasson)
2. Deacon Brent Beasley, Holy Trinity—Overland Park, KS
3. Deacon James Mullin, Theotokos “Unexpected Joy”—Ash Grove, MO

### **Retired Clergy**

1. Fr. Peter Bodnar
2. Fr. John Pawelchak
3. Fr. John Zabinko
4. Fr. Moses Berry
5. Fr. Christopher Philips

### **Parish Highlights in 2023**

- **Annunciation—St. James, MO (Fr. Joel Wilson)**
  - We hosted Abp. Daniel and the Tikhvin Icon for our 10th anniversary, on our patronal feastday March 25, 2023.
  - We have commissioned four new icons to house relics since last year: Grand Duchess Elizabeth & Barbara the Nun, St. Innocent of Irkutsk, St. Barbara the Greatmartyr, and St. Vladimir of Kiev, and one icon whose relics we hope that God may send some day, St. Alfred the Great.

- **Nativity of the Virgin Mary—Madison, IL (Fr. Nicholas Finley)**
  - We have commissioned and are adding 4 new icons: St. Theodosius of Chernigov (in honor of the late Metropolitan Theodosius); St. John Kochurov; St. Moses the Black; and the Myrrhbearing Women.
  - We've made some significant renovations to the walkways so they are at the same level as the entry way for the side entrance of the Church and the front of the Church hall so that both buildings are now handicap accessible.
  - We've hosted a Neighborhood Block Party in June where nearly 100 residents from the surrounding neighborhood visited our location to share in some free food and fellowship. We plan to host another one on September 30 and partner with the Protestant church across the street from us to reach out to our neighbors. These events on our part are being facilitated by the stipend shared with deanery parishes by Hierodeacon Theodore.
- **St. Raphael Mission—Quincy, IL (served by Fr. Germogen Tucker)**
  - Six new converts received through baptism or chrismation.
  - Seven catechumens scheduled for baptism/chrismation late 2023 early 2024.
  - Building project in full swing with the iconostasis almost complete and plans for kitchen well under way.
  - Justin Hickman will be ordained to the Diaconate on Dec. 17, 2023.
- **Protection of the Virgin Mary—Royalton, IL (served by Fr. John Pawelchak)**
- **St. John of Kronstadt—Lincoln, NE (Fr. James Dank)**
  - We have three new families, one catechumen, one baptism, and a constant stream of visitors.
  - We have a group of five young men who are training to become readers. One is also in the St. Macrina's Diaconal Program. This has helped in our liturgical worship.
  - We are scheduled to paint our church in October and replace windows. We are adding our newly refurbished stained-glass window.
  - We are looking forward to our yearly Patronal Feast/Russian Dinner/Fundraiser at the end of October.
  - We also have added a church education class for older children on Saturday nights before Vespers.
- **St. Thomas Church—Springfield, MO (Fr. Basil Ferguson)**
  - A recent project is the repainting of the church nave, new flooring in the same, and remodeling/construction for the altar.
- **Joy of all Who Sorrow—Joplin, MO (Fr. Michael Kuzara)**
  - We have begun removing the leaky baptistry, which will give us about 1500 more square feet and room for our burgeoning choir.
  - We have celebrated one marriage, two blessings of the marriage, and five baptisms, with eight people who are preparing for baptism.

- Our finances are starting to level out which makes it easier to plan out new outcomes, one of which is child education.
- On average, Vespers is attended anywhere from 8 to 20 people and Divine Liturgy anywhere from 20 to 40 people. We have been blessed by have visitors come and show interest in finding out more about our faith.
- **St. Nicholas Church—Lawrence, KS** (Fr. Michael Medis)
  - Five Catechumens, six new members.
  - Parking lot expansions.
  - Kansas University OCF steady & growing.
  - New church lampadas & rugs.
  - LINK Kitchen feeding of the homeless.
  - Monthly Men’s Night Out and Women’s Night Out!
- **Holy Trinity Church—Overland Park, KS** (Fr. Timothy Sawchak, Fr. Christopher Rowe, Fr. Justin Mathews, Dn. Brent Beasley)
  - Archbishop Daniel made an archpastoral visit to the parish on February 11-12. The Archbishop was also able to meet with the clergy of the Kansas City Deanery and give new antimensia to the parishes. Musicians from the Deanery also met to share experiences and sing under the St. Andrew of Crete Music ministry in the Diocese.
  - Archbishop Daniel will be with us on December 16-17. Fr. Christopher Rowe will receive the Jewelled Cross, Fr. Justin Mathews will be made Archpriest, and Justin Hickman (from our parish in Quincy, IL) will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate.
- **Archangel Michael Church—St. Louis, MO** (Fr. Matthew McDonald, Fr. Anthony Roeber)
  - We've almost completed the electrical work, we've completed a significant amount of painting, and we're preparing for the basement overhaul.
  - Secondly, in the last year, we've had two births and welcomed nine new young adults, including three catechumens.