

Indianapolis Deanery Reports  
October 2024

**St John the Forerunner in Indianapolis, IN**

The last year at St. John the Forerunner has been peaceful and productive. We currently have five catechumens who will be ready to enter the Church before Christmas. We have had a steady stream of visitors investigating Orthodoxy. Two of these are now active seekers. With the beginning of the public school year (earlier each year) our Church school program is back in session. With all of the new little faces we have added, our facility is bursting at the seams. Our Building committee is currently in the midst of discussions concerning a plan to expand our facility by adding a parish hall with classroom space. Finally, St. John was blessed to host the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God on September 17. All who gathered sang the Akathist to the Tikhvin Icon. It was a blessed event.

Archpriest Zachariah Trent

**St Thomas the Apostle in Kokomo, IN**

We are finishing up catechism class for a single man with three small children, and a married couple. The single man and his three children will be baptized, and the couple will be received via chrismation later this month. Two children were baptized last October; an adult male was baptized in December last year; a child was baptized and his father chrismated in January. Two children were baptized and one chrismated in July. There are three men that will start catechism classes beginning in October.

The Archbishop and the Vice Chancellor visited our parish during Great Lent. Archbishop Daniel was the homilist for the Annunciation Vespers and procession of icons in Indianapolis, at Holy Trinity Cathedral with all of the Central Indiana Orthodox churches coming together on Sunday evening. The Archbishop held a retreat for the priests on Monday.

We are now in the process of upgrading our narthex. We have held a harvest party in late October or early November for years at one of two families' homes. This year we are going to hold it November 3rd, on our property adjacent to the church, and invite our neighbors. We will be roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, with a lot of sides. We are expecting around 100 to attend.

Archpriest Philip Lashbrook

**St. Stephen the First Martyr in Lima, OH**

On Holy Saturday, I received three adults through baptism and/or chrismation. On Pentecost, I received one adult through baptism and chrismation. The Mission currently has a family of five who are catechumens, and there are eight seekers who have been attending services and may potentially become catechumens this year. Catechism class began in September, and this year, we will be reading the Essentials of Orthodox Christian Belief publication from the O.C.A. Archbishop Daniel visited the mission for the first time on the weekend of August 24th & 25th. During his visit, he blessed the new iconostasis that was finished in 2024.

Priest Joshua Coolman

### **St. Paul in Dayton OH**

Like many parishes in the diocese, St Paul's is experiencing growth. Every Sunday we see new people visiting, either new arrivals from out-of-town or people interested in the Church. Parking has become an immediate issue and space in the nave will eventually become an issue if the trend continues. The parish council and I are looking at ways to address these issues. Some highlights from parish life over the course of the past year include: a joint VCS with Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Dayton in July, a liturgical music workshop sponsored by St Andrew of Crete Music Ministry in November 2023 (and again this year the end of October 2024), Advent retreat with Fr Stephen Freeman, and Lenten retreat with Mother Katherine Weston.

Priest Gregory Ealy

### **St. Stephen's in Crawfordsville IN**

In the past year, St. Stephens has continued to grow steadily. In May His Eminence DANIEL visited. We sent Sdn. Joseph Goshorn-Maroney and his family to seminary at St. Tikhon's in August. Our soccer league has become a big draw, not only for our own community's fellowship but also consistently attracting visitors. We are currently working on a strategic plan as well as considering options for expanding our space to accommodate the steep growth we've had in the past years. A homeschool co-op began in the fall, meeting once a week, with an enrollment of over 40 kids!

Archpriest Joel Weir

### **Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit in Cincinnati OH**

We, too, are experiencing consistent growth with seemingly new inquirers visiting on a weekly basis. We now have a catechetical team in place to teach them the Faith. The parish is now, with the blessing of His Eminence, exploring the possibility of starting a "dependency" in Northern KY. This would be in cooperation with St. Athanasius church in Nicholasville, KY, led by Fr. Justin Patterson. We have about 10 households in KY, which would give this dependency a healthy start, or so we hope. We have formed a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (1976-2026), chaired by Presvytera Deborah Kostoff. The director of the newly-established FOCUS Cincinnati, is our parishioner, Charlene Myers. We are now hosting a meal for those in need on a monthly basis, as well as working in full cooperation with the local Greek Orthodox church. Summer Bible Studies and a Fall Adult Education class continues with great participation.

Archpriest Steven Kostoff, Dean