

Michigan Dean Report May 2025

St. Demetrius Church: This past Christmas season 2024, the Christmas Basket program has adopted 15 families, providing 15 Christmas Baskets of food (a Christmas Meal) for the family and other items. Also providing gifts for the children in the families.

We also provided a Christmas 2024 Karaoke / game night and meal and Pascha 2025 Karaoke / game night and meal for CLUBLIFE, for 50 special needs adults. Our parishioners interact with our special guests with games, singing, and fellowship.

The Alaska Outreach Mission raised \$13,000 to purchase a new Honda Rubicon ATV for Native born Alaskan priest Fr. Ishmael Andrews. He had no transportation vehicle for him and his large family to do his priestly ministry in his village nor provide subsistence transportation (for fishing and hunting) or ice road transportation. He was so amazed and grateful for our gift of outreach. Our AK Mission Outreach provides assistance to our Native Orthodox clergy in AK.

Prison Ministry: We have 18 inmates (2 Orthodox) in the Jackson Correctional Facility that regularly attend weekly prayer services and catechetical instructions. It is an amazing group of individuals who are passionate about learning and practicing the Orthodox Faith and transforming their lives. It is basically a pseudo-monastery for them as they serve their time in confinement. Their new-found faith has inspired their families outside of the prison and many family members have converted to the Orthodox Faith within this past year.

Planned Parenthood in Michigan has closed down their facilities in Jackson, Cadillac, Marquette, and Petosky, and combined the two facilities into one in Ann Arbor. This is due to the freezing / defunding of the Federal money to this demonic-led organization. As part of the sidewalk ministry, we celebrated it's closing with prayers and lots of Holy Water!

Sts. Peter and Paul: Fr. Philip Dage reports everything is moving right along. O.D.O. (Orthodox Detroit Outreach) is serving 90 people every Sunday from their new kitchen and remodeled dining facility. A hairdresser (from St. Mark's) comes and cuts/styles hair for the neighbors. A Credit Repair Class will be offered for the neighbors at the end of May. This class will be offered in Spanish and in English. A Reader's Workshop will be offered. Subdeacon Matthew will conduct a four-session workshop for those interested in seeking to become a tonsured reader.

Holy Transfiguration: Fr. Michael Butler: Reported he Baptized 7, Chrismated 4 on Lazarus Saturday/Palm Sunday. The Crucifixion fresco is early completed. A record number 280

people attended Pascha Services. Protodeacon Jacob received a gramota for his 28 years of service, as he will soon retire.

Hoy Trinity: Fr. John York reported they had a full and festive Lent/Holy Week and Pascha. reincorporated Holy Saturday Liturgy and Holy Thursday Liturgy into Holy Week cycle. They will be celebrating their Feast Day Pentecost with a picnic. They will be starting a homeschool ministry from the parish beginning in the fall.

Holy Ascension: Fr. Joshua Frigerio reported that the plans for the new church has been approved and is seeking loan information, fundraising plans, and choosing a builder. They hope to break ground by next year. Please send donations to them. They have weekly Thursday Vespers service in Hillsdale, MI as an Orthodox outreach to that community. Ryan Porter (Reader Thomas) will be ordained a deacon on their feast day. They received 12 converts on Theophany and 16 converts during Holy week.

St. Mark's: Fr. John Baker reports they completed 254 food baskets, a total of 278 children received Christmas gifts in their Christmas Food and Gift Program. They partnered with St Nicholas Greek Church to use their bigger facility to facilitate the volume of food items and organization. They are active in O.D.O. serving meals on scheduled Sundays. They had 7 baptisms; 3 Chrismations; 27 Catechumens . They are putting a tile floor design by Andrew Gould and new stained glass windows also designed by him, completion by June 2025. Completed landscaping of property. Negotiating to purchase property and house next door to church property.