

Minneapolis Deanery

St Mary's Orthodox Cathedral

Minneapolis, MN

Archpriest Andrew Morbey is the Cathedral Dean. Priest Benjamin Tucci is associate pastor. Priests Richard Flom and Nicholas Hubbard are attached. Serving at the Cathedral are the attached deacons David Kostick, Gregory Krutchek and Gregory Ealy. Deacon Gregory Ealy is Choir Director. Fr Benjamin remains his responsibility for youth ministry. Mary Jo Rusinak is our parish Ministries Co-ordinator. Mary Ignatowicz is the office administrator. We currently have one seminarian, Subdeacon Jason Ketz at St Vladimir's seminary with his family.

The Cathedral web-site is: www.stmarysoca.org. A glance at the web-site shows a very busy, vibrant community with an active liturgical life, many on-going ministries and fellowship opportunities, and a comprehensive educational program, including a summer vacation church school and young adult bible study. The Cathedral takes a monthly charitable collection in support of specific charities. The Cathedral, as well as many of its small groups in their own right, supports many worthy mission and outreach projects locally, nationally and internationally.

Since the beginning of this year there have been 12 baptisms, 1 chrismation, 10 weddings and 16 funerals (2010: 17 baptisms, 6 chrismations, 7 weddings, 29 funerals; 2009: 7 baptisms, 6 chrismations, 9 weddings, 21 funerals). Average Saturday vespers attendance is 31; average Sunday liturgy attendance is 294 (counted during the sermon after the Gospel). Average weekday festal vespers attendance is 29 and weekday festal liturgy is 50.

The fourth and perhaps most visible phase of our multi-million dollar Cathedral renovation project - the first phase of the iconography program - is scheduled to be completed in February. Dimitry Shkolnik is our iconographer.

The Cathedral continues its outreach to the local community, both through support of FOCUS, Holy Trinity Food Shelf, East Side Neighborhood services - and similar organizations - and by participation in the annual Art-A-Whirl program, hosting the block party on National Neighborhood Nite Out, and offering talks and guided tours of the Cathedral to High School, College, Seniors and Community groups from all over the Twin Cities metro area (and beyond).

Our first day-long parish festival took place on Saturday, October 1 taking as its theme 'A Taste of Northeast' (as in 'northeast Minneapolis')

Archpriest Andrew Morbey

Holy Trinity
Clayton, WI

Highlights: Several Baptisms in the past year, including one adult Baptism. The ordination of John (Jack) Rogers to the Holy Diaconate on Transfiguration Day. The installation of a Handicap Access ramp. Teen Group hosted a supper which raised hundreds of dollars for a local (non-Orthodox) family whose 5-year-old daughter is fighting leukemia. Held Healing Molieben for general public during Advent, and had numerous non-Orthodox attend, one of whom became a catechumen.

Archpriest Christopher Wojcik

Holy Trinity St Paul, 2011.

After several years of balanced budgets the parish is heading for a significant budget shortfall for 2011. The parish completed the renovation of an old store across the street for use as a new social hall. This is being developed as a meeting place to be put at the disposal of the distressed neighborhood during the week. Fr. Bill Neumann departed for solo ministry at Holy Cross Mission. He is sorely missed.

Archpriest Jonathan Proctor

St Herman's Orthodox Church
Minneapolis, MN

We received two into the Orthodox Faith through confession of faith and Chrismation. We had two infant baptisms. We look forward to a third infant baptism in November. We had one wedding. Currently, we have one catechumen. As God wills, we plan to receive him into the faith on Palm Sunday, 2012.

Over the summer, a number of our faithful moved to other parts of the country. Over the next year, several more will be moving away to other parts of the country as well.

For the first time in our history, we had to accept a deficit budget for 2011.

Archpriest Paul Wesche

St Nicholas Orthodox Church
Pella, IA

- Despite the recession and the 2010 Assembly's confusion regarding and tabled rejection of our tithing resolution, we are tithing – i.e., donating 10%, that's what *tithe* means: give a tenth portion – to the Diocese except when doing so would be less than the assessment tax. We give whichever is greater.
- We had a baby born into the church, expected to be baptized in October.
- We have a catechumen (in his second year) who will likely be Chrismated within 6 months, one who attends when work allows, and one other.
- A young Orthodox family of four that moved to Iowa from North Carolina two years ago, after a lay-off and not having sold their old home, returned to North Carolina.
- A young woman who joined the Des Moines GOC after discovering Orthodoxy while visiting St. Nicholas, has returned to Pella and is now a member of our church.
- We had a lovely, edifying fund-raising visit by sister Maria, a member of the charitable auxiliary to St. Elizabeth Convent under Abbess Euphrosinia, in Minsk, Byelarussia.
- We continue to participate in the Pella ministerial association's schedule of churches providing services a twice yearly *Molieben* at the local nursing facilities.

- Fr. Bartholomew is participating in a local pastors' book discussion on St. Gregory the Great/*Dialogos* The Book of Pastoral Rule. (A Reformed pastor picked the book.)
- We donate toward the local food pantry, run by the Lutheran church in town.
- Church School made meals for people unable to do so for themselves, raised money for Presentation of the Virgin Monastery, and sent goods to the Hogar orphanage.
- Weekly services include Vespers (with the appending of the matins Resurrectional Gospel) and Liturgy, both followed by Q&A time with the priest.
- We continue to increase the number of festal celebrations.
- We have a DVP candidate whose paperwork ought to be fully submitted by DA/AAC.
- The town "Tulip Time" festival proved nicely profitable this year compared with the last couple of years. (We had good weather for a change.) It takes a tremendous effort and commitment to successfully engage this three-day undertaking.
- There is much love in our community and sincere desire to grow in the Faith.
- Fr. Bartholomew continues to work a FT side job.
- "It is good for us to be here."

in Christ,

Rev. Bartholomew Wojcik

Rev. Bartholomew Wojcik
 Priest-in-charge
 St. Nicholas Mission Church

Resurrection Mission
 Fargo, ND

This year has seen some growth within our parish. We have had several Eritrean refugee families move into the area, with some new individuals arriving within the last few weeks. Our parish's majority ethnic group is now Eritrean, though we continue to be pan-Orthodox, with Serbs, Romanians, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, and converts of various ethnic heritages (e.g. German-Russian, Scandinavian, English). We baptized one child in September with another baptism on October's schedule. We have three catechumens. Two of them will be chrismated on the Feast of the Theotokos' Entrance into the Temple. With this new influx of parishioners, our total numbers are now at about 50. On an average Sunday, our attendance is between 30 and 35. We continue to work to improve our choir, service schedule, and educational offerings. We continue to meet in the Pastoral Center, the office building for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fargo. They allow us to rent chapel space, a large educational/meeting room, and a kitchen for a mere \$100/month. This has allowed us to increase the pastor's stipend and still save toward a building fund. God has blessed us and we are truly thankful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Fr. Oliver Herbel
 Priest-in-charge