

# Michigan Deanery

**REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN DEANERY TO THE 57<sup>th</sup> DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY  
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST, OCTOBER 8-10, 2018**

The four metro Detroit Michigan Deanery parishes (Holy Transfiguration in Livonia, Holy Trinity in Detroit, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit and St. Mark in Rochester Hills continue to maintain their pan-Orthodox working and worshipping association through the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. Under the auspices of the Saint John Chrysostom Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood the faithful of our deanery participate in the Council which endorses the work of:

- The Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan (OCWM), hosting meetings and offering presentations of topics of interest
- Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO), primarily through the weekly meals held at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral
- The local chapter of Zoe for Life
- Detroit's Own Orthodox Radio (DOORradio.org), financial support and on-air presentations
- GOOD WORKS bi-monthly publication
- The Orthodox Choir of Detroit (directed by Matushka Vickie Kopistiansky of Holy Trinity parish)
- Michigan OCF chapters
- The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black,
- FOCUS North America Detroit chapter

In addition to some participation in the metro area work, our parishes in Albion and Jackson keep similar relationships with the Orthodox faithful in the western part of the state.

Our parishes support and serve the Mission to Southwest Detroit in the neighborhood of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, contributing both cash and missionaries.

As the fruit of the most recent class of the diocesan St. Macrina program in the Michigan deanery two diaconal ordinations occurred. Deacon Justin Jackson, a parishioner of Holy Ascension in Albion, MI was ordained by His Grace on the Feast of the Holy Ascension, May 17. Deacon James Rimelspach of Holy Trinity parish in Detroit was ordained by His Grace on June 17. On August 19 His Grace awarded the kamilavka to Protodeacon Jacob Frimenko during his Archpastoral visit to Holy Transfiguration parish in Livonia for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Finally, as of this Diocesan Assembly I will be retiring as Dean of the Michigan Deanery, a position I held since September, 1988. After four ruling hierarchs and a half dozen diocesan administrators I am pleased (and ready) to hand over the role of Michigan dean to the very capable Archpriest Dusan Koprivica of St. Demetrius parish in Jackson, MI. Many thanks to my brother clergy in Michigan and throughout the diocese who have made my work a joy.

In Christ,

Very. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky

# DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2018

email completed form to [chancery@domoca.org](mailto:chancery@domoca.org) by September 15

<b>Parish Name and Address</b>	<b>Photo</b>
<b>Holy Ascension Orthodox Church</b> <b>PO Box 367</b> <b>810 Austin Av.</b> <b>Albion, MI 49224</b>	
<b>Clergy</b>	
Fr Joshua Frigerio, rector. Fr. Deacon John Wesner. Fr Angelo Pepps (attached). Fr. Deacon Justin Jackson.	
<b>Committees/Societies</b>	
none	
<b>Since September 2017</b>	
<b>Highlights of Top Three Activities</b>	
Mid-August annual Orthodox Family Camp a success. Annual Project Mexico mission trip was great. Kitchen remodeled.	
<b>Outreach and Charitable Activities</b>	
Fr. Angelo is trying to get a mission off the ground in Kalamazoo, 45 minutes to our west. OCF activities in neighboring colleges.	
<b>Major Challenges Faced</b>	
Old building upkeep. Sin.	
<b>Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019</b>	
n/a	

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>	50	55	55

	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	70	80	85
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	50	55	65
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	4	5	7
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	5	7	4
<b>Funerals</b>	1	0	1
<b>Marriages</b>	2	0	2
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	6	5	2
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	10	10	15
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>	10	10	10

# DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2018

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
<p><b>Holy Trinity</b>  <b>20500 Anglin</b>  <b>Detroit, Michigan 49234</b></p>	
<b>Clergy</b>	
<p>Fr. Lev Kopistiansky                  Deacon James Rimelspach                  Subdeacon Alexander Ionescu                  Subdeacon John Shanburn</p>	
<b>Committees/Societies</b>	
<p>Holy Trinity Brotherhood                  Pokrova Sisterhood</p>	
<b>Since September 2017</b>	
<b>Highlights of Top Three Activities</b>	
<p>Visitation of Myrrstreaming Ikon Righteous Anna                  Ordination to Deaconate of James Rimelspach                  Parish Picnic</p>	
<b>Outreach and Charitable Activities</b>	
<p>Orthodox Detroit Outreach at Sts Peter and Paul                  Souper Bowl Sunday Charity Luncheon                  Thanksgiving Basket program with FOCUS Detroit                  ST. Nicholas Food Sack program with FOCUS Detroit</p>	
<b>Major Challenges Faced</b>	
<p>Lack of Manpower and committees</p>	
<b>Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019</b>	
<p>None</p>	

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>			56
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>			65
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>			50
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>			10
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>			2
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>			1
<b>Funerals</b>			11
<b>Marriages</b>			0
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>			1
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>			25
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>			6

# DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2018

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
<b>Saints Peter &amp; Paul Orthodox Cathedral</b> <b>3810 Gilbert Street</b> <b>Detroit, MI 48210</b>	
<b>Clergy</b>	
V. Rev. Fr. Paul Albert 331 E Jefferson St. Blissfield, MI 49228 419-944-3995	
<b>Committees/Societies</b>	
Church & Community Center Task Forces Neighborhood Outreach Ministries Choir/sacred Music Ministry Greeter Ministry Campus Ministries	
<b>Since September 2017</b>	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
1) Developing parish Community Center as regional Missionary Center Along with the many Orthodox parish missionary volunteers who participate in our programs, we have been in active dialogue with several local organizations that serve our neighbors in SW Detroit, and might develop partnerships with us. Our prayer is to more fully utilize our Community Center to better serve our neighbors in need.	
2) Orthodox Missions Weekend –June, 2018 Parish hosted /Orthodox Detroit Outreach mission work in neighborhood	
3) Partnering with Deanery Missionaries to build a Team approach to addressing the physical needs of the missionary Church and Community Center, and implementing vision to address necessary upgrades in order to strengthen and sustain our missionary presence in SW Detroit	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Growing in our capacity to respond to our neighbors’ needs, including greater provision of food, clothing, shelter, and spiritual nourishment through the Life of the Church.	
Major Challenges Faced	
\$ 75 K Vandalism of Church School HVAC units-successfully repaired/replaced with security upgrades.	
Continuing deterioration of Church Nave due to years of financial inability to repair/replace tile roof. At present the inside walls have sustained damage to the degree that Iconography is damaged.	

**Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019**

**June 29 2019** Plans for Patronal Feast: Neighborhood Festival in partnership with Matrix Head Start School (residing in our Campus-serving our immediate neighborhood).

**July 2019-Retiring of our Bond Debt** (our small parish has sustained \$800K Debt for 20 years)

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>	36	34	30
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	25	35	30
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	22	33	25
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>	6	8	6
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>		2	2
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	1	2	2
<b>Funerals</b>	4	2	1
<b>Marriages</b>		1	1
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>		1	1
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	7	7	2
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>	8	14	12



Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral  
2018 Report/Summary

This past year has seen several challenges, both spiritually and temporally. It continues to be a sobering time for our small missionary community. As these challenges have been met with continuing faith and love-for God and neighbor, we are encouraged by the growing spiritual maturity of our team.

Our vision together continues to solidify. We are called to provide a sacramental presence in the inner city of Detroit, and extend our Eucharistic celebration into the neighborhood. Along with our Weekly Sunday Meal/Ministries, our activities which serve our neighbors at our Community Center have expanded to include a weekly Wednesday Neighborhood Meal/Akathist of Thanksgiving. We are learning the importance of building consistency and regularity into our ministerial activities, as this becomes more the “heartbeat” of the neighborhood.

Missionaries bring the Church to where it is not in its fullness. One of the most fascinating aspects of this work is that we are learning how to extend the pastoral ministries of the Church to many of our neighbors who are not Orthodox. We are creatively challenged to share our Faith and Love of God to those who have not entered into our Sacramental Communion. We find ourselves blessing and anointing the sick, praying over the dead, and encouraging those who have lost hope. In a word, we are present. Being present with open hearts and eyes, we respond as we are able. Our desire to better serve has been fanning the flames of the Spirit, Who has progressively been growing our effectiveness as servants to those in need. In actively witnessing our Faith in Christ, some of our neighbors have begun to pray and worship with us.

As a parish we continue to address the challenge of being a small congregation in a large, deteriorating inner-city church campus. With mounting facilities issues which could easily overwhelm our vision and energy, we have doubled our efforts to continue responding to the ministerial opportunities this setting provides in service to Christ in our neighbors.

We are grateful for the growing involvement among our Deanery parish faithful (and the greater pan Orthodox community) in the works of mercy we are cultivating in our missionary parish setting. We thank our Bishop Paul, and our Dean Father Andrew Yavornitzky, who actively promote our missionary opportunities within their parishes.

In the coming year we are preparing to establish a semi-permanent Chapel within the Community Center. This will bring the presence and accessibility of our praying community even closer to those whom we serve. As we are building regularity and rhythm into our outreach ministry activities, so do we look to build more of the heartbeat of prayer and worship into our community gatherings as well.

We ask for your prayers and thank you for your active help and support of these efforts. Our hope is that this unique setting, in time, may be seen more and more as a missionary extension of all of our parishes in the Diocese of the Midwest. We invite you to contact Fr. Paul Albert to discuss how you might organize a parish Mission Team to come and serve.

Sincerely in Christ,

V. Rev. Fr. Paul Albert  
Pastor

# DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

As of September 1, 2018

email completed form to [chancery@domoca.org](mailto:chancery@domoca.org) by September 15

Parish Name and Address	Photo
<p><b>St Demetrius Orthodox Church</b>  <b>3043 Seymour Rd.</b>  <b>Jackson, Mi 49201</b></p>	
<b>Clergy</b>	
<p>Archpriest Fr. Dusan Koprivica</p>	
<b>Committees/Societies</b>	
<p>Sisterhood  Mission committee</p>	
<b>Since September 2017</b>	
<p>Highlights of Top Three Activities</p>	
<p>Purchase of 6 acres of land adjacent to church property  Raising funds to build classrooms and multipurpose room, and construction  Prison to Paradise Bus Tours (Part of Pure Michigan Tours)</p>	
<p>Outreach and Charitable Activities</p>	
<p>Relay for Life 24 hour cancer walk  Help St, Marks in Rochester with Christmas Food baskets  Providing 15 families in Jackson with Christmas food baskets  Donated \$10,000 to Sts, Peter and Paul for priest stipend.ODO outreach  Raised \$11,000 for Fr. Serafim’s Monastery at Mull Island, Scotland when he visited  Also, Raised money to put in their new boiler system at the monastery house.  Set up an ODO Mission team, fed the homeless at Sts. Peter and Paul.  Right to Life 40 Days for life (praying in front of Abortion provider clinic 2 hours a week)</p>	
<p>Major Challenges Faced</p>	
<p>Raising the funds for the new Classroom building  Attendance at vesper services  Updating web page, and keeping it up to date  Getting Sunday school teachers  Finding new people who will volunteer to take the Church Board positions  Namely President and Treasurer</p>	

**Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019**


60 th Anniversary October 20-21, 2018

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>	48	48	46
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	58	55	53
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	50	48	50
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>	6	6	4
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	2	3	2
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	3	1	2
<b>Funerals</b>	12	6	5
<b>Marriages</b>	1	1	2
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	3	1	3
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	20	22	20
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>	14	14	12

## DOM PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

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email completed form to [chancery@domoca.org](mailto:chancery@domoca.org) by September 15

Parish Name and Address	Photo
<p><b>Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church</b>  <b>36075 W 7 Mile Rd</b>  <b>Livonia, MI 48152</b></p>	
<p><b>Clergy</b></p> <p>V Rev. Archbishop Michael E. Butler            Rev. Protodeacon Jacob Frimenko            V Rev. David Lis, retired, attached.</p>	
<p><b>Committees/Societies</b></p> <p>Parish is organized on a ministry model with Pastoral &amp; Parish Council oversight. In-house ministries include Parish Council, finance committee, youth group, church school, women's group, building &amp; grounds, charitable outreach, choir, greeters, and altar servers. Members are also actively involved with the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Detroit, Orthodox Christian Women of Detroit, the pan-Orthodox choir, Orthodox Detroit Outreach, and the Fellowship of St Moses the Black.</p>	
<p><b>Since September 2017</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Highlights of Top Three Activities</p> <p>Reception of 20+ people into the Church, many of them young men in their 20's.            The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the parish, with several social events throughout the year, culminating in the Bishop's visit and his tonsuring of a Reader, ordination of a Sub-deacon, and bestowing of several gramota to and awards to young people and adults who have served the parish well.            The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Male Bonding Party, with men from several local Orthodox parish in attendance.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Outreach and Charitable Activities</p> <p>Regular financial support for, and lay participation in, the urban mission at SS Peter &amp; Paul, Detroit.            Financial support for a missionary priest in Africa through IOCC, an orphan boy at St Innocent Orphanage in Mexico, missionary work in Guatemala, and the Ugandan Children's Fund.            Annual Christmas family project through Livonia Goodfellows organization.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Major Challenges Faced</p> <p>The parish is no longer functioning well as a "pastor-led" small church congregation because of the growth in our membership. We are currently working on reorganizing/restructuring the parish administration and ministries into a sustainable model that involves much more lay</p>	

participation in ministry.  
 Assimilating new members, of which there have been many in the past year.  
 Establishing new ministry opportunities for the many people who want to serve.

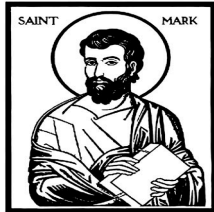
**Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019**  
 Having just completed our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we have no special events upcoming.

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>	162	184	178
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	130	145	155
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	115	125	130
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>	29	28	27
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	5	22	23
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	6	7	6
<b>Funerals</b>	3	7	6
<b>Marriages</b>	2	1	4
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	4	1	9
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	34	54	50
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>	35	45	50

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Parish Name and Address	Photo
<p><b>St. Mark Orthodox Church</b>  <b>400 West Hamlin Road</b>  <b>Rochester Hills, MI</b>  <b>48307</b></p>	
<b>Clergy</b>	
V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky	
<b>Committees/Societies</b>	
Parish Council Adornment Committee Men's Fellowship	
<b>Since September 2017</b>	
Highlights of Top Three Activities	
Three new festal icons installed – more in process Hosted Outside Speaker Frederica Matthewes-Green On-going work and support of Southwest Detroit Mission effort and neighborhood meal	
Outreach and Charitable Activities	
Christmas baskets program – some 250 metro Detroit families served Love Thy Neighbor tutoring and food distribution Prayer Shawl Ministry OCMC - SAMP Lenten IOCC contributions Advent Rochester Neighborhood House contributions Ad – Hoc charitable collections	
Major Challenges Faced	
Always striving to learn how to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church in our current 21 <sup>st</sup> century suburban environment – then doing something about it.	
<b>Upcoming Special Events/Anniversaries - September 2018 to August 2019</b>	
Yet to be discovered	

	<b>As of September 1, 2016</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2017</b>	<b>As of September 1, 2018</b>
<b>Supporting Membership Count</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Summer c. 100 Other c. 130</b>
<b>Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants</b>	<b>80% to 85% Of attendees</b>	<b>80% to 85% Of attendees</b>	<b>80% to 85% Of attendees</b>
<b>Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance</b>	<b>15-22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Number of Catechumens</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>September 2015 thru August 2016</b>	<b>September 2016 thru August 2017</b>	<b>September 2017 thru August 2018</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Funerals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Receptions into Orthodoxy</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Church School/Number Enrolled</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Adult Education/Number Participating</b>	<b>c.20</b>	<b>c.20</b>	<b>c.20</b>