**Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania**

**Eastern Deanery Report, 2019**

The ***Eastern Deanery*** consists of the following active parishes:

1. Holy Ascension Church – Colver

2. SS. Peter & Paul Church – Altoona V. Rev. Andrew Matychak, Rector

3. Holy Assumption Church – Central City

4. SS. Peter & Paul Church – Pine Hill Rev. Elijah Bremer, Rector

5. Holy Trinity Church – State College  *Administrated by the Dean*, Rev. David Smith, Priest in Charge,

Rector ; Rev. Deacon Mark Oleynik ;

Rev. Deacon Alexander Cadman

6. Chapel of the Holy Spirit – Beavertown Rev. David Smith, Administrator

7. Nativity of St. John the Baptist Church – Philipsburg V. Rev. C Michael Simerick, Acting Rector

(Chester Hill)

8. Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church – Osceola Mills Archimandrite John-Jacob (Piruta), Rector

9. St. Michael Church – Irvona

10. Nativity of the Theotokos Church – Madera Igumen David (Lewis), Rector

11. St. Michael Church – Portage

12. SS. Peter & Paul Church – Vintondale V. Rev. Gregory Tsjouman, Rector

13. St. John the Baptist Church – Johnstown (Conemaugh) V. Rev. George Johnson, Rector

14. St. John the Baptist Church – Black Lick (Blairsville) *Administrated by the Dean;* V. Rev. Andre Alexiev, *attached*

15. St. Nicholas Church – DuBois V. Rev. Mark Meholick, Rector ; V. Rev. John Steffaro,

V. Rev. John Horosky, *attached*

Notable events in the life of the Eastern Deanery include the following: Fr. Andre Alexiev and Fr. Mark Meholick with members of St. John’s Church in Black Lick met with Fr. Matthew Conjelko for an Orthodox Christian Fellowship organizational meeting in January at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; The IUP OCF hosted a presentation by Fr. John Chakos about missionary work in Guatemala; St. John the Baptist Church in Conemaugh hosted *Sunday of Orthodoxy* Vespers. Deanery Mission Vespers were also held at Holy Trinity Church, State College, St. John the Baptist Church, Black Lick, and St. Nicholas Church in DuBois; SS. Peter & Paul Church, Urey, installed a new onion dome & cross on the roof over the Altar, and a new metal roof was installed on the parish hall. At. St. Nicholas Church in DuBois, a partnership with Good Will Industries was established, a new metal roof was installed on the church, and aid for St. Andrews Church and Mission Center in Kenya was established. This effort was picked up by our Deanery and so far around $2,000.00 has been sent directly to Fr. Parthenios Eliakim Kulali, Priest in Charge of St. Andrews Mission Center. These monies were used to purchase much needed medicine for a common foot disease and to build a school house next to the church building. The medicine we bought was used by an OCMC team of doctors who assisted Fr. Kulali in August. Fr. Kulali has been treating people since 2012. With the new school house, more students enrolled, which means more teachers and school supplies. Much more help is needed for this mission; Holy Trinity Church in State College remains without a permanent Rector at the time of this report, but still has a full Liturgical Schedule by the efforts of Fr. David Smith, Deacons Alexander Cadman & Mark Oleynik. Substitute clergy have been very helpful and deeply appreciated; Nativity of St. John the Baptist Church in Philipsburg has submitted a full report, which is attached to this summary report; Holy Assumption Orthodox church in Central City have celebrated their 100th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 21 & Sunday, Sept. 22

Respectfully submitted by

Archpriest Mark R. Meholick – Dean of the Eastern Deanery *27 September, 2019*