

REPORT OF THE DEAN OF THE SOUTHWEST DEANERY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA – February 27, 2021

Officers:

Rev. Andrew Nelko: Dean

Deacon David Rostcheck: Treasurer

The parishes of the **Southwest Deanery** include:

Belle Vernon, PA, Holy Resurrection	Rev. Stephan Gresh, Rector
Canonsburg, PA, St. John the Baptist	Rev. John Kotalik Protodeacon John Oleynik Deacon Theodosius Onest
Charleroi, PA, Holy Trinity	V. Rev. Gregory Peterson, Rector
Donora, PA, St. Nicholas	Rev. John Parker Deacon Robert Motichak
Jeannette, PA, Ss. Cyril & Methodius	V. Rev. Michael Senyo
Masontown, PA, Nativity of the Virgin	INACTIVE
Mingo Junction, OH, St. Andrew	V. Rev. John Kopcha, Rector
Monessen, PA, St. John the Divine	VACANT Hieromonk Constantine (Kirkin), Temporary Administrator
Monongahela, PA, Nativity of the Virgin	VACANT Deacon David Rostcheck
Moundsville, WV, Ss. Peter & Paul	INACTIVE
New Salem, PA, Holy Trinity	V. Rev. Vitaly Dudkin, Rector
Steubenville, OH, Holy Transfiguration	VACANT
West Brownsville, PA, Holy Resurrection	VACANT
Weirton, WV, St. Nicholas	Rev. Andrew Nelko (Dean)
Wolf Run, OH, All Saints	VACANT

We currently have **seven** parishes that are vacant or inactive. Monessen which is listed as vacant is currently being serviced by Hieromonk, Constantine Kirkin. A major task of the dean has been to schedule services on Sundays for these vacant parishes. A big thank you to those who help fill in and serve these parishes; V. Rev. Paul Suda, V. Rev. Theodore Shomsky, V. Rev. David Vernak, V. Rev. Michael Zahirsky, Rev. Michael Sochka, and V. Rev. Bob Prepelka from the Carpatho Diocese along with our Deacons: Motichak, Onest, Rostcheck, Stahoviak, and Truckley.

We have had several changes to our deanery in this past year. Two parishes, Masontown and Moundsville are now currently listed as inactive and closure of the parishes have sadly begun. With the sad comes joy as Fr. Michael Senyo has been assigned to Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Jeanette. Jeanette is the first parish in the Archdiocese to be awarded the LPAP program to help supplement newly assigned priest's income at parishes with potential and willingness to grow.

St. Nicholas in Weirton celebrated their Centennial Celebration on October 13th. The day was highlighted by the Hierarchal Liturgy served by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, joined by our Archbishop Melchisedek.

In January a fourth annual blessing of the Ohio River was held in Steubenville, Ohio. Participating in the service were clergy from the various jurisdictions; the OCA, Serbian, Greek, and Carpatho-Russian. Each year this has received a larger turnout which is a blessing. In the Mon Valley a similar event occurred between the sister parishes in the area.

This past year has been faced with many challenges that no one has experienced before. With COVID a lot of activities within the deanery and parishes themselves came to a halt or slow down. As things have begun to pick back up we look at how to resurrect deanery and parish life while also staying safe and following Diocesan and Local authorities. Concelebrations and meetings have been limited and we continue to be mindful of this.

Over the past year, the dean has worked with Jeanette on receiving their new priest. He has also tried to be a little more involved in the lives of the parishes by meeting with the councils of a couple parishes to discuss transitions, priests, and overall life in the parish.

I want to thank all the clergy in the deanery for being patient with me as I continue to learn on the job. I also want to thank them for being obedient with the orders handed down from the Diocesan Authorities.

Respectfully, submitted,



Rev. Andrew P. Nelko
Dean of the Southwest Deanery