

Archdiocese Assembly  
Diocese of Western Pennsylvania  
February 6, 2021

**EDUCATION/RETREAT REPORT**

An Advent Retreat entitled “Spiritual Growth & The Body of Christ” was held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church – New Kensington. Archpriest Thomas Soroka was the presenter. The day opened with a prayer service at 10am which was followed by a light continental breakfast. The program started at 11am and was completed by approximately 1pm. Archbishop MELCHISEDEK and 39 clergy and laity were present for the retreat.

We also had scheduled a Lenten Retreat entitled “SURPRISING SAINTS: Holy Peoples’ Struggles and Triumphs Can Inspire Our Lives” which was to be held on Saturday April 4, 2020 at St. John The Baptist Church – Canonsburg with Matushka Valerie Zahirsky as the presenter. This Retreat however had to be cancelled due to the onset of Covid-19 restrictions. An effort is being made to reschedule this Retreat for this coming Advent Season with a limited number of participants at a given site and opening the retreat to online viewers either with live streaming and or Zoom.

During the coming years of 2021-22, we plan to have retreats during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Please feel free to contact me about topics ( i.e. choir or readers etc.) and or your willingness to be a presenter. I am very thankful to our presenters and to our host parishes!

Respectfully Submitted,

Archpriest David Vernak

201-704-6217/frdavidvernak@verizon.net