

ST NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH,

AUBURN, NEW YORK

Pastor's Report for the year 2022 as presented at the Annual Church Meeting of January 29, 2023

We are all most relieved that the COVID pandemic is abating and we have returned to all of our usual parish activities during the past year. Many of us do not recall that we were still required to wear masks in church at the beginning of 2022. By God's blessings, we have been freed from our limitations but still appreciate caution displayed by those who are feeling ill.

- 1) Our prayer life as a church family has been completely restored to pre-pandemic schedules. Our Sunday morning Adult education program has resumed with an increased number of participants, Restoration of our coffee hours has been very successful. Our Pork Chop Dinners and Sisterhood Bazaars continue to grow in popularity.**
- 2) We have been blessed by the increased numbers of children who are now part of our parish family. Their presence is enlivening, joyful, and vital to our future! The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd education program taught and administered by Fr. Deacon David is continuing with the addition of the Christmas play that was presented several weeks ago. It is our sincere prayer that the parents of our children will recognize the vital importance of the education of our children and that participation in the Catechesis Program will increase to 100% involvement so that these children will come to know and love our faith from their earliest years.**
- 3) Our charitable work through our Food Pantry Ministry, the activities of the St. Marion's Sisterhood, and the St. Nicholas Church Benevolence Fund have been very successful and we encourage more of our faithful to support this loving work.**
- 4) We would also like to set a goal of procuring a greater number of individual contributions to our Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor's Fund that is so very necessary to the work of our Diocese of New York and New Jersey.**

- 5) We have continued to improve our church and its facilities. The final phase of our cemetery driveway repaving project is set for this summer. We are asking for your financial support for the completion of this project.**
- 6) The repairs needed because of our hall sprinkler problem of last January are completed.**

What you can do as members of Christ's Holy Church

- **Above all, dedicate time from your busy schedules to attend the services of the church, especially Vespers and Divine Liturgy. When we recognize God's love for us and His gifts to us, we must thankfully approach Him, and dedicate our lives to holiness. Several hours each week participating in services is not too much to ask for. Only the church can offer the "Bread of Life, the Holy Eucharist" that was instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself!**
- **Bring others to the faith by setting Christ-like examples for people every day of your life. Evangelize those who have no hope. Welcome them to our church!**
- **Please support our church financially as generously as possible so that it will be here for generations to come.**
- **Support the charitable work of the church through our food pantry ministry, Sisterhood activities, Pork Chop Dinners, and other activities.**
- **Please offer your time, treasure and talent! We are blessed by those who work so hard doing the things necessary to keep the church running.**
- **Lend your voice. Liturgical worship in the Orthodox Church is very beautiful. We ask that those who sing would join the choir to add to the beauty of the services. We are always looking for new readers as well!**

Thanks To all of you!

We offer our thanks especially to:

- **His Eminence, Archbishop Michael for his guidance, pastoral care, and love of our parish, deanery, and diocese.**
- **I would like to thank our Sr. Warden Greg Michaels and all the members of the Parish Council for their efforts. They do so much work behind**
- **the scenes, often known to God alone and I truly appreciate their counsel and assistance.**
- **Thanks to Father Deacon David who generously has used his time and talents in so many ways for the church**
- **Thanks to Father Deacon Michael for his liturgical service and work within the church.**
- **Thank you to all the choir members who sing prayerfully for our services. Your voices are well pleasing to God!**
- **Thanks to Debbie Slobodiak and all the members of the Sisterhood for their hard work and dedication.**
- **We thank our adult altar servers and readers: Reader Nathaniel Donch, Steve Baumes and Dave Urciuoli, as well as Dave Keblish, Matushka Julie, and Chrissy Urciuoli, Deacon David, Reader Peter Speck, and all others who read for the services and lead the choir.**
- **We are additionally blessed to have many who work to beautify and maintain the church and the grounds throughout the seasons. Steve Baumes has done an excellent job taking care of the church and rectory lawns during this last year.**
- **We would again ask for volunteers to regularly clean and maintain the church hall. We are blessed to have this beautiful facility and must remember that it requires dedicated continuing care. Much of its upkeep is undertaken by Jane Kimak who deserves our deep appreciation. We are also thankful for Jim Perfield's management of the booking of the events scheduled for the hall which will become more frequent as COVID abates.**
- **Ultimately, God especially loves and blesses all of those who do work for His Holy Church without fanfare, asking for no special recognition. These are indeed His servants who store up for themselves treasure in**

Heaven. Thank you all for your efforts. Please forgive me for failing to name every person who has worked so diligently for our church.

Looking Ahead to Future Projects

- 1) Completion of the final paving for St. Nicholas Parish Cemetery driveway.**
- 4) Paving of the church parking lot and driveway next to the hall.**

I thank each and every one of you for the kindness and support you have shown to me and my family during the years of my pastorate at St Nicholas. I ask for your understanding. I ask for your forgiveness. And I ask especially for your continued prayers. May Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ bless you all richly.

And I thank all of you *for being so welcoming* to those who attend our services either simply as visitors or in their search for the true church!

In Christ's Love, Fr. Michael

Parish Vital Statistics for 2022

Birth

Nadia Anastasia Donch (Baptism and Chrismation January 14, 2023)

Baptism and Chrismations

Kaleigh Brahney, Faylin Perun, Bennett William Musser,

Aella Thekla Weldon, DeAnna Jupin, Ivan Alexander

Holy Matrimony

Noah Donch and Kaleigh Brahney, Steven Baumes and DeAnna Jupin

Memory Eternal

Helen Milliman, William Acker, Michael Panek