



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

## REPORT OF THE RECTOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF JANUARY 31, 2021

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!**

### 1. METRICS FOR THE YEAR 2020

Baptisms: 6	Marriages: 0	Catechumens: 2
Chrismations: 5	Marriage Blessings: 0	Funerals: 0

Official census, submitted to the Diocese on September 1, 2020: 55 members.

### 2. MAJOR EVENTS OF 2020

January	1	New Chalice Set
	5-6	Reception of the Howard Family / Theophany + Great Blessing of Water
	12	New Catechumens Judy and Matthew Williams
	24	March For Life @ Washington, DC
February	2	Meeting of the Lord + Baptisms: John Isaac Davidson & Emory Emilia
	9	Blessings from the Holy Mountain brought by Michael Cook
March	1	Forgiveness Sunday / Start of Great Lent
		Double Birthday Party: Mat. Dunia Hubiak (90) and Mat. Emily Parsells (40)
	8	Installation of Council; Sunday of Orthodoxy @ St. George's in Ocean City, MD
	17	Church closed, Divine Services still offered by priest and his family
May	9-10	Church opened with liturgical team and livestream
	23-24	Church opened for all parishioners except frontline workers
June	7	Holy Pentecost + Chrismation of Justin Barkewich
July	4-5	Fellowship Activities Resume / Pool Opening / Cross Dive
	25	Baptism: Amy Elizabeth, Raymond Thomas and Eli Maximus Fortin
	26	Blessing of Chariots
August	6,15,16	Transfiguration, Dormition & Icon Not-Made-By-Hands
	24	Baptism of Madison Emilia Kaloroumakis
	30	Blessing of Teachers and Students
September	14	Exaltation of the Cross / Fr. Daniel's Anniversary of Ordination

	30	Police Appreciation @ State Barracks in Berlin, MD
October	4	Blessing of Choir & Readers
November	1	Blessing of the Healing Ministries
	8	St. Michael's Party / Parish Thanksgiving
December	16-23	Church closed
	24-25	Chrismation: Jacob Luke Rickman / Nativity of our Lord

### **3. A REVIEW OF 2020**

#### **Pandemic**

The year 2020 will no doubt be remembered by the Coronavirus and the medical, social, political, and spiritual upheaval which accompanied it. Yet, despite the unsettling waves of fear, anxiety, and division sweeping over the world, I have been stabilized by observing the people of our humble little community face it all with their trust in God, their heads firmly on their shoulders, their eyes open to significant changes in the world, their knees bent in prayer, and their hands ministering to those in need, caring for the sick, supporting those financially challenged, and comforting the afflicted.

While parts of our country were literally being torn down by anarchists, I saw our church being built up, as we labored to construct a magnificent archway at our roadside entrance, calling all to leave behind divisions and enter the unity of the Kingdom not of this world. While trust in earthly leaders and institutions waned, I saw people understanding more and more how necessary it is to have Christ not just as the chief cornerstone of the Church but the very foundation of our whole culture so shaken of late by the destructive ideologies of fallen men.

As some were confused about what is truly essential in our lives, leaving their churches empty and ravaging grocery stores, I saw others apprehending clearly, through the pain of missing divine services and not being able to partake of the Sacraments, how nothing is more important, more essential to us than the Lord and assembling as His Body in His Church. As many ran scared in the face of their own mortality, the oldest and most at risk in our community kept showing up at church, seemingly not caring what would happen to them. Then I realized that they were living the Paschal mystery, aware that even if they would die, they would live again, being possessed of the unwavering courage that is the unique inheritance of the disciples of the risen Christ in a dying world.

In this past year, we have suffered through the loss of loved ones, isolation from family and friends, and the painful realization that the man-made digital world with all its technological marvels, is not a lasting or effective substitute to the God-given joys of in-person, face-to-face conversations, unmasked smiles, firm handshakes, and warm hugs. We have learned a hard lesson that there are no substitutes to the real thing. We must never accept a new normal. We can never settle for a fallen world, nor our fallen selves. Real life and genuine community, our true selves, are found only in God, and it is to Him that we bow our heads and bend our knees in repentance on behalf of ourselves, our nation and our world.

We have learned a lot this past year. It has been a good year. Perhaps the best of years. Glory to God for all things!

#### **New Members / Newly Departed**

Congratulations to all the new members through sacramental reception and relocation! May God bless! Memory eternal to those who have departed in 2020. May their memories be eternal!

#### **Sunday Attendance**

In 2020, our attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgy for the first two months before the COVID-19 restrictions was a record-setting 85 people. In previous years the attendance was 80, 73, 64, 64, 60, 72, 60, 50, 46, and 38.

#### **Financial Stewardship**

In a year which saw devastating consequences to the nation's economy, the stewardship of our parishioners and friends was phenomenal and heroic. Not only did we meet our budget goal with \$119,347 in general stewardship, but we also received \$95,052 above and beyond for the Entrance Project, financial assistance, charities, and other earmarks. Ten years ago, in 2011, our total operating income, including \$5,000 from the diocese, was \$51,875. May the Lord bless you all for your sacrificial offerings!

## **New Entrance to Christ the Savior: Thank You to Donors!**

By the grace of God and the sacrificial offerings and labors of the community, a landmark project was accomplished in this historically trying year as a new entrance was built on Carey Road. A full report follows.

### **Liturgy**

Sincere appreciation is offered to our Liturgical Teams: Altar Servers, Choir Members/Directors, Live-streamers, and Ushers. We thank Elisabeth Parsells for her important work making the services not only available online but at a high production level. Likewise, we thank the choir directors who led us through difficult circumstances: Mat. Annice Oleynik, Joanne Patrick, Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia, Anya Klimitchev and Daria Parsells. May God bless!

### **Education**

Zoom was added in 2020 as a go-to educational venue. Meetings with educational presentations were offered on Sundays when the church was closed, the Bible Study of St. Matthew was completed, catechumen meetings were held online, and the Sunday sermon, available via livestream, continued as the primary method of community wide instruction in the Law of God.

### **Fellowship**

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to continue with our fellowship program – perhaps needed this year more than ever. Appreciation is expressed to the organizers, cooks, servers, cleaners, and attendees of the coffee hours, festal meals, men’s and women’s outings, youth group beach days, barbeques, birthday celebrations, and other such events which bind our community together through fellowship. May the Lord bless you for your efforts!

### **Thank You to All: Fellow Clergy / Parish Council / Supporting Committees / “Unknowns”**

I would like to sincerely thank my brother clergy, Protopresbyter Daniel, Archpriest Joseph Oleynick, and Deacon Steven and all who gave themselves over to the important work of serving the Lord, especially noting those who are coming off the council this year, having fulfilled their terms of office: Larry Perrone, *Junior Warden*, Beth Dunbar, *Secretary*, and Joseph Dunbar.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Our Parish**

Postponed from 2020 to 2021. Date to be determined!

## **4. A VISION FOR 2021**

This year the Rector and Parish Council will focus on:

1. Reintegration of parishioners separated by Coronavirus.
2. Project Illumination: Entrance Project – Phase 2.
3. Preparing for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish.
4. Securing the Parish’s future through maintenance of infrastructure and development of expansion plans.
5. Learning, living, and loving our Orthodox Christian Faith.



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Rector