

Holy Myrrhbearers Antiochian Orthodox Church-Bonnors Ferry, Idaho
18th ANNUAL PASTORAL REPORT...PREPARED NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Beloved Ones in the Lord:

Christ is in our midst! Another blessed year...here is the Annual Pastoral Report for 2024!

2024 VITAL STATISTICS:

"As Many As Have Been Baptized into Christ" (Baptisms and Chrismations): Nathan "Nephton" Richardson...Feb.17, 2024; Geoffrey Rose...March 14, 2024; Sahika Genc...March 14, 2024; Elric Genc-Rose...March 14, 2024; George Aamot...March 23, 2024; Bonnie "Monica" Dieter...June 26, 2024; Jack "Lawrence" Pankow...June 26, 2024; Penelope "Irene" Pankow...June 26, 2024; Joana Fahling...June 29, 2024; Daniela Fahling...June 29, 2024; Abigail Carter...June 30, 2024; Jack Alexander Phillips...July 7, 2024; Jennifer "Rebecca" Gossett...July 12, 2024; Alexis Gossett...July 12, 2024; Conrad "Gabriel" Dickson...August 12, 2024; Morgan "Olga" Dickson...August 12, 2024; Sawyer Elizabeth Dickson...August 12, 2024; James Cordial...August 31, 2024; Isidore Mulford...Sept.22, 2024; Teresa "Vasilissa" Oliver...October 5, 2024; Travis "Christopher" Dieter...October 12, 2024; Alan "Thomas" Robinson...October 18, 2024; Steven McGee...October 19, 2024; Nicholas Hinton...Oct.26, 2024; Margaret "Eulalia" Adams...November 2, 2024; Luke "Olaf" Tolle...Nov.2, 2024; Jennifer "Salome" Tolle...Nov.2, 2024; Seamus "Seraphim" Tolle...Nov.2, 2024; Faedra "Chrysanthi" Tolle...Nov.2, 2024; Forest Seraphim Dickson...Nov.4, 2024 -- **for a total of THIRTY**. (At the writing of this report, 14 Catechumens are planning on being baptized before the end of the year...they will be reflected in next year's report...that would put our census at 211).

"Crown Them, O Lord, with Glory and Honor" (Weddings): Merek Bauck & Marina Dunaway...July 14, 2024 -- **for a total of ONE**.

"Grant Rest Eternal in Blessed Repose, O Lord" (Funerals): We had several burials (Rusty Rounsville, Kitty Nelson)...but none of our members reposed -- **for a total of ZERO**.

CENSUS:

At the end of 2023 we reported **176 members in 72 families**. As of now, we have **197 members in 79 families**. We also currently have about **23 seekers and catechumens**. The official numbers represent a **net gain of 21 members** (not including the 14 to be brought in by the end of the year)!

LITURGICAL LIFE:

In addition to Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we celebrate the Paraklesis almost every Wednesday night and often one or two daily and Saturday Liturgies, sometimes more. Many thanks to our three deacons (Metropolitan SABA ordained Deacon Joseph here back in February...Axios!) and 2 subdeacons, as well as our 4 readers, our choir director and lead chanter...such blessings. Thank God for a vibrant liturgical life.

EDUCATION:

We continue to have an active seeker class (as evidenced by the numbers above). The church school continues on Sundays thanks to our dedicated teachers. I have also begun a weekday class for the elementary ages...mostly on Wednesdays. The Reading Group is working through "Experiences During the Divine Liturgy" on Monday evenings. The men gather monthly for teaching and now the women will also be gathering during the Nativity Fast for teaching as well...Glory to God. Thank you to Alexandra Kerns for organizing and facilitating the teen group...activities and teaching about there as well.

MISSION, COMMUNITY AND CHARITY:

Thank you for your generosity in all areas of charity work...especially when we have been called upon to assist with natural disasters and destructive wars...our parish has always been good at stepping up to assist those in desperate need. All of My Love in Christ, Fr. Gregory