

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST 2022

February 19, 2023

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

Once again, this past year has been filled with trials and strains that have threatened our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, as we start to “slowly” open our lives after COVID. The shadow of pandemic has transformed our parish activities for the year and many people are still reluctant to join us in the Church.

We have tried our best to adapt and began streaming the divine services on Facebook Live so that we could worship together. I believe that we all feel the need for constant prayer and for getting closer to God. Unfortunately, on many Sundays there are more people online than in the Church.

ACTIVITY REPORT

This period has been extremely difficult for me as your priest, as I had to continue to serve and preach many times to a vacant church. However, by the grace of God, I learned to communicate with you “virtually.” I have tried as best as I could to keep open the connection between our parishioners and friends and our beloved Church.

With your virtual participation we have turned this period of crisis into a period of strengthening in faith through prayer, increasing our love for our family and friends; of intensifying of our communion with the living, but also with those who were asleep into the Lord.

As the Pastor of St. John, the Baptist, I have officiated and live-streamed the Holy Liturgy every Sunday and every Holy Day, I have officiated special Services and special prayers for the benefit of all people who requested them, regardless of their participation. I, also, initiated such prayers myself. I am very pleased to report that the live stream reached faithful from all over United States, Europe, Canada, and Brazil. People who could not participate were happy to be present virtually to our prayers.

We had this year the great honor to have His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel and His Grace, Bishop Andrei in our church. We served with them and a few other priests at end of October when we celebrated another milestone in our history, 110 years since the founding of our beloved Parish. It was a great event and a moment of remembrance for all of us.

On this occasion I want to, once again, thank and honor, and express my deepest gratitude and respect to Joanne Ryan and Radu and Ani Morar for all their help. As well as, to Preoteasa Anca, who constantly gave me support.

A want to extend a **VERY** special Thank you and my gratitude to Nicholas and Georgeta Gassey, as well as the members of the Parish Council. They worked so hard, to achieve the goals planed at our previous General Assembly, and to justify the trust of the members of church and the Parish Priest.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank ALL the members of our community for your generosity and for your faith and care for our beloved church.

I would also like to invite you all to attend and join us in the divine services as much as possible. Please remember that Holy Communion can't be received online. However, if you can't be in the church in person, you can always participate virtually by watching the service, by donating a virtual candle and/ or by donating to the Virtual weekly basket or emailing a prayer list. Please visit our website at: stjohnroc.org.

Your presence in Church is very important to you, your family, and supports me to continue my mission. Please continue to pray for each other, for our parish and for me as we continue to try to live our Christian lives in this difficult and troubling world. We are all are called and encouraged to pray daily, that our entire Church may grow "in faith, in love and in spiritual understanding."

May God always bless us, watch over us, and keep us safe.

To Him be the glory, unto ages of ages.
Amen,

Rev. Fr. Onisie Morar