

Bethel/Kuskokwim Deanery Report  
Diocesan Assembly 2016  
Priest Vasily Fisher – Dean

**Priests assigned and to which parish they are assigned to:**

**St. Sophia** - Bethel: Fr. Michael Trefon - Rector

**St. Nicholas** - Kwethluk: Fr. Alexander Larson - Rector, Fr. Martin Nicolai, Fr. Steven Epchook

**St. James the Apostle** - Napaskiak: Fr. Vasily Fisher - Rector, Fr. Ishmael Andrew - Attached and serving Oscarville mission visits Napaskiak

**Holy Trinity** - Kasigluk: Fr. Nicholai Larson - Rector

**Presentation of the Theotokos** - Nunapitchuk: Fr. Phillip Alexie – Rector

**St. Herman of Alaska** - Atmauthluk: Fr. Daniel Charles – Rector, also makes visits to Kipnuk

**St. Agaphia** – Tuntutuliak, visited by Fr. Vasily Fisher and Fr. Phillip

**St. Gabriel** – Kongiganak – Fr. Victor Nick

*Villages with churches and no priests:*

**St. Michael the Archangel** – Eek – Served by Fr. Vasily Fisher

**St. Michael** – Kwigillingok – to be served by Fr. Victor Nick

Akiachak, Akiak, and Tuluksak – are served by Fr. Joseph Larson living in Akiachak

Mission parishes: Oscarville, Quinhagak,

*Villages with Orthodox normally needing visits:*

Chefornak

**Transfers in or out of the Deanery over the past year:**

Fr. Leonty Johnston has moved from St. Agaphia – Tuntutuliak on leave of Absence in Kwigillingok

Fr. Joseph, who recently finished St. Herman Seminary has been assigned to Akiachak to served Orthodox in Akiachak, Akiak, and Tuluksak

Fr. Victor Nick has been reassigned from Ninilchik to St. Gabriel Orthodox Church in Kwigillingok

**Special Events, celebrations or conferences:**

**The 2016 Bethel/Kuskokwim Conference** was held in St. Sophia Orthodox Church in Bethel, hosted by Fr. Michael Trefon in Bethel. It was the first conference to be held in Bethel and by all accounts it was a success. His Grace our Bishop David and our Chancellor Fr. Thomas Andrew joined us in this historic conference. We also had visiting clergy from the Yukon Deanery to serve with us. Dcn. James Keene was ordained to the Holy Diaconate during the conference, and Fr. Michael Trefon was awarded the Nabedrennik as well.

We had a special guest speaker with us, Matushka Myra Kovalak, who came to teach our church-school teachers and to meet with the Matushki of the deanery. She had brought boxes of material to share with the gathering so that more material can be available to church-school purposes.

Orthodox Diocese of Alaska and IOCC help to host a basketball day camp called Healthy Choices Basketball Camp, Saturday, May 28. His Grace our Bishop David and Dan Christopoulos came to visit bringing with them guest coach and former Euro league basketball player Andrew Cladis. We had youth from ages 8<sup>th</sup> grade to young adults in attendance from Napaskiak and Kwethluk. We are planning to host another in the coming year.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> an OCMC teaching team came to Napaskiak consisting of 7 members. They came to teach children ranging from ages 7 to young adults. The team went on to Kwethluk to join in the youth conference being held there and to help with the teaching.

This year the 3rd annual Three Holy Youths Kuskokwim youth conference was held in the village of Kwethluk. Youth from the deanery were in attendance. This coming year Napaskiak will be hosting.

Fr. Joseph Larson graduated from St. Herman Seminary and is now serving in the village of Akiachak working to build a church there. He is also serving the upper villages of Akiak, and Tuluksak.

Fr. Victor who was serving in Ninilchik now has been reassigned to the Bethel Deanery and serving St. Gabriel Orthodox Church in Kongiganak and he will be visiting the villages of Quinhagak, Kwigillingok, and Kipnuk.

Fr. Methodius Nicori from Kwethluk has finished his final year of St. Herman Seminary and is currently serving in Kodiak for a year.

Dcn James Keene who is from the village of Kasigluk is now in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at St. Herman Seminary

Parish Sacrament Report:

St. Nicholas, Kwethluk

13 Baptisms, 2 conversions, 1 wedding, 9 funerals

St. James the Apostle, Napaskiak

18 Baptisms, 1 chrismations, 2 weddings, and 3 funerals

Presentation of the Theotokos, Nunapitchuk

3 Baptisms

Holy Trinity, Kasigluk

18 Baptisms and Chrismations, 3 weddings, 4 funerals, 2 stillborn

St. Agaphia, Tuntutuliak

5 Baptisms, 3 funerals

St. Herman of Alaska, Atmauthluak

4 Baptisms, 2 Chrismations, 2 Weddings

St. Sophia, Bethel

1 funeral, 1 marriage

Akiachak

1 Chrismation

Kipnuk

3 Baptisms, 2 Chrismation