



Orthodox Christian  
PRISON MINISTRY



2023 Annual Report

# Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2023, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry came together as a team around the story of Sts. Paul and Silas in prison, when they were “praying and singing hymns to God” until “suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed,” (Acts 16:25-31). Even though Sts. Paul and Silas had committed no crime, they still did not see any separation between themselves and those incarcerated around them. They prayed for them until the earth trembled and they were set free.

This Scripture came to us at a pivotal time in the life of OCPM. We asked ourselves, what if every Orthodox Christian in the United States followed the example of these two saints, praying for each of the 1.7 MILLION incarcerated men and women in this country and truly seeing them as our brothers and sisters in Christ? What if, as the beautiful cover of this year’s annual report illustrates, we could see how the nearness of God transcends prisons, as He draws all of us together in prayer? We called this vision “The Future of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry,” and we are happy to say, through your support, we are already seeing this vision realized in the first year of our new direction.

Your financial support has not only enabled us to create a new team of Prison Relationship Managers (PRMs), full-time staff members committed to a set caseload of Orthodox or inquiring people in prison for the duration of that person’s sentence and after his or her release, but you have also enabled us to create an array of new parish ministry programs, at varying levels of engagement, so more churches can begin or further their own local prison ministries. As a result, OCPM is growing on both sides; more and more people in prison are reaching out to us for support, but more and more volunteers are signing up to serve those near them, face-to-face.

This truly has been a remarkable year for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. We remain so grateful for what we are able to do as a community together for our otherwise abandoned brothers and sisters in prison. From all of us at OCPM, THANK YOU for your commitment, and through the following pages, we hope you see the fruits of your labor as evidently as we see them each and every day.

In Christ,



**Eugenia Ordynsky**  
*Chairman of The Board*



**Nicholas Petrogeorge**  
*Executive Director*

# OUR MISSION

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

**200**   
New case files of people in prison opened in 2023

**162**   
Orthodox parishes offered coaching, training, and consultation for parish-based prison ministry

**481**   
Prison facilities served by OCPM in 2023

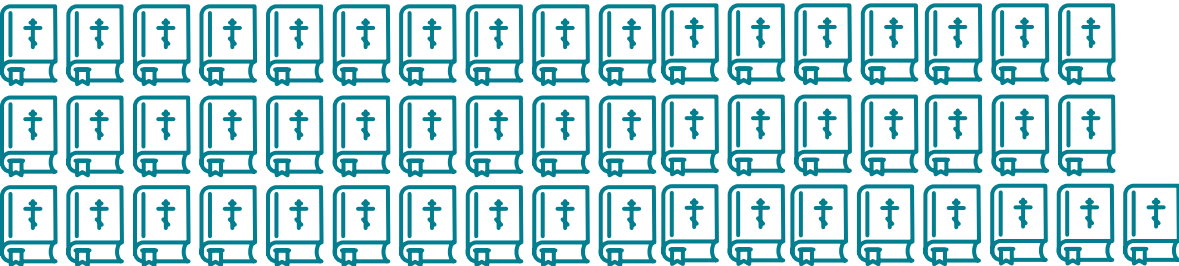
**1,199**

People in prison who received personalized spiritual care from OCPM in 2023



**51,530**

Spiritual books, study courses, Bible studies, daily readings, and spiritual reflections sent



# OCPM PROGRAMS FOR YOUR PARISH-BASED PRISON MINISTRY

## PENPAL MINISTRY

Your church can become part of OCPM's Correspondence Ministry by gathering a team of trained Pen Pals. In this critical ministry you will do "visit-by-mail" and build a relationship by exchanging personalized letters with someone in prison over a long period of time together.

## NEW! STORYBOOK CONNECTIONS

Through this program your church will reconnect people in prison with their children. Volunteers record parents in prison or jail reading an age-appropriate book to their child. The recording, along with the book, is then sent to the child, who now has a tangible connection to their parent.

## POSTCARDS AND LETTERS

Show those in prison they are not forgotten by sending cards or simple letters all year long. OCPM has created several ready-made toolkits and templates (available at [theoCPM.org/volunteer](http://theoCPM.org/volunteer)) for your church to download and get involved right away.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

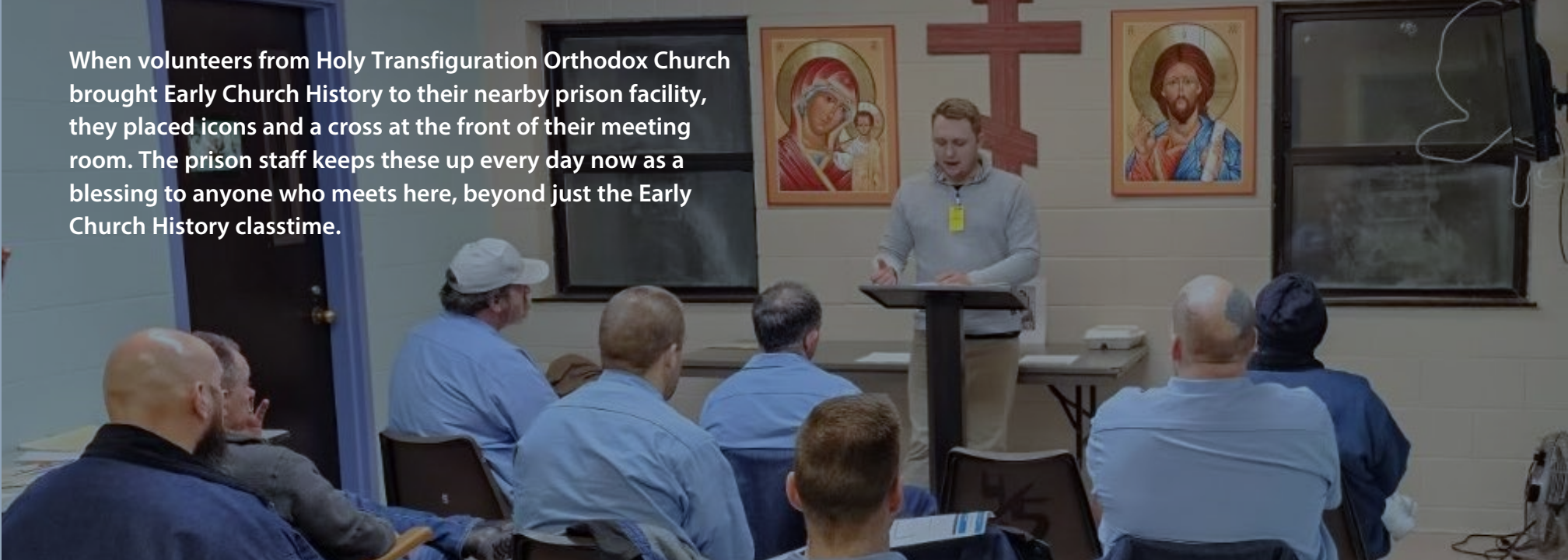
Download our print-ready lesson (available at [theoCPM.org/ChurchPrograms](http://theoCPM.org/ChurchPrograms)) for your Sunday School classroom or children's ministry program to learn more about prison ministry and participate in an activity to design a postcard to send to people in prison near you.

## NEW! EARLY CHURCH HISTORY:

### RECEIVING THE ANCIENT FAITH BEHIND BARS

*Early Church History* is a new class curriculum, designed to be shared in a local jail or prison with people of all faith backgrounds. The curriculum has been specifically created for the prison audience and will cover material most people in prison have never heard before, their first point of contact with the Orthodox Church. For parishes who discern a calling to teach this course, OCPM will provide coaching and eventually in-person training to equip you for your local jail or prison.

When volunteers from Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church brought Early Church History to their nearby prison facility, they placed icons and a cross at the front of their meeting room. The prison staff keeps these up every day now as a blessing to anyone who meets here, beyond just the Early Church History classtime.



*“ I am so very impressed with OCPM. I’ve been involved with different service ministries as a Protestant and Orthodox Christian. I don’t think I have ever been so excited about a ministry as this one. The depth, organization, support, and training involved are better than any I have ever experienced.”*

**Donna Allee, Volunteer Coordinator**  
*Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Meridian, ID*

# FINANCIALS

## WAYS TO GIVE



BY MAIL  
Return the self-addressed envelope



BY PHONE  
Call 1-347-868-6957



MONTHLY  
[theocpm.org/matthew25](http://theocpm.org/matthew25)



ONLINE  
[theocpm.org/donate](http://theocpm.org/donate)



PLANNED GIVING  
Call 1-(347) 868-6940 for more info

## 2023 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

*Year Ended December 31, 2023*

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents .....	\$641,929
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b><u>\$641,929</u></b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$3,388</b>
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions .....	550,198
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions .....	88,352
<b>Total Net Assets .....</b>	<b><u>\$638,541</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets .....</b>	<b><u>\$641,929</u></b>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

*Year Ended December 31, 2023*

### REVENUE

Contributions without Donor Restrictions .....	\$738,997
Contributions with Donor Restrictions .....	70,000
Bookstore Revenue .....	5,982
Interest Revenue .....	8,054
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b><u>\$823,033</u></b>

### EXPENSES

<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$859,405</b>
<b>Change In Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$(36,372)</b>

### NET ASSETS

Beginning .....	674,913
<b>Ending .....</b>	<b><u>\$638,541</u></b>

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## HIERARCHICAL LIAISON

*His Eminence,*  
The Most Reverend Mark  
*Archbishop of Philadelphia*  
*and Eastern Pennsylvania, OCA*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nicholas Petrogeorge

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Nicholas J. Furriss, *Vice Chairman*  
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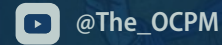
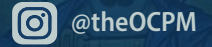
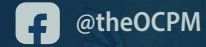
*Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and  
an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.*

## LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVE

[theocpm.org](http://theocpm.org)

347.868.6957

## FOLLOW US



## FOR DONATIONS AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

276 5th Avenue,  
Ste. 704-3183  
New York, NY 10001

## FOR THOSE IN PRISON WISHING TO CORRESPOND WITH US

276 5th Avenue  
Suite 704 - 3036  
New York, NY 10001



Orthodox Christian  
**PRISON MINISTRY**

AN AGENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS

276 5th Avenue  
Suite 704 - 3183  
New York, NY 10001

Cover art by The Brave Union