

**Parish Council Meeting  
December 12, 2022  
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

**Roll Call**

**Parish Council Members Present:** Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi, Sergio Georgi (arrived approx. 8:30pm)

**Clergy:** Fr. Dennis

**Sunday School:** none

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Croke, Linda Notskas, Steve Coraluzzi

**Meeting opened with prayer at 7:36 pm**

**Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)**

Reem presented the minutes from the November 2022 meeting which included one modification suggested by Donna. Zach moved to accept minutes as presented and Davit seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)**

At end November 2022:

- Checking account up to ~\$20,467
- Market investment rebounding to ~\$247,000
- 66 pledges received thus far for ~\$47,000, but we remain well below pledge goal of \$60,000
- Still slightly short on icon payments
- Check register presented for review
- Other notable income or expenses
  - A number of pledge contributions received
  - Received reimbursement from Goodville Mutual for \$1745
  - Office supplies high because of Powerchurch payment
  - \$1000 in parish donation is gift from parish to Fr. Dennis in memory of +Jonathan
- Contact Zach with any questions about CC or bank statements
- Council had some discussion about low pledges and concern re: mail delivery, which may be affecting receipt of donations/pledges.
- We have done very well financially this year despite low pledges

Nilda moved to accept the November report, seconded by Reem. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

**Clergy report (reported by Fr. Dennis)**

Fr. Dennis thanked parish and council for love and support in recent months and reflected on the end of his part-time tenure over these recent years

**Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)**

- Archbishop Mark, archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern PA, has been named Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese. He will serve in this capacity until Archimandrite Nikodhim is enthroned as Bishop, probably in September 2023. Archimandrite has been appointed Administrator of the Albanian Archdiocese and Father Mark Doku has been

appointed Chancellor. We will be able have our new council sworn in in January and select officers.

- Nativity Stationary arrived, letters printed and mailed
- 2023 Calendars arrived. Sponsored by Vraim Funeral Home. Father Kai's name and phone number added this year. A Thank You letter was sent to David and Michael Vraim.
- Jim Bendo prepared the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet for 2023. It is posted in the side vestibule.
- Filed a report with the USPS -online- explaining the problems with mail delivery at the church. Received an acknowledgement that the complaint was received. Will report next month on response.
- Donna will email the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy to everyone. Please take a moment to read over the policy. Included in the email with the Policy will be a sheet with the following:

“I hereby certify that I have been provided a copy of the Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct, that I have read and understand the duties and obligations set forth therein, and will fully and at all times comply with and perform those duties and obligations.”

- Please sign this form and email it to Donna. If you plan to attend church between now and the middle of January the form will be available at church for you to sign in person. We are required by the Albanian Archdiocese to complete this form

### **Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)**

No report

### **Sunday School Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)**

- Fiori sent an email to council about status of Sunday School and concern that she will not be able to continue to direct Sunday School without support. There have been few students and minimal adult support. She agreed to continue until someone else can take over.
- Fiori did a wonderful job organizing Sunday School program for Albanian Independence Day on 12/4; everyone enjoyed the beautiful musical performances and ancestor stories shared by the children!
- Sandi Fiss will be helping with the Nativity pageant on 12/18
- Council discussed next steps to address ongoing concerns with Sunday school attendance

### **Old Business**

- Social Media Subcommittee
  - Linda C. presented and reviewed the “Social Media Committee Activities/ Guidelines” that she developed and sent via email to council prior to the meeting, This includes mention of the OCA Social Media guidelines, which was also shared with council for review; see <https://doepa.org/socialmediaguidelinesoftheoca>
  - Nilda suggested we move forward as soon as possible to re-establish our social media presence since we have been inactive since February 2022
  - Zach made motion to accept guidelines presented, seconded by Reem.
    - Linda responded to questions
    - Following detailed discussion, several modifications were made to document.
    - Zach and Reem maintained motion to include the modifications

- Motion passed. None opposed.
    - ***Accepted version of the guidelines is included at end of the minutes***
  - Zach asked if Nilda would be interested in taking on role of social media director. Nilda agreed. Zach nominated Nilda to be social media director in accordance with new policy. Seconded by Davit. Motion passed.
- Nativity plan
  - Pageant will be on Dec 18
  - Christmas Eve liturgy will be on Dec 24
- Fr. Kai update
  - Official letter not yet received
  - Fr. Kai requested list of names of people in our directory who have not been coming to church regularly
  - Nilda suggested we have luncheon to thank Fr. Dennis and welcome Fr. Kai. Council agreed needs to happen after the new year. Will discuss at next meeting.
  - Christine suggested we hold a brief zoom meeting with Fr. Kai before he starts.
  - Donna will try to schedule brief meeting with Fr. Kai at 8:30pm on 12/19
- Sunday school holiday gift drive
  - Reem updated council on the Sunday school gift drive. We collected as much or slightly more money through monetary and in-kind donations than we need to cover cost of gifts (\$1154.00 plus in-kind donations thus far).
  - We were able to sponsor a family of 5; a patient in the Oncology department at St. Christopher's plus her 3 siblings and mother
  - Several families helped to purchase gifts (Kosta/Highland, Chanoine/Tarazi, Dardaris, Sarkos)
  - We had 8 children that helped to wrap and package the gifts after church on 12/11.
  - Extra funds will be used for future Sunday school charity project(s)

### **New Business**

- Many upcoming events!
  - Icon Auction
    - Will schedule for Jan 22 and 29
  - Women's Day dance
    - Will be held March 2023; date TBD
  - Soup-er bowl Sunday event will happen again in 2023
- Donna will send out sexual harassment policy for review and ask council members for signatures in coming weeks
- Thank you Christine for writing the beautiful Nativity letter!

**Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 7:30pm.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Reem Tarazi

## Social Media Committee Activities/Guidelines

Appoint a social media director to work cooperatively with parish council

Establish St John's social media profile(s) such as but not limited to Facebook or Instagram

Define who will be authorized to create, maintain, and delete posted materials on official St John's media accounts. At least two parish council members will have access to accounts

Develop a social media policy consistent with the OCA Social media policy

Develop planned posts/engagement strategies for parish and visitors such as plan for calendar of events for media blasts for the year. Events such as Holy Days, Fasts, Epiphany, Icon Auction, Pledges, Sunday school events, fund raiders, clean-up days, charitable giving, parish needs, etc.

A Social media report will be a Parish Council agenda item at regularly scheduled monthly parish meetings and will report on current and upcoming events, notifications, tracking of media results

Social media director along with parish council will cooperatively determine what is proprietary or confidential or a disclosure requirement, ex. photos of minors

Develop a plan of action in the event a public relations crisis is encountered