

**Parish Council Meeting  
February 6, 2023  
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

**Roll Call**

**Parish Council Members Present:** Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

**Clergy:** Fr. Kai

**Choir:** Vladimir Melnik

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Bill Bortner, Linda Croke, Linda Notskas

**Meeting opened at 7:40pm**

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

Reem presented the minutes from the January 2023 meeting. Nilda moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Sergio. Motion passed.

**Fr. Kai joined meeting with a prayer at 7:46pm**

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

Modifications to December 2022 Treasurer Report:

- Check register and income/expense statement modified because mail arrived in January with checks dated in December; wanted to credit parishioners for donations in year 2022
- Pledge amount and Christmas donation amount increased slightly
- Reem moved to accept modifications to December 2022 report. No discussion. Seconded by Sergio. Zach and Nilda abstain. Motion passed.

At end January 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$50,000
- Market investment account up to ~\$256,000
- 28 pledges received so far for 2023 for about \$23,000; this is mostly those who continue monthly pledging; \$5286 received thus far for **2023** pledges
- \$2100 received for **2022** pledges
- Icon auction pledges total about ~\$14,000; received ~\$6000 so far
- Check register - some discrepancies not able to be explained
- Comcast corporate contribution received
- No notable expenses
- Fr Kai set up in OCA pension plan, so contributions will start being made
- Sunday school charges are reimbursements for holiday gift drive

Christine moved to accept the January 2023 report, seconded by Reem. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Additional updates:

- Amazon has decided to stop Amazon Smile. In 2021 we received \$416 and in 2022 we received \$377

- 1099s for substitute priests were filed
- Zach has not yet completed summary regarding relative contributions and pledges made by parishioners presented last meeting; he will complete and send to council for review
- We usually make yearly donation to IOCC; budgeted \$500 for this
  - Council agreed to donate \$500 to IOCC

### **Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)**

- Fr. Kai stated that he has not been asked for report from archdiocese; Donna informed him that monthly reports are not expected from the Albanian Archdiocese.
- Will do Presanctified liturgies on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm with Vladimir starting 3/1/23; plan to livestream.
- Fr. Kai would like to involve children more in the service and will speak to Fiori to determine next steps and increase participation, even of our youngest children, not just in Sunday School but also in liturgy
- Needs time to determine how best to move forward on some of these initiatives in a way that will increase chance of success.
- Continues to schedule house blessings and encourage families to contact him directly.
- Fr. Kai is looking for an apartment closer to the church. He can stay in his current home until June. Donna suggested putting notice in weekly messenger in case any parishioner can assist.
- Fr. Kai suggested we consider eliciting advertisements or business partnerships as a way to fundraise for church.
- Fr. Kai also asked about option of renting our church hall as another source of income. We will discuss plan at next meeting for moving forward on this.

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

- There was another volunteer for Sunday School yesterday
- Fiori indicated she would like to step down from the position of Sunday School Director. The Sunday school is currently presented with many challenges. Trying to move forward.

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

- On January 24, 2023 a complaint was filed with Representative Dwight Evans in reference to the issues with the mail. A photo of two weeks' worth of mail shoved through the mail slot was sent with the narrative of the complaint. Acknowledgement of the complaint was received – nothing else as of today.
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment acknowledgement was placed at the candle stand. It will be there again next week for those who were not able to sign yesterday.
- The contractor (Brian, Quick Dry Solution, LLC) who repaired the sidewalk in front of the church prepared an estimate to repair the plaster above the south side middle window in the church hall. The total was \$5300.00. The proposal is listed below. We are checking with other contractors.
  - *Quick Dry Solution LLC*  
*Estimate for church at 17th Street.*
    1. Remove all damage plaster rotted wood at window area.
    2. Build out wall using pressure treated wood, wire mesh, cement and plaster.

3. Plaster as the finish coat sand and keep reapplying to the thickness to match the other windows.

4. Customer to supply plywood for the radius of the window.

Total price all labor and materials \$5300.

Any questions or concerns contact me at 267-581-4873.

- PECO changed our status to tax exempt. We will wait for next month's bill to file for a refund from the PA Bureau of Tax Revenue for over \$600.00
- Called Jim Stritch, the A/C repair person. Waiting for a return call.
- Meeting Monday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am with an inspector representing our new insurance carrier, Erie, to have a look around the building.
- There is an Archdiocesan Council meeting this Thursday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm via Zoom. The link and agenda were emailed.
- Received a suggestion from a parishioner to offer the Holy Cross that is auctioned each year to all parishioners for one week and pass it around the parish. Each family would offer a donation to keep the cross in their home for the week.
  - Nilda and Fr. Kai shared that the tradition is typically that *one* cross from the church moves through many homes through the year and Fr. Kai offered the purpose of this tradition. Council discussed pros and cons of moving to this tradition rather than auctioning the Holy Cross for one year. Council will consider options and discuss with parishioners to gauge interest.

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

- Website: some changes and updates made
- Still need volunteers to maintain website (modify, add new events)
- New email and forwarding seems to be working well
- Livestreaming going well; 140 subscribers now
- Fr. Kai and Sergio discussed plan for livestreaming presanctified liturgies
- Facebook update: able to open ticket with Facebook to try to transfer ownership of the "orphan" page; church cannot take ownership with new email so plan is to transfer to Eduard Papa (who works for FB) and then he will delegate authority
- Nilda asked Sergio to add Fr. Kai's name to website under "administration;" Fr. Kai agreed to have his picture on the website
- Sergio will work with Fr. Kai to get him door access through phone

#### **Old Business**

- Icon auction – went well; Zack summarized bids and payments in treasurer report
- Women's Day Dance details shared by Nilda
  - March 4, 6-11pm
  - Tickets \$80, \$40 for children >12; payments will be collected via Square through link and church will absorb fees
  - BYOB; other beverages included
  - Predicting 80-120 people
  - Given cost of catering, Donna will prepare food and be reimbursed
  - Discussed options for music (DJ vs. singer/musician)
  - Sergio will post flyer

- Background checks update:
  - Christine will send email to Deacon Spyridon with list of names of people needing checks and he will be running the background checks on our behalf
  - Zack mentioned we should have applications on file for Sunday School teachers

### **New Business**

- Zack sent contribution statements for 2022 to all parishioners
- A generous parishioner volunteered to pay church telephone and internet bill for the year 2023 in addition to pledge. Thank you!
- This Sunday is Soup-er bowl Sunday so please bring soup already warmed to church! Linda C. suggested donation go to Broad Street Ministry.

**Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, March 6 at 7:30pm.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm with a closing prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Reem Tarazi