

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

Roll Call

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

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Choir: Vladimir Melnik

Auxiliary Members Present: , Steve Coraluzzi (joined at 8:18), Linda Croke, Linda Notskas

Meeting opened at 7:39pm Opening prayer by Fr. Kai

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem was absent from the meeting, but submitted her report by email prior to the meeting.

It was noted that Comcast's corporate contribution was not connected with any specific parishioner and the wording has been corrected.

Zach moved to accept the February, 2023 minutes, seconded by Sergio. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end February 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$58,500
- Market investment account down to ~\$249,530
- 35 pledges received so far for 2023 for about \$28,929; this is mostly those who continue monthly pledging; \$12,025 received thus far for **2023** pledges
- Icon auction pledges total about ~\$15,000; received ~\$10,000 so far
- Check register - some discrepancies not able to be explained, but they balance to a discrepancy in the other direction from December 2022
- Gas bill is extremely high - Zach will look into shopping for gas and electric supply to reduce rates and to lock in fixed rates
- AOAA fair share contributions have begun being made, \$9,710 in total through 2023.

We approved Father Kai's housing allowance at \$32,000 for 2023, based on his current rent-free housing and his estimates for future housing costs after he leaves the previous parish's house. The housing allowance form is being circulated separately.

Sergio moved to accept Treasurer's report. Seconded by Christine. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Also discussed: the last Amazon Smile donation has been received; there was no credit card bill this month; Souper Bowl \$301 donation received.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Fr. Kai was grateful for how well the Women's Day dance went and to all who contributed.
- Continuing with house blessings, will mention at church announcements.
- The Orthodox Brotherhood event on Sunday, March 5th went very well. Those in attendance gave positive feedback. The choir, vesper service and reception were impressive. He will circulate the schedule for information on the next event.
- Would like to have a schedule for altar servers for some consistency. He teaches the servers while behind the altar and it is a more interactive experience them.
- He has been receiving odd emails from the church website which he will discuss more with Sergio.
- Fr. Kai would like to involve children more in the service and will reach out to Fiori.
- Fr. Kai said he is available for whatever the church needs and is willing to take whatever advice we have for him on anything at all.
- There was one baptism last week and there will be another baptism during Pascha.
- He has taken communion to some home bound parishioners.

Sunday School Report (reported by Donna Dimitri, Fiori Papa not in attendance)

- Attendance at Sunday School has not been consistent and there haven't been many kids. The newest teachers will be putting in for the background checks.

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 signoff sheet was forwarded to the Archdiocese along with our annual compliance report.
- PECO changed our status to tax exempt. In the process of filing for a refund from the PA Bureau of Tax Revenue. Have to scan in all of the bills on which we were charged tax. Over \$600.00 should be refunded
- Called Jim Stritch, the A/C repair person. Hopefully the equipment will come in and he will install the 2d week in April.
- Met Monday, Feb 13th @ 11:00 am with Larry the inspector representing our new insurance carrier, Erie. He did not note any issues with the building.
- 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.
- All of the fire extinguishers have been taken from the church to be certified.
- Archbishop Mark sent a save the date for the consecration of the Bishop of the Albanian Archdiocese – Sept 15 & 16, 2023 at St. George Cathedral Boston.
- Pascha stationary ordered.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- There are 143 subscribers to livestreaming with a small increase to the number of viewers.
- A ticket has been opened with Verizon re: speeds we are paying for vs. what is being provided resulting in decreased quality
- Website: updates have been made.
- Still need volunteers to maintain and update website about once a week.
- Working with a parishioner on window repair work in the church hall and church. Will start repairs within the next two weeks. Supplies will be purchased. Sergio is taking time off of work to assist with preparations for the work to start and to help the parishioner with the work. It is possible there will not be a charge for this repairwork. Previous estimates were as high as \$10,000 for just the church hall window repair.
 - Donna mentioned that once the windows are repaired, will start promoting the church hall rental more.
 - Zach will be checking into insurance requirements for rental of church hall.

Choir Report – Vlad didn't have anything to report.

Old Business

- It was mentioned that after the Sunday Orthodox Brotherhood Vesper service that there was also help from Linda C., Linda N., Michelle, Colleen and Priftereshia with the food.
- Women's Day Dance details shared by Nilda
 - 65 adults and 1 child in attendance. 15 people canceled. Positive feedback and requests for another event by people in attendance. Dancing the whole time.
 - \$5,240 brought in; \$1100 for food; \$800 for entertainment; \$140 for decorations and flowers = \$3,200 to the church.
 - Fr. Kai gave a powerful speech.
 - Donna and her family went above and beyond with the food which was very impressive and also saved a lot of money on costs.
 - Nilda took pictures of all in attendance and will upload the pictures.
 - Linda C. And Colleen helped a lot with the set-up.
 - Sergio mopped the floor between events.
 - Sergio mentioned how much a family he brought from work enjoyed the dance and that they fell in love with Albania even purchasing some of our merchandise. Linda C. Gave kudos to Nilda for a great time. Zach congratulated Nilda on the dance. Donna said it was a good team helping out.
- Fr. Kai suggested to try to do events for teens in the future. Donna said counsel will support.

New Business

- Semi-annual Parish Meeting will be 4/23/23 during coffee hour. Zach will present virtually.
- Andonetta Theokary sent an email suggesting getting our church listed in the Philadelphia Historical Registry. Discussion as to how this was applied for approximately 25 years ago and it was not approved due to the amount of modifications done to the building. Additionally, could it affect contractors doing work on the building? If anyone is interested in researching this, things may have changed since the last time it was attempted.

- Pascha 4/16/23 – Steve ordering Palms and candles; have enough cups and red dye.
 - need to figure out flowers
 - Donna is reaching out about using the Cathedral parking lot for services.
- Holy Week – Tues 7 pm Bridegroom service; Wed 7 pm Holy Unction; Thurs 7 pm 12 Gospels; Friday 10 am decorate Epitaphios, 5 pm – Jesus from the Cross, 7 pm Lamentations; Sat 11 am Great Saturday Liturgy, 11:30 Nocturns, midnight Pascha, Sun 1 pm Agape Service.
- Lazarus Saturday children’s Service at 10 am – Steve C. And Donna explained how we usually handle with Service, followed by a retreat with crafts, lunch, mesh making. Fr. Will do a lesson.
- Palm Sunday – pancake breakfast
- Fr. Kai will write a Pascha letter.
- Linda C. Will check into the room available in her apartment building so Fr Kai can stay local if he chooses to during April 14 & 15th.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, April 10 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 9:30 pm with a closing prayer by Fr. Kai.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Dardaris, in the absence of Reem Tarazi