

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

**Roll Call**

**Parish Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith,

**Parish Council Members Absent:** Christine Dardaris, Davit Jishkariani Reem Tarazi

**Clergy:** Fr. Kai

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Croke, Linda Notskas, Elvira Gusho, Grigor Lakuriqi

**Meeting opened at 7:35 pm with prayer.**

**Secretary's Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)**

Donna presented the minutes from the October 2023 meeting.

Sergio moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Nilda Motion passed.

Donna thanked Reem for continuing to send thank you notes.

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

At end September 2023:

- Checking account ~\$36,121
- Market investment down to ~\$238,045, reflecting market
- Up to 62 pledges
  - ~\$43,695 pledged, ~39,217 received
- Few new icon payments
- Investment account and check register presented for review
- Notable Income
  - \$3353 from pledges
  - Candles and collections have exceeded budgeted amount
  - \$1620 from memorials
- Notable Expenses
  - Nothing unusual
  - Substitute priest fee week of assembly was reimbursed by archdiocese
- Still in red for year ~\$6000
- Bank and CC statement available for review

Sergio moved to accept the report, seconded by Nilda. No discussion. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

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

- Willing to meet with college students. Nilda will provide and introduction to U of Penn.

- Vespers going ok. Will continue to pray for all. Attendance is up and down. Father Kai understands difficulty of parishioners and conflicts in their schedules. Church is a house of prayer and he will continue to pray for all.
- 2 funerals at the church and another at a funeral home. Baptism of Davit and Mirna's daughter, Sophia. This Saturday Wedding Cindy and Edvin. – much to celebrate!

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

1. Windows in main church: Waiting for the contractor to come to the church to provide an estimate for the window installation. A sample of the stained-glass film was passed around at coffee hour. All who saw it were impressed.
2. Acer Associates, LLC, will be at the church on November 27, 2023 to perform the asbestos inspection. The cost for the inspection is \$1750.00. Samples will be taken from various areas of the church and report will be provided and forwarded to Erie Insurance Company.
3. The church sign which was vandalized, last month was repaired by Tom Moore. Tom also fixed the upper chairlift last week.
4. Sunday school is still struggling with attendance. Paula Bendo, Ilirjan & Fiori Papa and Entela Ndrecka have been meeting with the kids on Sundays.

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

- Upstairs window repair: ongoing, but delayed; as the person who was doing the repairs is unable to continue. Sergio will complete the repairs
- Livestream: 190 subscribers at present
- Always seeking help with livestreaming; let Sergio know if interested
- Zoom Meeting with Eda Petuqi on Wednesday. Eda has offered to help with the website

### **Old Business**

1. Nameday celebration and Bishop visit set. Linda Croke made arrangements to use one of the suites at her building, Penn Charter House. The bishop will stay there Friday and Saturday nights. We have reserved a room at the Airport Marriott for Sunday night. The bishop has an early morning flight and it is easier to be at the airport. Father Kai will pick him up from the airport on Friday. Suggestions to take the bishop to dinner Friday night. Will make arrangements to go to Osteria Ama at 19<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut.
2. There will be a 40-day memorial for Father Arthur following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **New business**

- 1) The 2024 Parish Council will be sworn in Sunday November 12, when the bishop is here.
- 2) December 3<sup>rd</sup> Albanian Thanksgiving and Flag Day Celebration
- 3) Nativity preparations - We will decorate the church Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.
- 4) Father Kai will prepare the Christmas Letter which will be mailed at the end of November
- 5) Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday, December 24, 2023. Father Kai will have additional prayers at the end of the Liturgy.
- 6) Father Kai has spoken with Vlad and there will be a Christmas Liturgy on Monday, December 25, 2023 @ 10:00 am.
- 7) Flag Day is November 28<sup>th</sup>. Nilda mentioned there is a celebration at City Hall on that date. She will forward the information for distribution via the messenger and email.
- 8) Epiphany/Theophany will be celebrated with a Liturgy on Saturday January 6, 2024 at 10:00 am. Father Kai will also bless the water on Sunday January 7, 2024 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
- 9) The dates for the 2024 Icon Auction are January 7 and January 14<sup>th</sup>. At the end of November, we will remind our parishioners to return the Icons from 2023.
- 10) Linda Croke will coordinate a sock and under ware drive for the homeless. Linda Notskas volunteered to assist. A collection box will be put near the candle stand.
- 11) Elvira suggested we explore the possibility of providing (selling) ethnic food as a fundraiser for the church. She said this could be done via social media/Facebook/Instagram etc. An announcement will be made in church to gauge the interest.
- 12) Zach asked Father Kai to prepare his 2024 Housing allowance for review at the December meeting.

**Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, December 4th, at 7:30pm.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm with a closing prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Dimitri