

**Parish Council Meeting
November 11, 2024
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani, Reem Tarazi, Anila Vero

Parish Council Members Absent: Zachary Smith

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Steve Coraluzzi, Linda Notskas,

Meeting opened at 7:35 pm with prayer.

Several council members attended church on 11/10/24 and were sworn in.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented revised minutes from the October 2024 meeting.

Davit moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Christine. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Zachary Smith, presented by Donna Dimitri)

At end October 2024:

- Checking account down to ~\$11,600
- Investment account down to ~\$264,500 because withdrew \$10,000 for insurance premium
- 1 additional pledge received, still behind ~\$22000 on pledge goals, but pledge payment better than same time last year. We need more pledges to meet budget.
- Icon payments still coming in
- Notable Income
 - Candles and collection exceeded budgeted income for the year
- Notable Expenses
 - Annual insurance premium
 - Completion of church window project payments
 - Donations to OCMC missionaries
- Donna has insurance policy if anyone wants to see it
- Bank and CC statements available for review

Donna informed council that we finally received an \$1800 outstanding donation for church rental some time ago.

Anila asked if we have/use credit card for benefits. Donna confirmed we have and use a credit card with a 1% return.

Reem moved to accept the October report, seconded by Anila. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

1. Albanian flag day will be celebrated on November 24. We need lots of participation to make this a special event. Donna suggested Fr. Kai speak to Ilirjan to coordinate participation of our youth.
2. Shared about experience at seminar/workshop in Chicago that recently attended.
3. Fr. suggested a digital sign outside of the church to post all services as a way to attract attention to our church. Donna will research cost. Council members offered feedback and suggestions. Will continue discussion in future meetings.
4. Performed baptism yesterday.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

The window project has been completed. The Icon film was installed this past Thursday and Friday. We are very happy with how everything turned out. To date we have received three donations, \$6000.00 each which will sponsor three windows. Two other donations totaling \$3000.00. have been received. We will send information requesting additional donations in the very near future.

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Giorgi)

1. This past Sunday was a beautiful Name Day celebration!
2. Livestream going well; 253 subscribers; new camera at church needs to be set-up (will have 2 pan, tilt, and zoom cameras!)
3. Some people are not receiving Weekly Messenger via email. Reports show all delivered and no bounces so system doing its job. Sergio will investigate those that we know are not receiving.

Sunday school update (reported by Donna Dimitri)

Sunday school is moving forward successfully and Ilirjan has been in church every Sunday working with the children who are there.

Old Business

1. Name day celebration – Donna asked for feedback from those in attendance
2. New parish directory – Donna asked for volunteer(s) and no one has come forward. Power Church program can create directory but information needs to be confirmed.
 - a. Reem suggested sending out a draft directory using Power Church and asking people to confirm/correct information
 - b. There is link already set up for people to upload new pictures for directory, and that will be sent out
3. Sunday school pageant scheduled for 12/22

New Business

1. Anila suggested we ask families to provide a picture for memorial services. Council agreed with this suggestion.
2. Nativity preparations
 - a. Fr. Kai will write the letter that will be sent to parishioners
 - b. Decorate church on 12/7/24 at 3:00pm, followed by Vespers
 - c. 12/24 Vespers service at 4:00pm

- d. 12/25 Matins and Liturgy at 10:00am
 - e. Linda N. suggested we do a charity drive
 - f. Will get out list of infirm individuals so people can send cards
3. Fr. Kai will be away 12/26/24-1/23/25
 4. Epiphany/Theophany – will confirm 1/5/25 with Fr. Dennis, who will be covering for Fr. Kai.
 5. Icon auction scheduled for 1/5/24 and 1/12/24

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi