

Parish Council Meeting
April 8, 2025
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)

Roll Call

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

Parish Council Members Absent: Davit Jishkariani

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Steve Coraluzzi, Linda Croke, Peter Ghicondey, Nilda Salvachi, Tatiana Greendlinger

Meeting opened meeting with a prayer at 7:35pm.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented minutes from the March 2025 meeting. No discussion. Sergio moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Christine. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zachary Smith)

At end March 2025:

- Checking account down to ~\$40,700 following \$30,000 transfer to investment account
- Investment account at ~\$291,000; accounts for transfer plus loss because of market
- Up to 75 pledges (1 new pledge; accounts for maintenance of pledges from last year) for \$57,791 pledged, received ~\$14,400 thus far
- Icon Auction: within \$3000 of fulfilling all bids; one new bid made
- Notable Income
 - Candles and collections slightly behind last year
 - Corporate donation match
 - Some icon payments received
 - Some additional window project donations for a sponsorship
 - Women's Day Dance income of ~\$8270 total (compare to \$7700 last year)
- Notable Expenses
 - Priest Salary
 - Candle invoice
 - Large gas bill
 - Bishop expenses (honorarium check cashed)
 - Women's day dance expense for food
- Solidly in black YTD
- Bank and CC statements available for review

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

Clergy report (presented by Fr. Kai)

1. Shared plan and reasoning for new booklets for Holy Week services with updated/modified content (which will result in longer Pascha service); needs collaboration for this process; will make additional changes before next year. Donna assured Fr. Kai that we could print books for this year even if there are changes for next year.
2. Shared concern re: financial welfare of church and parishioners given current political climate and uncertainty
3. Discussed bishop's goals for more connectivity among Archdiocese parishes here in US and those in Albania. The hope is to be able to effectively represent our interests and priorities within the OCA.
4. Pointed out barriers to achieving some of his vision, goals, and priorities for the parish.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. The semi-annual on March 2, 2025 went well, everyone present was respectful and there was minimal talking during the meeting. Reports were made available prior to the meeting and after the meeting the reports were left on the table in the vestibule.
2. Palms for Palm Sunday have been received. Pascha letters were sent to parishioners and friends of St. Johns.
3. We are set for decorating the Epitaphion on Holy Friday at 10:00 am.
4. The ad for St. George Trumbull celebrating their 100th anniversary this year was sent.
5. Joe Ritchie, contractor came out to inspect the leaks on the northern roof. He quoted \$1800,00 to seal the copper with a primer base material, then cement all along the metal strip up top and silicone the bottom of the flashing on the roof. He will put us on the schedule.
6. A blurb was put with the Weekly Messenger asking if anyone knows a window cleaner we may use to clean the second floor/church hall windows. Contacted Brideside Cleaning and they will provide a quote.

Sunday School Report (prepared by Ilirjan Papa, presented by Donna Dimitri)

1. Attendance from kids has been low. We have had Sundays where we did not have any kids attend Sunday school. Mita Thodhori has been covering for me when I am not able to come on Sunday and there are other volunteers also.
2. Hopefully we will have a big turnout of kids for Lazarus Saturday. Fiori and Elisabeth will help with arts and crafts activities for the kids. I will reach out to remind parents during the week to bring their kids on Saturday.

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Giorgi)

1. Livestream continues to do well
2. Sergio confirmed that Fr. Kai able to access church using his phone; Donna reminded him to always lock door once inside.

Old Business

1. Icon Project update provided by Ilirjan Papa: Qirjako Kosova has completed his projects in Florida and is back to Philadelphia. He has rented a studio and is eager to work with us to get the project started. He might stop by the church this week to take detailed measurements of the church. Ilirjan has asked him to put a presentation together so we can share it with the board. Ilirjan is willing to help with fundraising on this project.

2. Everything set for Lazarus Saturday, Holy Week, and Pascha
 - a. Donna will get new service booklets printed
 - b. Information in Weekly Messenger and website
 - c. Pascha April 20; there will be Agape service
 - d. Fr. Kai working with Ilirjan who will assist with Lazarus Saturday service

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, May 5 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi