

Parish Council Meeting
August 6, 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 and Diane Coraluzzi, Linda Croke

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

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

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

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zachary Smith)

At end June 2025:

- Checking account at ~\$48,460
- Investment account up to ~\$310,000
- Pledges: Still at 76 pledges for \$57,911 pledged (received ~\$25,400 YTD)
- Icon Auction: Received ~\$16,800 of \$18,765 pledged
- Notable Income
 - Candles and collections on track
 - Pledges (because of carryover) on track for annual budget, but slightly behind on monies received thus far in 2025
 - Extra parishioner donation
 - One more window donation
- Notable expenses
 - Nothing unusual
- In red this month; in black YTD
- Bank and CC statements available for review

Zach will send July budget for review in near future and present at September meeting.

Donna asked if we should consider moving money out of checking into investment. Zach suggested moving \$20,000. Following discussion about upcoming costs, council agreed to transfer \$20,000 into investment account.

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

Clergy report (presented by Fr. Kai)

1. This Fall will start monthly kids' sermon – 1st Sunday for younger kids, 3rd Sunday for older kids
2. Conference in Phoenix was a good experience; was openness for conversations and discussions
3. Given the benefits, thinking to propose at Archdiocese Meeting next month a yearly All-American Council to form connections across parishes and globally; will consider and seek feedback
4. Still working on adding services and hopes to have more participation; still a challenge to find people willing to chant for additional services to ensure these can be a success.

5. Vespers will start again in September
6. Discussed whether we might offer to host Archdiocese Assembly in 2026 (or 2027). Donna feels this is feasible.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. Joe Ritchie the contractor who repaired our lower roof near the church hall came to the church on July 29th to check the leak above the Bishop's chair on the Solea. He thinks it is coming from the main roof. He will contact Big Joe the roofer and they will check it out.
2. Gentian Marku a painter referred by Ilir Gremi came to the church to give an estimate to paint the inside of the church. He sent me a text indicating it would be \$3000.00.
 - a. Council discussed and agreed to the work at this price; will try to arrange leak repair first if possible
3. The front doors and side vestibule door have been painted. They are the same color as the sign.
4. Father Kai, Nik Kurtanidze and I attended the OCA All American Council in Phoenix, July 14-18, 2025. Two amendments to the constitution concerning the election of members for the Pension Board were defeated. Others from the Albanian Archdiocese who attended the AAC were: Bishop Nikodhim, Chancellor Fr. Mark Doku, Fr. Nick (Ss P&P), Fr. Gregory Harrigle (Natick), Fr. Nick (Jamaica Estates, NY), It was an opportunity to see the business of the OCA conducted on the National Level, to meet people from other Orthodox Churches across America, Canada and Mexico. The minutes, videos and other information from the AAC are available on the OCA website.

<https://www.oca.org/history-archives/aacs/the-21st-all-american-council>

5. Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly Sept 26-27, 2025 at St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, MI. Father Kai, Sergio Georgi, Colleen Georgi, Linda Croke, Marion Merkle, Paula Bendo, Linda Notskas, Kevin Begaj and I will attend representing our parish.

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

After last meeting, generated form for parish directory and sent for testing. Seems to be working. Donna included in messenger, but direct email will be sent with link next month

Zach mentioned when he sent out contribution statements, Hostinger said sent too many emails from account and could not continue to send. Sergio suggests using Mailchimp for these purposes, as we do for messenger.

Old Business

1. Church cleanup scheduled for October 11. Will do 2-5pm and encourage people to stay for Vespers.
2. Anila suggests putting icons on the walls once painting is complete. Fr. Kai stressed icon should have quality (material, painting, meaning, theological order) so this should be a thoughtful and deliberate process. Suggestions discussed.

New Business

1. Semi-annual parish meeting scheduled for 10/19/25
2. Serving on parish council
 - a. Donna will continue to serve as Chair
 - b. Davit is no longer able to serve
 - c. Zach is stepping down and Anila has agreed to serve as Treasurer
 - d. Nilda is interested in coming back to council
 - e. Christine and Sergio will continue to serve
 - f. Reem will continue to serve if needed but happy to step down if others are interested in serving
 - g. Council members suggested Vasil, Ilirjan, Kevin, David, and Gregory; important to involve young parishioners

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, September 8 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi