

Parish Council Meeting
June 9, 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, Linda Notskas

Guest: Peter Steffa

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

Secretary's Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

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

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zachary Smith)

At end May 2025:

- Checking account at ~\$49,450
- Investment account up to ~\$300,000! (highest ever despite expenses)
- Pledges: Still at 76 pledges for \$57,911 pledged (received ~\$21,700 YTD)
- Icon Auction: Received ~\$16,200 of \$18,765 pledged
- Notable Income
 - Candles and collections continue to do quite well
 - Pledging (because of carryover) on track for annual budget, but slightly behind on monies received thus far in 2025
 - Pascha donations at \$6600 - close to budgeted amount
 - One more window donation
- Notable expenses
 - Nothing unusual
- In red this month; in black YTD
- Bank and CC statements available for review
 - Zach questioned Donna re: a small unknown charge (\$12 from Etsy)

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

Zach left meeting at 7:45pm

Clergy report (presented by Fr. Kai)

1. Discussed visit from President of Albania and its significance
2. Baptism yesterday and identified potential parishioners; would be nice to have chanter during these services to improve quality of service
3. All-American Council in Phoenix in July. Fr. Kai, his son, and Donna will be attending. It's important to have as many parishioners as possible present.
4. No vespers on Saturdays in summer, but planning to start Matins each Sunday 9-10am with help of Reader David

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 April 10, 2025 and sealed copper flashing with primer and cement silicon bottom of flashing will be out (hopefully this week) to check the new leak above the Bishop's chair on the Solea.
2. Big Joe roofer will be out later this summer to inspect the upper roof which was installed in August 2022. Possible leak in the church hall, second window on the south side.
3. The front doors and side vestibule door are in the process of being painted. We are soliciting estimates to paint the inside of the church if anyone knows any painters, please let me know.
4. OCA All American Council in Phoenix, July 14-18, 2025. All welcome to attend.
5. Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly Sept 26-27, 2025 at St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, MI. We have elected delegates but anyone is welcome Fr. Juxhin celebrated his first liturgy at St. Thomas yesterday, June 8, 2025. Father Juxhin came from Albania to attend Seminary at St. Vlad's in NY. He was sponsored by the Albanian Archdiocese Student Fund.
6. The Nick Naum Scholarship Committee is about to begin reviewing the scholarship applications.
7. Electing new parish council in October; consider if interested in still serving and identify others who may be interested
 - a. Davit will step down; Anila willing to step into role as Treasurer (thank you, Anila!) and will meet with Zach; Zach will no longer serve; Nilda Salavachi expressed interest in returning to council
8. Mini-split installed in altar by Ilir Gremi, so altar temperature can be controlled separately by Fr. Kai. Cost of parts was \$5500; Donna asked Zach to reimburse Ilir.

Sunday School Report: no report

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

1. Reviewed posted videos and some dates are incorrect for re-used streams; working on renaming descriptions
2. Trying to speak to Kevin Begaj re: helping with website but has not been able to connect yet

Old Business

1. Summer church cleanup: Donna suggests perhaps waiting until Fall. Will plan for October 11.

New Business

1. Fr. Dennis from Sts. Peter and Paul reached out re: Keys and Sword event. We have donated \$500-1000 in past. Reem made a motion to donate \$1000. Council agreed. Donna will ask Zach to make donation.
2. Donna asked about status of background checks but no one has received anything recently from archdiocese.
3. Archdiocese setting up new phone system and Sergio will be recording message in Albanian.
4. Reem asked about status of updated parish directory. Sergio will generate a form and Donna will send link with Messenger to request updated family name/contact information from all parishioners.
5. Linda N. recognized Dave Brooks and his contributions to our parish.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi