

Parish Council Meeting
November 3, 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, Nilda Salvachi, Peter Steffa

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:50pm.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

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

October 2025 parish council meeting canceled.

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zachary Smith)

Insurance premium paid. No further updates or report to share at this time.

Zach will plan to meet with Anila before next meeting to share information and procedures related to role as Treasurer.

Council will present proposed budget for 2026 in a future coffee hour. Council will discuss whether to keep pledge target at \$63,000 for 2026. Donna suggested sending out contribution statements again.

Clergy report (presented by Fr. Kai)

1. Bishop visit in 2 weeks – will invite local priests
2. Shared ideas about plan for painting/beautification of church, including placement of icons and altar table and asked for feedback. Painted fabric icon for altar table would cost \$800. Donna suggested further discussion after church on Sunday.
3. Christmas letter completed.
4. Continuing efforts with group of Temple students

Sunday School report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

Ilirjan has couple of teachers helping with Sunday School. There was good turnout last Sunday. Children are enthusiastic and the hope is that parents bring children more regularly.

Please share any ideas with Ilirjan and help with Sunday School always welcome.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

1. Met with a representative from the water bureau today to finalize our application for a charity discount. The water bureau discount is around \$30.00 each month. Actually, water is not expensive, it is the fee for the "Stormwater Charge" that is a fixed rate of \$127.34 per month.
2. Painting has been completed in the church. Gentian Marku is the painter. Anila and Sergio worked with Gentian to choose the colors. The Church looks beautiful!
3. Father Kai, Sergio Georgi, Kevin Begaj, Marion Merkle, Paula Bendo, Linda Croke, Linda Notskas, Colleen Xhoxhi and I traveled to Farmington Hills MI to attend the Archdiocesan Assembly Sept 25-27 2025. The parishioners at St. Thomas put on a wonderful assembly. Everything was perfect. Business was conducted and new friends were made. Our parish offered to host the assembly in 2027.

4. Father Dennis and I will no longer represent the Albanian Archdiocese on the OCA Metropolitan Council. New representatives for the Archdiocese are Lisa Sotir and Father Nicholas Dellermann (Ss. Peter & Paul). Father Dennis and attended our last Metropolitan Council meeting on October 8 & 9, 2025. At the Assembly I was elected as the treasurer for the Albanian Archdiocese for 2026.
5. We had busy month of October. The church cleanup was Saturday, October 11, the Semi-Annual meeting was on Sunday, October 19 and the Fall Costume Party (Halloween) was on October 26. Paula Bendo once again took the lead for the party.
6. New council members will be sworn in next Sunday, 11/9 and council officers will be elected during December meeting

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

1. Removed speakers in church because of painting work
 - a. Reviewed quote from Sweetwater for equipment to replace old speakers/system. Propose 2 speakers in front of church with amplifier. Wireless microphones have been unreliable so suggest placing wired microphones instead. Cable/adaptor to control room. Device to eliminate dead spots and sound loops. \$5,600 for everything.
 - b. Council discussed benefits, concerns.
 - c. Anila made motion to start with purchase of 2 speakers, amplifier, one microphone, and necessary cables. Seconded by Christine. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Bishop visit November 14-16
 - a. Schedule discussed
 - b. Vespers 5:00pm Saturday followed by Lenten meal. Donna and Sergio will take care of food.
 - c. Parish Name Day celebration on Sunday, November 16

New Business

1. Nativity plan
 - a. Letter completed
 - b. Sunday school pageant Dec 21; Donna will speak to Ilirjan
 - c. Christmas Eve liturgy at 4:00pm
 - d. Christmas morning liturgy with Vladimir at 10:00am
2. Epiphany/Theophany will be celebrated on January 5 (5:00 liturgy, 6:00 blessing of water) and lesser blessing on Sunday, January 11
3. Icon Auction on January 11 and January 18

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 10 at 7:30pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi