

Parish Council Meeting

May 4, 2025

Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Zachary Smith, Anila Vero

Parish Council Members Absent: Davit Jishkariani, Christine Dardaris, Reem Tarazi

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 Reem Tarazi)

Donna presented minutes from the April 2025 meeting. No discussion. Sergio moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Zach. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zachary Smith)

At end April 2025:

- Checking account ~\$53,983 due to Pascha and Memorial donations
- Investment account at ~\$291,000; accounts for transfer plus loss because of market
- 76 pledges (1 new pledge; accounts for maintenance of pledges from last year) for \$57,911 pledged, received ~\$19,023 thus far
- Icon Auction: within \$3000 of fulfilling all bids; one new bid made
- Notable Income
 - Candles and collections increase due to Pascha
 - Pascha donations to date \$5172 - \$7,000 budgeted
 - Some icon payments received
- Solidly in black YTD
- Bank and CC statements available for review

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

Clergy report (presented by Fr. Kai)

States Pascha celebrations went well, including Lazarus Saturday. Father discusses the success of teaching liturgy to children, noting their attentiveness and the improvement in the worship service compared to previous years. He mentions the need to establish their own tradition, which will continue to evolve and improve over time. Father also reports on a meeting with the Bishop, who emphasized the importance of focusing on spiritual matters rather than just finances. The Bishop highlighted the Albanian Church's deep historical roots in Christianity and the importance of maintaining connections with Albania while also being part of the American

Church. Father concludes by praising the progress of the archdiocese and emphasizing the importance of working together as a community, despite occasional misunderstandings.

Father discussed recent developments in the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America, including a trip to Albania for the enthronement of Archbishop Joan. Bishop Nikodhim, Chancellor Mark Doku, and Father Nicholas Dellerman attended the enthronement. Also mentioned the appointment of new Georgian priest, a soon to be graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary to St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Jamaica Estates NY and Father Juxhin to Detroit. The conversation briefly touches on the possibility of a pilgrimage to Albania in 2026.

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 at a cost of \$1800.00.
2. Waiting for a couple of quotes from window cleaners we may use to clean the second floor/church hall windows.
3. Mentions that the doors require significant preparation before painting, and we will contact a painter.

Sunday School Report no report

Vice-Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

1. Livestream continues to do well hope to have 300 subscribers by the end of the year
2. the current Internet and phone service. Sergio reports on the church's live stream and website. The Internet and phone bill has increased to about \$100 per month, up from \$80, but Zachary notes that it's still reasonable. The group considers alternative providers like Comcast, but concludes that their current Verizon service is adequate, despite the price increase over the past four years.

Old Business

The parish council reviewed the Holy Week and Pascha services, noting high attendance and smooth execution. Father Kai created new booklets for some services. The Epitaphion decoration was particularly beautiful this year. The flowers were donated by Margarita Sevio and Alfred Coni. The Pascha service had over 100 attendees, and the Agape Vespers saw about 18-20 people. The council appreciates Father Kai's efforts and the new Albanian participants. Linda mentions the improved egg-dyeing process, with others confirming that using brown eggs is the key to achieving a deep red color without staining.

New Business

1. The discussion focuses on potential new Georgian priests joining the archdiocese. Father mentions that an educated Georgian priest from London, who speaks multiple languages and has a PhD in Canon law, is planning to come to America. This priest will be helping the Bishop in Boston for one or two years. Additionally, Father Nicholas is graduating from St. Vlad's Seminary and has been assigned to St. Nicholas, Jamaica Estates NY. Both priests are described as good personalities who love the Church and orthodoxy. Overall, the archdiocese is making progress in filling pastoral vacancies, with only 3 or 4 churches expected to remain without full-time pastors.
2. The council discusses plans for blessing graves on Memorial Day at Fernwood and Lawnview cemeteries. Father and Father Nick will conduct the blessings at Fernwood at 10 AM, followed by Lawnview if there is interest.
3. The group discusses recent church maintenance and improvements. Anila and her family removed the stone wall that formerly held the sign. The wall was damaged when it was struck by a vehicle – the vehicle had been stolen and the driver was not apprehended.
4. Tom Moore fixed the wall in the altar where the vestments are hung. The wall had pulled away from the stone wall. Tome secured it with large lag bolts. Tom also fixed the track that hold the Holy Doors in the altar.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday , June 9, 2025 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Dimitri