



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes April 23, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

Members present: Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis, Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

Members absent: Gus Koutsogiannis,

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom to comply with stay-at-home orders.

Call to order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the Resurrection Hymn.

President's remarks:

- Fr. Mark, Dn. Nick, Eugene, and Craig did an excellent job during the Holy Week services.
- Thanks to Eugene for securing the Payroll Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration.
- Hopefully we can encourage people to continue to keep contributing.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the March minutes as distributed online, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - Thank you to the entire Parish Council for your continued support during these difficult times. If you feel that we need to be meeting more let Fr. Mark know.
 - Father has not seen nor heard of any extraordinary circumstances involving parishioners, aside from one who was diagnosed and is recovering from COVID 19.

- It was a joy to celebrate Holy Week. Services went well and we will be continuing to have more services even though Lent and Holy Week are over, including Paraclesis services and the Saturday Vespers as we can.
- We will see what the lifting of some restrictions may allow as the governor of Ohio acts. One thing that we are looking at is a way to reactivate our Good Shepherd Food Pantry. Our plan currently is to pre-bag food and to have two volunteers, one to guide traffic and the other to place a bag of food into the trunk of the vehicle, which should allow those we serve to stay in their vehicles and avoid coming into the church, with the volunteers wearing masks and gloves. This will begin around May 1 depending on the governor's instructions.
- Deacon Nick
 - Christos Anesti!
 - Thank you to Fr. Mark for leading us through all of this and especially through Holy Week's different rhythm, which despite its beauty was missing everyone's physical presence. I appreciate all of your love and support and thank you to everyone who has reached out.
 - We have now a handful of reading groups up and going. GOYA is doing *Icon*, a dystopian novel. The Parish and OCF will resume *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives* and should finish it in a few weeks. The college group will begin the same book soon.
 - Zoom coffee hour had about a dozen people show up. We're looking to continue that.
 - We are testing a discord server, an app that began for gamers that mixes voice and text. It should be possible to make it relatively safe by restricting posting to a single introduction until a user is vetted, and with heavy moderation, and it can be used for all kinds of social discussions and interactions.
 - Live streams through Facebook and YouTube cost us \$15 per month instead of the thousands that our previous streaming service would have incurred.

Treasurer's report:

- Peggy
 - Northside Checking is at \$170,625 vs. \$114,464 in 2019.
 - The Capital Improvement Fund has \$68,490 vs. \$13,800 in 2019.
 - Our Endowment Fund has a balance of \$1,271,465 vs. \$1,252,230 in 2019
 - The Iconography Fund stands at \$2,064,287 vs 0 in 2019.
 - Our stewardship is up this year so far, so though we are operating at a loss we are doing better than we were at this time last year.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Lew Parsenios
 - He is an honorary Parish Council member. He has relocated to Maine, so if anyone needs to contact him, email Eugene for information.
 - Streaming Statistics
 - At our peak on Good Friday, we had 446 viewers, and Saturday night we peaked at 525. Each viewer could be anything from an individual to an entire family.

- Holy Week Donations
 - We received about \$20,000, which is pretty impressive considering the limited candles, lack of trays, and no physical attendance. We had 104 candles for Saturday night.
 - Easter donations are higher than normal at \$11,500, and are likely to continue going up into May. Comparatively it is much higher than last year.

Unfinished Business:

- Camp Kern Deposit
 - Dn. Nick
 - The camp returned our deposit check to us, so it did not cost us anything.
 - Eugene
 - Since it was drawn from the Endowment Fund for youth ministry, we can use it for youth ministry in other ways.

New Business:

- Panegyri
 - Fr. Mark
 - The committee met via zoom, and after discussion it was determined that the normal time at the end of June was untenable and alternative dates won't work. We don't know what kind of regulations and restrictions will be in place even once restrictions begin to lift. The May *Voice* will include a formal mention about cancelling.
 - Eugene Nicholas
 - Cancelling is the thing to do. Rescheduling is essentially impossible. When we can finally sit down face to face again, we can discuss alternative ways to raise money later in the year. Everything we have on hand so far is donations, we've only invested couple thousand dollars in supplies, and we're likely to get sponsorships even if we cancel.
 - Gus Poneris
 - One major issue with rescheduling is that we'd need a month or two simply for the baking.
 - Matthew Neuendorf moved that we cancel the 2020 Panegyri, Andrea Siouris seconded. Matthew amended the motion to read: Per the recommendation of the Panegyri Leadership Committee, we will cancel the 2020 Panegyri. Peggy Kehayes seconded and the motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Christos Anesti! It's good to see everyone.
 - Commitments are up from last year by over \$47,000, households pledged at 344 is significantly higher than last year's 315, receipts are up \$37,000 from last year, and our parish has stepped up with the Easter offerings.
- Eugene Nicholas
 - We may need to consider over the next couple of months looking at raising our stewardship goal for the year to account for the lack of a Panegyri.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities
 - Fr. Mark
 - Craig continues to catch up on small projects throughout the facilities. We have had our cleaning crew come in and deep clean.

Streaming:

- Fr. Mark
 - Dacia Snider and her family were watching from Switzerland. There was a Greek Orthodox family in Toronto that was watching since all the churches in that city have been entirely closed. They sent Fr. Mark an email and shared the service with their Sunday Church School students. A second Toronto email came from the sister of one who sent the first, who actually attended school with Fr. Mark. Both sisters and their families hope someday to come to Cincinnati and to worship with us in person.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Andrea moved to adjourn, Tom seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 7:15 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary