



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7000 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 • Tel.: (513) 591-0030 • Fax: (513) 591-0043
Web: htsnchurch.org • Email: office@htsnchurch.org

Parish Council Meeting Minutes December 17, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Father 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 6:34 PM.

Fr. Nick led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - The reports for this meeting inspire optimism. From the something as small as the new ice machine to the grand news that our pantry is funded through the entire holiday season, along with the news about stewardship.
 - Our pandemic system is working despite some resistance.

Secretary's report:

- Bill moved to accept the November minutes as distributed online, Peggy seconded, the motion passed.
- We received one message Metropolitan Nicholas, a Christmas card with a wonderful message.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - Royal Hours will be Thursday the 24th at 10 AM. Registration for worship along with Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will start tomorrow at 9. We anticipate brisk and numerous registration for these services. The process will be handled in the same way that we have been using since June. We still are under a directive for limited seating within the church and will not be adjusting it. This may result in some people just showing up. We may include with the Sunday Voice a message that reiterates the policy.
 - For Christmas Eve we may move the greeting table closer to the parking lot door in the Bishop's Walk, which should make it a little easier to inform unregistered people that they are unable to enter. If someone wants to light a candle, we can offer to accept a contribution and to light a candle on their behalf. The policy comes down from the Metropolis, and we must be prepared to enforce it with love.

- Fr. Nick will be away until the 23rd. Fr. Mark will be away after the 25th but will be back for preparations for Theophany in January. Our handling of holy water is not yet determined. Philoptochos will not host a vasilopita luncheon.
- With deep humility, Fr. Mark is grateful for the parish council's service. We have faced extraordinary times unlike what any of us have personally experienced, and for an extended time. Each individual person on the council has made a significant contribution to the functioning and ministries of our parish. It is a work that we work together for the glory of God, and though we have had to adjust the ways in which we conduct our ministries, we are doing it together.
- Fr. Nick
 - Thank you to all who reached out for the name day celebration.
 - As we look forward toward 2021, we have digital ministry hopes but moreover we hope to be able to resume other ministries.
 - College students have been trying to do things together, and Fr. Nick is trying to do the same with teens, starting with Among Us.
 - The Discord server is still running and people are using it to keep in touch.
 - It has been a real blessing to serve in all the services that we have had this time of year.
 - There will be no Monday reading group this week. It will resume on the 28th. They are reading *Time and Despondency*. It addresses living the Christian life in the moment rather than being discontented with the present and hoping only for the future as time slips by.

Treasurer's report:

- Peggy Kehayes
 - Northside Checking **\$168,650 vs.** \$142,990 in 2019
 - Capital Improvement **\$25,300 vs.** \$1,000 in 2019
 - Endowment **\$ 1,549,100 vs.** \$1,409,450 in 2019
 - Iconography Fund **\$ 2,067,590 vs** \$2,056,360 in 2019

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building
 - Ice machine installed. We are having some timer issues with our outdoor lights. It is only affecting the 4 poles in the south lot and sign light in front. I have contacted and electrician. If it is not fixed by Christmas Eve, we will manually override the system.
 - Holiday Outreach
 - Ham distribution is tomorrow, December 18th. We are expecting 200 – 240 people. We have plenty of volunteers. Donations received have covered the entire cost of both of our outreach programs this year.
 - Baklava Sale
 - Last Saturday went well. I thought we would do a little better. We do have more pre-sales this week. Philoptochos gave me their Sweet Treats email list, so I sent out an email to those people. We have received quite a few orders from that solicitation. At this time, the fundraiser has generated over \$10,000 in sales. We plan to send baklava to the Joseph House and Shelter House.

- Financial
 - As you can see from Peggy's report, we have more operational funds available than we did in 2019. We should start out 2021 in a better cash flow position than 2020. The generosity of our Parishioners has been overwhelming.

New Business:

- 2021 Housing Allowance
 - As part of the compensation package for clergy is the designation of funds toward a parsonage allowance, intended for housing expenses and such. The number has to be logged into the minutes in the form of a motion and approval, prior to the year in which it will be applied. Any needed adjustments can be made prior to the expense being accounted. It cannot be done after the fact. It is not additional compensation, rather it is an accounting function required by the IRS.
 - Peggy Kehayes moved that the 2021 housing allowance amount for Fr. Mark will be \$35,000. Andrea Siouris seconded. The motion passed.
 - Tom Tsiominas moved that the 2021 housing allowance amount for Fr. Nick will be \$18,000. Andrea Siouris seconded. The motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - It has been an amazing year. Commitments for the year are up to \$521,950. As of tonight, we have received over \$583,400, which is especially generous in the midst of a pandemic.
 - Fr. Mark sent out an excellent letter to the parish.
 - We have several Stewardship articles queued up and are always looking for more contributors. Since we started publishing these articles, we have had around 50 unique writers.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Tom Tsiominas moved to adjourn, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
Closing prayer: Fr. Nick led the closing prayer at 7:26 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary