



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 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 6:38 PM.

Fr. Nick led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - Not much is transpiring around us aside from the covid situation becoming more dangerous.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the October minutes as distributed online, Tom Tsiominas seconded, the motion passed.
- We received one message from Helen Nicholas, a letter of thanks for the sympathy and support of the Parish, the Parish Council, Fr. Mark and Fr. Nick.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - Continued thanks for the diligence with handling services, ushering, and coordinating things. Without the Parish Council's efforts it would not be possible.
 - We received a letter from the Archdiocese regarding our insurance liabilities. We also received a message dated November 6 regarding Parish pension responsibilities. Our Parish contributed \$700 per month per clergy, or \$1,400 per month. The Clergy-Laity conference attempted to find a method that would rework pension contributions toward

parish capacity. The contribution we make fund the pension fund and ancillary benefits. Our amount for 2021 is \$19,664, which is an increase over previous years. It may fluctuate year to year. Total commitments across the Archdiocese for the fair share contribution will remain the same level for 2020 to 2021.

- December 5 is a Saturday, so Vespers will begin at 6 pm. St. Nicholas Day will be that Sunday. Registration will be online per our current process. Christmas falls on a Friday. The Vespers Divine Liturgy will be Thursday evening at 6. Matins on Christmas will begin at 8:30.
- Wednesday Divine Liturgy services continue.
- Fr. Nick will be taking December 18 through December 23 for vacation. Fr. Mark will be away from December 26 through January 4.
- Keep Fr. Mark and Fr. Nick in your prayers as they continue to minister. Stay safe and healthy. Be mindful not only of yourself but of others. Our ministries continue, including the turkey and ham distributions through the Good Shepherd Pantry.
- Thank you to Craig and Gus Poneris for the many hours that they have committed to the Small Hall. People who have seen it are complimentary and appreciative.
- Fr. Nick
 - Having been cleared to have altar boys serve, we have sent an email inviting altar boys to sign up to serve. The plan going forward will be to invite them to sign up each month, with only a few each week to keep the numbers lower.
 - Maria Meyer has been working with Fr. Nick on resuming HOPE/JOY.
 - December 26 has a GOYA Christmas Zoom meeting scheduled.

Treasurer's report:

- Peggy
 - Northside Checking **\$151,830 vs.** \$169,400 in 2019.
 - Capital Improvement **\$32,154 vs.** \$1,500 in 2019.
 - Endowment **\$1,514,180 vs.** \$1,372,100 in 2019.
 - Iconography Fund **\$2,067,530 vs** \$2,053,420 in 2019.
 - We are operating at a net income of **\$13,480** year to date.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Small Hall
 - Work is nearly done. There are only a few small things before it will be completed.
 - Ice Maker
 - The ice machine finally died. We should consider using some of the remaining capital improvement funds from the small hall project to replace the icemaker.
 - Utilities
 - There has been a problem with reading our gas meter. They finally got a hard reading, so the bill next month will include extra to make up for the discrepancy. We have been underpaying all year, so this should not put us outside our budget for utility expenses.
 - Health Insurance
 - We will be switching providers for Eugene and Craig, which should keep nearly the same coverage with a savings of \$600 per month.

- Thanksgiving Outreach
 - We have Thanksgiving fully funded and Christmas is almost funded.
- North Side Balance
 - It is notable that, despite not having a festival, we are only down about \$18,000 in funds compared to 2019, which is entirely due to the outstanding Stewardship response.
- Christmas Card
 - Don't forget that we are signing people up for the card. There is a link on our website and listed in the Sunday Voice.
- Altar Heating and Cooling
 - The best and least expensive method would be to put a unit on the roof, which we would not consider based on past issues with the roof. We simply cannot compromise the roof over the altar.

Unfinished Business:

- Iconography
 - The likelihood of Mr. Tonelli coming out in the near future is very slim due to the increase in covid restrictions. The entire project is effectively on hold until he can come out.
 - There is another person from Wisconsin who does this kind of work, so we may look at trying to bring them in to take a look.

New Business:

- Ice Machine
 - Matthew Neuendorf moved to direct money from the Capital Improvement fund to purchase a new ice machine. Peggy Kehayes seconded. The motion passed.

Parish Council moved to Executive Session

Parish Council closed Executive Session and continued New Business

- Drive-Through Food Sale
 - It is worth considering planning some kind of drive-through food sale in the upcoming year. This could be gyros, backed goods, Greek pizza, or some other selection.
 - It could also use the online ordering template that we pioneered with the baklava sales.
 - We should establish a committee to investigate the possibilities of a drive-through sale, especially in light of the probably limitations and changes imposed on our Panegyri in the next year.
 - Much of the weight of volunteering will fall on younger people, given the restrictions on and risks to our older parishioners.
 - Volunteering for fundraisers isn't just about funds, but also about social gatherings and working together.
 - We need to be careful that anything we do not become our primary focus. Fundraising should not diminish the giving that we have and the humbling response that our parishioners have shown. We should set parameters as the committee begins its planning.
 - Now is a good time to come up with and examine ideas, but we also need to remember that there are certain limitations and guidelines that we will have to follow.
 - The Parish Council will refer the issue to the Special Events Committee.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - It is very humbling to see what has come in. We have surpassed our \$510,000 goal by mid-November and have now received \$523,000. Commitments are up 30% per household on average. It is truly amazing to see how our parishioners have given from the heart even in the middle of a pandemic. It speaks to their love of God and His Church. Glory to God in all things!

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Andrea Siouris moved to adjourn, Bill Kanelopoulos seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Nick led the closing prayer at 7:49 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary