



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll, Fr. 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 physical distancing orders.

Call to Order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - Thank you for another opportunity to serve as President. It is hard to say what this year will bring and what we will be doing the same and what we will be doing differently.
 - For now, keep on keeping on and doing as good of a job as we can, keeping our church open and as welcoming a place of worship as possible.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the December minutes as distributed online, Gus Poneris seconded. The motion passed.
- We received no correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - First and foremost, Fr. Mark sincerely appreciates our work on the council and in the church, especially during the holiday services.
 - The Archdiocese offered parishes an opportunity to make full payment at the beginning of the year with a 2% discount or two payments with a 1% discount. Our current financial position is strong, but considering COVID-19 and our upcoming known expenses, it is not clear that we would be able to take advantage of either option.

- There was a Metropolitan clergy meeting earlier today that discussed the impact of the pandemic on parishes. Until the foreseeable future, the metropolis will not be opening things further, but we are going state by state due to differences in rules.
- Other than that, we look forward to a very good year. Stewardship is off to a good start. Fr. Mark and Fr. Nick will be meeting with the Religious Education Team tomorrow to pursue a virtual teaching solution. Zoom fatigue is a major concern, especially for young students who have to spend hours on end with remote learning. We will try to map out a path for the next few months for online Sunday Church School.
- Fr. Nick
 - We are working on a few new things, beginning with the RET meeting tomorrow. We are looking at moving from an active learning model on Discord toward a more one-off model with recorded lesson videos.
 - GOYA is starting a monthly Paraclesis service with an in-person teaching session after each service. We are also exploring a gaming ministry of some kind. The goal is to maintain some of the social connections that are so important at that age. We are also looking at a Zoom Check-In program.
 - College students are heading back to school and we are working on checking in on them.
 - Altar boys are resuming service in a limited fashion.
 - Hope/Joy is more difficult to arrange, especially as it requires more interaction from parents. Maria Meyer has been working on a few things but has run into a few roadblocks.
 - Youth ministry is very dependent on getting together, especially in our region with how spread out everyone is, to the point where few of them attend the same schools.
 - The Metropolis is planning an oratorical festival.
 - We are watching for opportunities for outdoor ministries, as well.

Treasurer's report:

- Tom Tsiominas
 - Northside Checking **\$191,345** vs. \$137,800 in 2020.
 - Capital Improvement **\$25,310** vs. \$144,435 in 2020.
 - Endowment **\$ 1,598,456** vs. \$1,409,865 in 2020.
 - Iconography Fund **\$ 2,071,035** vs \$2,056,360 in 2020.
 - Overall our actual new operational income has been in the positive, largely due to tremendous stewardship numbers and some tight control of our expenses. Glory be to God for our parishioners who really stepped up.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building
 - We have 2 vendor quotes for the boiler and 3 for the water heaters. The process is complicated by many factors involved in removal and installation. It looks like the total cost may exceed \$125,000, which means that we will need to fund raise to close the gap between cost of the project and the available funds in the Capital Improvement account and our potential Endowment dispersal.
 - Hopefully the equipment will hold up for another 30 days so that the Building Committee can figure out a solid final recommendation for the Parish Council.

- Finances
 - It is unbelievable that we are ahead by \$53,500 compared to last year. In 2020, we had budgeted \$144,000 to the Capital Improvement fund for our exterior restoration and small hall renovation projects. Upon completion of projects, we found ourselves with \$25,300 remaining.

New Business:

- 2021 Panegyri
 - The committee had a meeting and the consensus was that we would attempt some kind of drive-through festival in June. A more traditional, in-person festival looks untenable with current Ohio restrictions.
 - We will be preparing an article for *The Voice* once more concrete plans are complete. The article will be to keep everyone informed and to let parishioners know what kind of help we will need.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - We ended 2020 with an astounding \$609,320 in stewardship.
 - The average donation was \$1082 per household, which is a significant increase.
 - Our Panegyri appeal was very successful. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.
 - Commitments this year so far are at \$304,100. Households are at \$231. Receipts are at \$56,102 so far. These numbers are all improvements over last year.
 - The total number of parish households is lower this year than the start of 2020. This is due to many factors including families moving away from Cincinnati, people passing away, and corrections to our database.
 - We are continuing to get articles for *The Voice* from parishioners. We have some in the queue through April, and if anyone knows someone who would like to contribute, please let us know.
 - Fr. Mark and the Stewardship Committee will be meeting January 26.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to Adjourn: Tom Tsiominas moved to adjourn. Joanne seconded. The motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Nick led the closing prayer at 7:19 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary