

St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: February 13, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Paul Novak - president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian - treasurer

Mark Massopust - corresponding secretary (excused)

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guest: Jeff Zdrale

- A. Minutes from January 9, 2024, parish council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Paul, seconded by Tom, approved by all.
- B. Minutes from January 28, 2024, annual church meeting were reviewed. Notations for corrections of minor typos were acknowledged by Father John, to be amended by Paul. A motion was made to approve by Tom, seconded by Paul, approved by all.

Reports / updates /old business:

2. Priest's report- Father John:

- A. Liturgical volunteers: Nick Parker will be making prosphora (on the list). Nathan Gatenbein started altar serving. Robert Trowbridge will be reading on February 25th. More volunteers are still needed to serve and read.
- B. Choir: Matthew Hanson can lead the choir once a month. Jeff agreed, starting in March for Sunday liturgy. Sara can also rotate in leading the regular Sunday choir. Emmelia (Roegner) currently leads the choir for Typica in Waupaca. It was suggested that she could possibly lead the choir for Saturday Vespers.
- C. Liturgical schedule:

1. There will be two baptisms this month. David and Emma Niemi's son Valo will be baptized on February 24th at 1pm. The godparents are David's brother and sister. David and Emma will be joining the church after Pascha. Rafael and Peggy Roman's son Finnian will be baptized on February 25th at 1pm. His godparents will be Deacon Spyridon and Matushka Photini.

2. Saturday, March 16th, Liturgy in Waupaca

3. Saturday, April 6th, Liturgy in Door County

D. Lenten retreat: Father Paul reached out to Presvytera Rebecca Luft to be the speaker for this year's Lenten retreat, to be held on April 12th and 13th. She is the wife of Fr. Elijah Mueller. Rebecca has a PhD in the Old Testament. Her specialty is the Temple in Old Jerusalem and how it relates to our present-day worship. Father John suggested a speaking topic of anything to do with a Lenten subject. The parish would provide reimbursement for mileage, hotel and a speaking commission. Approximately \$400 total to be allocated from the budget for this reimbursement.

E. Father John met with the manager of a catholic bookstore, St Francis Xavier, in Green Bay. He was informed that there is a demand for Orthodox style iconography and prayer ropes. Catholics are using the Orthodox icons, creating the demand. We can supply them with prayer books also. Additionally, they have items that can work for us such as religious cards and baptismal outfits for kids.

F. There continues to be new people attending our liturgies.

2. President's report - Paul Novak:

A. Paul received notification that the coffee pot was not working. A replacement pot is on the way with a \$12 fee for postage. Also, another 100-cup pot has been ordered. The pot that failed could possibly be repaired by Misha, possibly replacing wires and a fuse. If repairable, we would have three coffee pots.

3. Vice president's report - Matt Tomac:

A. Looking into shelters for the annual picnic. Location options are Bay Beach (last year's location) or the church property. Bay Beach has parking concerns for accessibility for mobility limited individuals. He will reach out to park staff to reserve some parking spaces near the shelter, making people feel more comfortable. Also, there is a ball diamond kitty corner to the shelter. Last year games were brought by Vera and were offered again this year. Paul received good feedback about Bay Beach location last year.

B. A privacy doorknob is needed for the bathroom in the narthex. The cost is approximately \$80.

C. The window project: Blinds for Herrick Hall had been discussed and approved by council. They were installed. The cost was \$335.

4. Treasurer's report - Tom Julian: Attached reports: Investor 360 Balance and Holdings & February 2024 Fixed Expenses.

A. Quarterly fixed expenses \$1800

B. Monthly fixed expenses \$10,192

C. Needed monthly income \$12,000

D. January income \$19,578

E. There was additional giving in January for annual needs. A few additional P42 annual tithes of \$1,008 and a gift payment of \$1800 for Sarsama.

F. Snow expenses were very low this year. Fees have already been paid out of approximately \$2,000. There is an additional January bill of \$1,400, bringing the total to \$3,500 for this winter.

G. We have approximately \$33,000 saved for iconography (2 CDs of \$15,000 each for Iconography Fund) and pledges to bring us over \$40,000. There are still \$6,000 in pledges out.

H. Additional small expenses for Kanakuk and the blinds to be paid out.

I. Personnel in Green Bay diocese were contacted regarding grave sites. We are inquiring about obtaining one to two dozen grave sites. The discussion is to get cemetery plots within a bigger catholic cemetery for Orthodox Christians from St Matthew's. Father relayed that the idea is to reach out to Catholics which have a lot of rural cemeteries, that we might obtain a section of one.

New Business:

A. Herrick Hall: Melissa and Father John will be working on the walls in the near future. The decor will include photos of bishops and picnics, newspaper articles, etc.

B. Recording secretary: The transition from Elaine to Vera for has commenced. Starting today, Vera is using an audio recorder to assist with documentation. She will talk with Elaine if she has questions. Paul clarified that the recording secretary submits the completed minutes to the council president and he sends them out to the parish council for review and approval. Next, Paul sends a copy to Doug Bisbee who posts the minutes on the website. Then Paul makes a copy to post on the bulletin board and a copy for the filing cabinet in Father's office. Additionally, Paul will attach and print out the attached financial reports.

C. Iconography update: Dmitry Shkolnik is anticipating coming in August or early September for our next phase. Paul discussed the walls to the right and left looking down from the balcony with plans for icons of The Feeding of the 5,000 and Sermon on the Mountain. Dmitry Swill not have enough time to complete those spaces during that time. Also, he is leaning towards not putting those icons there for multiple reasons. (Two different spaces, a beam there, people might touch them, other possible ideas for the space) The proposed icons planned will not be installed. Discussions will continue with him after his arrival on how to utilize this space. Father suggested possibly mirroring what is below the balcony with shelves for icons. The total amount of money that we will need at the end of September is less than anticipated. The icons of The Nativity, Resurrection, the medallions, St Olga, the narthex wall, and The Four Evangelists come to \$48,850. With \$4,000 added in for travel and expenses, the total comes to \$52,850. Considering what we have in hand and the pledges, the budget gap is \$13,650. The parish will be updated on the delivery and

expectations via the Saturday email blast and on Sunday, during coffee hour.

- D. Jeff reported that Bonnie is being discharged from the hospital on Thursday. She is making good progress. He is making adaptations at home and arranging for her home health care. Paul told him to reach out to the parish if he needs assistance getting the home ready. Linda Bisbee offered to help Bonnie when she is home.
- E. Paul had talked with John Limberopoulos about an AED. He had been involved with getting one for the church in Illinois and John thought it was a necessary for us. That parish has a Philips AED. This brand costs about \$1,000. A grant could possibly give us \$200 off. Paul will investigate further.
- F. The narthex wall has been installed and mudded. It still needs to be sanded, painted, the trim polyurethaned and installed.
- G. The lost and found box is functioning well. Items that have been left behind are placed in it and they are then recovered.

A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tom, approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Father gave the closing prayer.