

## **St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting**

**Meeting:** November 14, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

### **1. Opening prayer was given by Father John**

#### **Council members attending:**

Paul Novak – president  
Matt Tomac – vice president  
Tom Julian – treasurer – excused  
Mark Massopust – corresponding secretary  
Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

**Guests:** Jeff Zdrile

Minutes from October were reviewed. Correction will be made regarding Bishop Daniel rounding on a three-year rotation. Add Elaine Gavaras as excused. A motion was made to approve by Paul Novak, seconded by Matt. Approved by all.

**Guest:** Jeff Zdrile

Compliments to Paul, Dorothy, Deb and Katherine on the St. Matthew dinner.

Jeff would like the correct pronunciation of words be explained to parishioners. Especially with the new people in our church.

### **Reports/updates/new business:**

#### **1. Priest's report – Father John:**

This past Sunday which had the baptism and chrismation went very well.

Father Paul Dinkov, the priest from the two nearby Greek Churches, attended St. Matthew this past Saturday.

Father reviewed the upcoming December schedule including the Typica services at Waupaca. Father will discuss institutionalizing Waupaca site with the Bishop. The first step is for the site to become a chapel. This would progress to a mission. A possibility would be to name the chapel Saint Macrina. The final decision will be with the Bishop. There are usually 15-16 people who attend.

On December 09, the children will gather to decorate the Christmas tree. Father will also order some crafts for the children to create ornaments. There will be singing and hot chocolate.

Father has received a very good response from people regarding the Book Club. This club will meet exclusively on Zoom.

Nick Parker is willing to bake Prosphora.

Father talked to the woman whose furniture is stored upstairs. She is currently homeless, living in her car and is looking for housing. We will contact her again and ask her if she would like her belongings or if she would like us to try to sell them and give her the monies.

## **2. President's report – Paul Novak:**

There has been a request to consider purchasing an AED for the church. An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Price is \$675 – 1,500. In conversation, Mark mentioned that he recently priced them at \$1,500 and up. Matt mentioned that Sarah Tomac believes there may be grants available. Paul will investigate grant money availability. Paul will return this information to the council in the future for a vote.

Snow plowing proposal: Paul recommends using the same people who are currently cutting our grass. They will also agree to turf repair if there is any damage. Paul made a motion and Matt seconded.

Paul and Deb Novak would like to donate a Christmas tree to be placed in the nave, next to the tomb for December 09. It is a pre-lit tree, 6-7 feet tall. Jeff believes there would be a conflict between continuing the smaller tree with the larger tree. In discussion, continuing to have a small tree in Herrick Hall would be nice and appreciated. The ornaments on the tree in the church should be reflective of Christian symbolism, explicitly Christian and the tree in Herrick Hall would be more generic. Paul suggested ornament donations which was agreed. Mark suggested to print and color icons, laminate. The children's time would start about 3pm, decorating, singing and have some hot chocolate.

Paul made a proposal: donation of the Christmas tree, decorate the tree in Herrick Hall, Father will purchase ornament kits and donations for ornaments for the bigger tree in the church. The gathering to start at 3:00pm on December 09 with an agenda of making and decorating the tree with ornaments, sing and have hot chocolate. Then Vespers. The above was seconded by Mark and favored by all. After further checking, will decide on the time of starting this program and Vespers will be discussed after this meeting.

January 28 will be the Annual meeting with back-up date of February 04, after Liturgy, in Herrick Hall. Paul made a motion which was seconded by Father and approved by all.

Open positions will be considered and discussed at the next meeting. Paul would like those open positions to be presented to the parish for consideration.

**3. Vice presidents' report - Matt Tomac:** nothing to report.

**4. Treasurer – Tom Julian:**

Giving has been steady and good. We had a good response for the gift for Father and his family.

Iconography giving continues.

Building and Maintenance Fund is in good shape.

Trees were recently cut down around Transfiguration Chapel, which was about \$2000 and taken from the Transfiguration Chapel fund.

The Tee shirts have turned a profit! This money will be set aside for summer church school. Tom suggested to get more children's sizes in bright colors. Father will mention that the shirts that are in the bookstore are available for anyone as those who ordered in advanced have picked their shirts up.

We continue to pay extra on the mortgage every month.

We will ask for donations for Christmas flowers. An estimate was obtained - \$500.00. We will continue to solicit for donations.

**Old Business:**

Misha Mykhaylyuk is working on getting a second bid for Herrick Hall roof.

Siding, window and countertop project continues to progress. Mark Coates and Chuck Bayerl continue to work on this project.

Much discussion has been made about building the wall in the Narthex. More information to come.

Mark is requesting any photos from this past weekend and pictures of the newly baptized and Chrismated to be sent to him for the quarterly newsletter.

The next Council meeting will be December 12 at 6:00 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.