

St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: November 08, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm

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

Council members attending:

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac – vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Pedro Sarsama – corresponding secretary

Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

Guests: Jeff Zdrale

Jeff requests that Matt Tomac stay in the choir when the Bishop visits St. Matthew.

The children will be upstairs and Jeff will bring them down to sing.

Jeff suggests the manufacturer that painted the 12 feasts be considered for the royal doors.

Minutes from last month were reviewed. Motion made to approve by Paul, seconded by Pedro.
All approved.

Reports/updates/new business:

1. **Priest's report – Father John:**

There were about 20 people who came to Sister Bay for liturgy. Hopefully, we will be able to have liturgy 4-5 times a year, though the winter months may be a hindrance.

The order for the 2023 calendar was placed.

There was a deanery meeting this past Monday with Bishop Daniel. Things are going well. There continues to be a shortage of priests.

There are a few new people who are attending church.

There is a full time priest at the mission in Portage, Wisconsin.

Father will be leaving after church on Sunday. He and his family will be out of town over Thanksgiving.

Will consider meeting on a Thursday evening with the men's group.

Will is considering a retreat for the Upper Room group after Christmas.

Father and Jeff are considering the children singing Christmas songs prior to Vespers the previous week of Christmas.

In January, Father will start catechumen classes, leading up to Lent.

Following the initial painting of the Narthex Mellissa McNeil prepped and painted the door frame at the church which wasn't painted.

2. President's report – Paul Novak:

The food pantry was discussed. No changes have been made to this longtime mission program. Matt is able to pick up the food and deliver it to Paul's pantry. St. Joe's donations were also discussed but no changes or actions were made. We need to understand who can make deliveries to St. Joes or if we should just donate to Paul's Pantry.

For the St. Matthew dinner, there are tentatively 117 people who have signed up.

Following the conversation from the October PC meeting The narthex was painted. The PC approved that this work be done. Following that, Father reached out to Svitlana to see if any of Misha's family would like to paint. One of Misha's Sister and brother in law did the painting. They did a very good job and Paul thanked them for their work.

The window icons were installed and have contributed to the beauty of the outside of the church.

In a conversation during the month with Father and a number of PC members it was decided to move the Saint Matthew sign from its location on the top portion of the church to a more visible location on the corner of Ravenswood Drive and Calvin Drive. Paul along with Dale Petersen will move and reinstall the sign this week. Paul would like to change the letter area of the sign to match the colors of the existing sign. The one side of the sign facing the street will have the times of the church services. The other side will state 'Christ is in our midst and ever shall be'. The money has been donated to make these changes. The old sign was beyond repair as the lights didn't work and the sign board was aged. As such the sign was scraped. Motion to move forward with this plan made by Matt and seconded by Pedro.

On Saturday, November 19, Paul proposed that we gather to clean the Church at 11:30am. At 3:30, Dorothy will start to decorate the dining area.

Paul will bring the Bishop to Church for Vespers.

The siding has arrived. The siding project will be in process every Saturday, starting at 0900 independent of events or holidays to get the project done.

The Fall Festival was very successful. We made a donation to the Alaskan Diocese of \$2,000.

There was a new grill donated to the Church. The remaining 3 grills and the metal outside sign was removed and scrapped for \$21.30.

3. Vice President's report – Matt Tomac:

Matt changed lightbulbs this past week.

4. Treasurer's report – Tom Julian:

There has been nice contributions made to the church over the past couple weeks. Everything is paid.

Paul plans to discuss the 2023 pledge drive at the St. Matthew dinner.

5. Communicating secretary – Pedro:

Will send an email out to everyone to send their contributions for the next newsletter to him. Will also ask to include parish life photos.

The Byzantine group is going well. Matthew Hanson is doing well leading the group. Noah and Pedro are participants. Pedro will include a little history of Byzantine music in the newsletter.

There was a training session with the altar servers by Subdeacon Mark. Will also consider doing small reviews with the altar servers. Father would like both Pedro, who will be made a Subdeacon when the Bishop comes, and Subdeacon Mark take the lead on this.

Will likely need an additional prosthora table for the second communion line.

The next Council meeting will be December 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul and seconded by Pedro, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.