

1. Opening prayer at 1205pm, Our Father
2. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Motion by Cindy Eyler
 - b. Seconded by Jess Gurrea
 - c. So moved unanimously.
3. Approval of the minutes from last year's meeting (note for next year: send out with the bulletin ahead of the meeting)
 - a. Motion by Subdeacon Steven Turner
 - b. Seconded by Joseph Stark
 - c. So moved unanimously.
4. Dean's report (Fr. Alexey Karlgut)
 - a. We are grateful to His Eminence Archbishop Michael for supporting the Mission and the Diocesan Council, including financial support, prayer, frequent visits, and helping find a resident priest. We pray for his continued support.
 - b. Goal for a rectory
 - i. Fr. Alexey and Jessica Suchy-Pilalis have located a parsonage that is in great shape.
 - c. Plans for a permanent/resident priest
 - i. The plan of Archbishop Michael is to have a resident priest by this summer.
 - d. Looking to the OCA Mission Planting Grant
 - i. The application is available on the OCA website and the earlier the PC looks at the application and what is needed, the better chances we have for being given the grant. The grant has been instrumental in the success of various missions throughout its history. Jessica, Cindy, Julio, and Jess are encouraged to look into the requirements and become familiar with the application.
 - e. We would like to express our gratitude to Father Nikolay for his dedication and service for our mission.
5. President's report (Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis)
 - a. It's been a real honor to serve as the PC president, praying, growing, worshiping, engaging in fellowship, and getting to know each of you. We've come a long way, very quickly.
 - i. We left our small chapel in 2021 and moved into our building, which could not have happened without the support of our Archbishop and Dean. We'd also like to thank the Diocesan Council for their support and guidance. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the FCC for gifting us this building as well as a generous financial gift.
 - ii. Since we've been moved into the building, we have been able to advertise our services and schedule in local media. We've also attended festivals in Potsdam, Norwood, and Malone, increasing our visibility in the North Country.
 - iii. The potential parsonage is in wonderful shape and appears to require cosmetic updates.

- iv. We've had several new members over the past year, both in July 2023 and in February 2024. It's been so joyful to celebrate with the newly illumined as they join our church. Special thanks to Subdeacon Julio for his role in catechising them.
 - v. We have two seminarians in our parish (Subdeacon Steven Turner and Reader Zachary Price (who has recently decided to become a monastic))
 - vi. We had a pilgrimage for our feast day in July, which was encouraged by Vladyka, and it was a wonderful two days worshipping with our diocesan brothers and sisters.
 - vii. Vladyka will be here April 17th for a presanctified liturgy, likely around 6pm.
 - viii. We continue to work on improving our building and re-decorating the space in an Orthodox manner, including new icons for our iconostasis from Mother Sophronia. We were also able to have the organ removed, as well as the skeleton of the organ. We will have the altar painted by a professional painter within weeks. Removing the organ also opened up more space in the altar, windows, and even a closet for storage. This will allow Mother Sophronia to work on sketches of the altar. We have also updated all of the lights to LED. We were able to obtain a street sign from the Kiwanis club. We have plans to install solar-powered flood lights for the front and rear entrances, which will increase both safety and invite others to worship with us. We have future plans to improve the mortar along the foundation and to reslope the grounds to reduce flooding in the hall.
 - ix. Special thanks to the members of the Parish Council, highlighting Peggy and her work on the bulletin.
 - x. The call for stewardship was emailed a few weeks ago. Please attend to the call for time and talent, not only treasure.
6. Treasurer's report (John Otis)
- a. Checking: our balance at the end of the year was: \$10,950
 - i. we had a total income of \$13,222
 - 1. these funds came from stewardship, donations, paypal donations, book sales
 - 2. We had total expenses of \$17,399.70
 - a. These included: advertising, altar/chapel updates, book purchases, utilities, insurance payments, supporting a priest
 - b. Building fund account balance: \$35,372.30
7. Special report on catechumens (Subdeacon Julio Gurrea)
- a. We've had 14 new members received into the Church within the past year. There is another catechumen who is studying.
 - b. The classes have been guided by the OCAs Essentials of Orthodox Christian Beliefs

- c. The primary focus of the classes has been increasing unity to Christ and living in the image of Christ in everyday life.
- 8. Proposed operating budget
 - a. Motion to accept: Jess Gurrea
 - b. Seconded by: Cindy Eyer
 - c. Discussion:
 - i. Question:
 - 1. The heating bill is rather high, would it be possible to change our heating method for a more budget-friendly amount?
 - ii. Response:
 - 1. We've recently installed a programmable thermostat, which should help with the heating bill. We also recognize that our furnace is likely on its last legs, so we'll also look to replacement options that may be more efficient financially.
 - d. Vote: passed unanimously
- 9. Election of members to the 2024 Parish Council
 - a. Jess and Peggy's terms are due to expire this year. Both are willing to run for further terms.
 - b. Joseph Stark has also indicated interest in joining the Parish Council.
 - c. The vote will occur as a slate.
 - i. Cindy motioned
 - ii. Amy Stark seconded
 - iii. Vote passes unanimously, and Jess, Peggy, and Joseph will be on the Parish Council, pending approval from His Eminence Archbishop Michael.
- 10. Vision/future of the parish
 - a. Fr. Eric Tosi- please feel free to reach out and ask for help.
 - i. Mission Vital Signs (handout)
 - 1. If our building was to disappear, what impact would it have on our local community?
 - ii. Mission Planting Grant
 - 1. There is a lot of information on the OCA website, including the application. The grant provides money specifically, only, exclusively for compensating the priest. Having a full-time resident priest will be key for parish growth (evangelizing, serving, etc.) The grant decreases each of the three years with the expectation that the mission will increase their financial support. Fr. Eric is willing to help us with the process/application. We will likely apply for 2025, after our priest has been here for about a year; Father Eric suggests a goal to have the application done by New Year.
 - iii. Seven practical topics
 - 1. Liturgy- how Liturgy is done is incredibly important. Whatever is done should be done well, not necessarily fancily, but well. How do outsiders experience our services? It's critical that we follow the OCA guidelines.

2. How are we witnessing as a parish? Is what we say, talk about, preach about consistent with how we live in the community? The greatest attraction for new members is that people see us representing Christ in the community. We have to show real Christian love.
3. How do you have a relationship with each other? Is there Liturgy after Liturgy? Do the people of the Church relate to one another in a manner that's consistent with the teaching of the Church? What about your relationship with your priest?
4. How do you relate to the community? We need to be part of the community- local banks, local contractors, the food pantry, etc. Get to know the people of the community.
5. How are you relating to your internal community? Do you know the needs of one another? Can you support one another in tough times? Do you celebrate with one another? Start OCFs when possible.
6. MONEY- how will we be successful? How money is planned for will determine the success rate- ultimately, money is a spiritual issue. We should have honest and early discussions about money, and the ability to agree honestly with what we can do with what we have is vital.
7. The ethnic question: be true to the vision of the OCA- we were created to be the American church, not a ghetto of a certain ethnicity. Honor all the ethnicities, but we are OCA.

- b. Subdeacon Turner suggested that we look at the website of Father Timothy Hojnicky to inform our website.

11. Closing prayer at 140pm Our Father