



St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: March 11, 2025

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Father John Thetford - rector

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Noah Becker – corresponding secretary

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guests: Jeff Zdrate

The minutes from the January 14, 2024, parish council meeting were reviewed. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, Noah seconded the motion, approved by all. Minutes from the February 12, 2024, annual church meeting are being reviewed by council and will be readdressed at the April council meeting. After future approval, Father will forward the annual parish meeting minutes to the bishop.

Priest's report – Father John Thetford

- The liturgical schedule has been sent out for April.

-There are currently 20 official catechumens. Also, additionally there have been new people attending over the last few weeks. We are reminded to greet them, give them a bulletin, and invite them to stay for our fellowship meal.

-Ministry – Servers: Sam Gerros has started serving.

-Prospora: Maddy Faldet has been added to baking and Angelica Pfitzinger will join within the next two months

-Choir: Sarah Tomac will be having surgery at the end of this month and possibly will not be available for a few weeks afterwards. Jeff Zdrate, Matt Tomac, and Noah Becker will divide covering during Sarah's absence.

-Pascha -Readers: Paul Novak will take care of coordinating readers for reading at the tomb, and readers for Holy Week. This will be taken care of as it gets closer to the dates.

-Flowers: Debra Novak has ordered the flowers for Pascha.

-Easter egg hunt: The Massopust family will not be here for Pascha so new volunteers will be needed to organize the egg hunt.



- Rose petals: We are also looking for someone to take care of obtaining and readying the rose petals for the tomb on Good Friday.

-Catechumens: We will be receiving approximately 15 people into the church on Lazarus Saturday, (April 12th) and another couple on the Sunday after Pentecost, (June 15th).

-Shelter meals: We will be hosting St John's Shelter meals on March 21st and on April 25th. We have already hosted four meals this year, which will bring our total by the end of the year to six meals. Last year we hosted three shelter meals. We have noticed that we haven't had participation from parishioners from the valley area, possibly due to distance and the meals being late at night. Sarah Tomac might know of potential shelters in that area that we might be able to serve next year.

- Photo directory: Father John will be meeting with Vera Limberopoulos next week going forward with the directory. Jennifer Kribs had offered to help with it. Peggy Roman is addressing issues getting the photos from her camera. We are attempting to have it completed by May.

-The men's lunch was on February 22 and went well. Father is considering scheduling another one in June.

-Retreat: The parish council will be having a sign-up potluck on Friday with Fr Paul Jannakos. Also, we will be having a parish potluck for the Saturday retreat with snacks provided by Father for the breaks.

-The large room: The remodel is going well. The room is being utilized well with some of the young men using the library. Last week some of them arrived at 4pm and were there until 6pm. Going forward, the council is considering options to give parishioners more access to the library, possibly with limited hours before services on Wednesday and Saturday. Options for library hours are being considered.

- Waupaca Mission: Father reached out to the pastor at the Amhurst Methodist Church but has been unable to meet with her due to weather. Father and Paul will be meeting with the pastor after Pascha regarding moving forward with the mission church plans to relocate.

-All American Conference: Father John and Paul Novak will be attending as our church delegates and Jeff Zdrate will be attending as an observer.

President's report - Paul Novak

- New chairs for Herrick Hall: see addendum.

- Donations: Jeff Zdrate will be donating processional banners, discussed during annual meeting. A donation was accepted via email for marble like flooring for the church vestibule.

-Painting: Ionut Munteanu offered to paint (with a few other volunteers) on March 25th and 26th, after services. Some of the walls in the Narthex will be given a fresh coat of paint and light blue will be extended into the coat room.

Vice-prescient's report – Matt Tomac

-Annual church picnic: Bay Beach will not be utilized this year due to various complications in the past. Matt is considering options, possibly at Pamperin Park or Preble Park. More to follow.



- Sound system for church: It has come to Father's attention that some people are have difficulty hearing during services. Matt and David Niemi have been looking into options at Father's request. Preliminary estimates were submitted at approximately \$2,000 which would include set up by David (who works with sound systems). The system could be 100% portable, would be utilized on the reader's stand and includes two speakers that were already donated. It was mentioned that the church has excellent acoustics with council members currently able hear in the back. Hearing becomes difficult when there is background noise in proximity to individuals, (e.g. near the door). Having a microphone will not negate background noise. Father and the council will continue to weigh the options going forward.

Treasure's report – Tom Julian

- The Investor360 report for our holdings as of 03/11/2025 was submitted to the council.

-We are in relatively good shape financially.

1. Applied large annual gift into Legacy & Endowment fund and will pull as needed. Put \$7500 of Iconography fund into L&E, earning 7.13%. Receiving \$60.00+ a month in dividends and interest on L&E.

2. Paid an extra \$500 towards the mortgage this month. Attempting to pay an extra \$1000 a month towards the mortgage.

3. Paid \$2500+ for plowing in January and February.

4. Electric bill was more than \$700 for two months and the water bill more than \$400 for the quarter.

5. Paid \$5000 for tables and chairs. Currently, we've received a little over \$1800 in donations for the chairs but are still a couple thousand dollars short of covering all of the costs. We still need to ask for chair donations to cover the full expense. Carpet and Narthex vestibule tile cost was donated.

6. Blinds, paint, tape, icon screen supplies, water cooler, signage \$1500+.

7. April will be Pascha flowers so we should ask now for donations.

8. February giving by source. Zelle = \$3950 + Aplos = \$1020 + offering, candles and bookstore = \$11,205 = Total \$16,175.00. Zelle and Aplos are recording software. It is a popular way for paying at the bookstore or tithing. Aplos takes a percentage, but Zelle does not.

9. Father's payroll is currently being done through an electronic payment service called Gusto, a \$60 monthly service. With this program, we pay the employer half of Father's social security and the employer half of his Medicare, reducing his salary accordingly, so Father does not have to pay these expenses. This facilitates Father's monthly withholdings and taxes at the end of the year.

(Matt exited the meeting at 6:51.)

new business:

-The annual deep cleaning of the church will be on Saturday, April 5th. Members are encouraged to participate. There will also be Divine Liturgy at Transfiguration Chapel in Sister Bay on April 5th.



-Noah Becker made a resolution to not need to second on motions presented before council (in group of 6 people). (The purpose of seconds is for large meetings.) Resolved, That, unless otherwise required by law or other binding document, no motion before the Parish Council shall require a second. Noah moves to adopt this resolution by council, Paul seconds the motion, approved by all.

- Noah asked for a resolution that we have at least one in-person parish council meeting per quarter, with the purpose being that other people that might want to run for council could just stay after service on Sunday to attend. It was stated by council that in person meetings can be difficult for multiple council members' schedules, particularly due to past and future traveling. Father stated that we do not need a resolution going forward for scheduling of council meetings, that Paul could determine when the meeting would be, and that we could trial an in-person meeting. It was agreed: to hold a one time in-person parish council meeting for the second quarter on Sunday May 11th. It would be after coffee, and not exceed 90 minutes.

old business:

It had been decided that the Iconostasis Icons will be replaced, (\$1,800/ icon). They will include Christ, the Theotokos, John the Baptist, and St Matthew. The deacon doors could have deacons or angles. The archangels' icons are already present in a prominent place high behind the alter. Father suggested placing the six-winged Seraphim on the doors, since we currently do not have icons representing this image. Dmitry confirmed that he could create these icons. Paul made a motion to have the six-winged Seraphim put on the Iconostasis deacon doors, approved by all.

A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting, approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06.

Father gave the closing prayer.

Addendum 03.11.2025

Per email from Paul Novak: purchasing new chairs for Herrick Hall

"At the Annual meeting held on February 2nd, President Paul Novak proposed to the assembled members that we replace all the old worn light blue chairs. Paul showed those at the meeting a plastic chair burgundy in color that all supported. These chairs cost \$30.00 apiece.

After a large collection of money at the annual meeting for these chairs and other gifts that came the week of Feb 2nd, a proposal was made by Tom Julian to purchase 130 chairs ASAP. At Vespers on Feb 5th a proposal was made by Tom and Second by Matt Tomac to move forward with this purchase. Father John, Noah, Paul, Tom, and Matt all approved. Total purchase price including shipping and without paying sales tax was \$4,014.16. This will allow us to have new chairs in Herrick Hall for Pascha 2025.

The chairs were delivered to SMOC on February 14th. The old blue chairs have been removed and recycled."

Addendum 03.18.2025

Per email from Paul Novak: Approval request - Church camp and picnic location

"Hello PC,



Looking for your approval on two items:

1. Last year the PC sponsored 4 scholarships to St. Mary's summer camp which is held for kids grades 3 - 12. This camp is June 28th- July 4th. These scholarships paid for 1/2 of the registration fee. This year that would be \$300 each for a total of \$1,200. Last year we offered this up and 2 scholarships were taken advantage of. I would like approval for us to offer these 4 scholarships again this year. I have attached this year's Camp flier to this email. It is my understanding that we have the funds on hand to support this program. When hopefully approved, this will be announced to the parish via a separate email, included in Saturday's email, announced in Church along with a flier put on the Herrick Hall bulletin board.

2. Church Picnic location. Green Isle Park in Allouez. The following link has a video showcasing the pavilion and park: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Uc1bjbS4C8> The park is a short 12-minute drive from Church. It has a large, enclosed pavilion that will be private to us. Parking is very close and allows for cars to be driven right next to the pavilion door for those that need some extra help. As these parks fill up fast, I approved Matt to reserve the Pavilion for August 24th. This is a fast free period. If there are some issues or concerns on this location, please let me know in your reply. After visiting the park, I think it will work out very well and be more like the private feel we had at Prebble Park.

Thank you for your support.

In Christ, Paul”

In summation: Paul Novak proposed for SMOC to sponsor 4 scholarships to St Mary's summer camps on June 28th -July 4th, covering half of the registration fee for each at \$300 each and \$1,200 total. All council members replied via email with approval.

Secondly, Paul Novak proposed having the annual church picnic at Green Isle Park in Allouez. All council members replied via email with approval.