

Meeting Minutes: Christian Orthodox Council of Akron

Date: Monday, December 21, 2023 (rescheduled from 12/18 due to bad weather)

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: St. George Orthodox Church

I. **Call to Order** President Judge Kathryn Michael at 6:34 P.M.

II. **Welcome and Prayer** Father John Alasaff

III. **Roll Call** The following council members were present:

1. St. George Akron - Judge Kathryn Michael
2. St. George Akron - Bob Snyder
3. St. George Akron - Fr. John Alasaf
4. St. Elia - Joshua Wherley
5. Presentation - Fr. Ian Pac-Urar
6. Presentation - Debbie Morgan
7. St. Nicholas - Basil Kochan
8. St. Thomas -Stephanie Marszal
9. Annunciation - Dr. John Bober
10. St. Matthew - Ginger DeFilippo

Board Reports:

1. **President's Report:**
 - President Judge Kathryn Michael read the email from Treasurer Lou Poplos.
 - Request for a postponement for writing checks.
 - St Nicholas donated \$1,000.00 to COCA.
 - Discussion on donation of COCA money to different organizations including monasteries, widows of priests from Akron Clergy Association, and St. Herman House. Decision was tabled to a future meeting.
2. Vice President's Report
 - N/A
3. Secretary's Report
 - Vice President Joshua Wherley presented the Minutes. Bob Snyder moved to accept; Stephanie Marszal seconded. All in favor.
4. Treasurer's Report – Lou Poplos not in attendance.

Church Updates:

Presentation of Our Lord

- Journey to Fullness video series ongoing on Thursday evenings.
- House blessings begin in February 2024.
- St. Nicholas dinner and cookie walk held.
- Nativity service preparations.
- Movie event on January 18th.
- Alaska fundraiser for church steeple.

Annunciation

- Sunday of Orthodoxy on March 24 - Metropolitan Savas will be the celebrant.
- VasilOPapita Dance on January 20.

St. Elia

- Received a family of four.
- Catechumen to be received next month.
- Sub-Deacon's ordination in 2024.
- Grand total for Alaska was \$2550.00.
- Salad Bingo event in Feb 2024.

St. George

- Wrapping up food and coat drive.
- Young Adults meeting on Jan 17, 2024.
- Traditional Theophany celebration.
- Many services during Nativity.
- Family Christmas event December 15, 2023
- New Icons in church

St. Nicholas

- Upcoming services for the Nativity.
- Nativity service on Sunday evening.
- Liturgies on December 26 and 27, 2023, for Feast days.
- Great Reindeer Hoax murder mystery dinner on Dec 29.
- Visit from St Nicholas on December 10.

St. Thomas

- in the process of leasing their hall to a Montessori school.
- Chrismation updates, church guests, and a new youth college scholarship fund updates.

Orthodox Christian Women

- Winter Mini-Retreat on January 20, 9:30 AM – 12 Noon, at St. Elia.
- Theme: "Question the Clergy."

Akron Summit County Clergy Association- no updates

Old Business:

- Update on Orthodox Web Solutions & the COCA website.
- Review of 3ETREAT at St Nicholas on December 9, 2023. 41 adults and 10 youth participated from many different parishes and jurisdictions.
- Fellowship of Orthodox Christians of America Christmas YouTube Video Concert on Christmas night.
- Discussion on a possible pan-Orthodox choir concert.
- Financial support for priests' widows.

Closing Prayer Fr. Ian

Adjournment Judge Kathryn Michael

Next Meeting Annunciation at 6:30 PM, January 15, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Ginger DeFilippo