

Meeting Minutes: Christian Orthodox Council of Akron

Date: Monday, April 15, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: St Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church

Call to Order: President Judge Kathryn Michael called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Welcome & Opening Prayer: Bob Snyder

Roll Call:

1. St George - Judge Kathryn Michael (President)
2. St George - Bob Snyder
3. St Elia - Mary Marcin
4. St Elia - Joshua Wherley (Vice President, temporary Secretary)
5. St Nicholas - Basil Kochan
6. Presentation of Our Lord - Maria Waterhouse
7. Annunciation - John Bober
8. Annunciation - Lou Poplos (Treasurer)

Secretary's Report – Mary Marcin motioned to accept the March 2024 meeting minutes as read by Joshua Wherley, Maria Waterhouse seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Lou Poplos reported that the current balance is \$12,101.94. This includes some money brought in from the Sunday of Orthodoxy booklet. There are three pending expenditures at this time: one \$750 check each for two seminarians (Emmanuel & Cole) from Annunciation & St Nicholas parishes, respectively, and the check for Orthodox Web Solutions. The latter expense has been deducted from the current balance.

Parish Updates

Presentation updates:

- Video series about spiritual disciplines (began March 14th) based on writings by Fr Evan Armatas is wrapping up soon.
- Primavara Romanian festival is scheduled for May 18th from 11 AM - 7 PM. Online food pre-order is running from April 15th - May 1st.
- Bake sale ordering has closed.
- One baby baptism occurred since the last COCA meeting.
- A Palm Sunday dinner is planned, all are welcome to attend.

Minutes continued next page →

Presentation updates, continued:

- Parish Sunday school is leading a fundraiser for the OCA Diocese of Alaska.

Annunciation:

- *Violins & Hope*, a book by author Daniel Levin chronicling the story of how violins from the Holocaust are now played in symphony halls, will be discussed with Levin April 18th at 7 PM.
- A dinner for parish high school & college graduates is planned to take place in June, as well as an April 30th dinner for underserved graduates who are in the Akron area from outside the parish.
- *Man of God* movie about St Nektarios of Aegina showing has been postponed.
- Loads of Love & Good Samaritans Food Pantry are active and always looking for volunteers to help.

St Archangel Michael: Meeting held on parish grounds, but no representation was present.

St Elia:

- Orthodox Christians for Life “National Baby Shower” supplies drive will be active through the end of the month and benefit ZOE for Life! in Cleveland, OH.
- Sisterhood of St Julianna is planning a meal train for parishioners in need, details to follow.

St George:

- Lazarus Saturday service planned for April 27th.
- Holy Saturday brunch following Divine Liturgy planned for May 4th.
- Palm Sunday bake sale is planned for those interested.
- Young Adults meeting April 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Food will be provided.

St Herman: No representation was present.

St Mary: No representation was present.

St Nicholas:

- Four new catechumens have begun instruction & continue to attend the services.
- A new family has started attending the parish services.
- “Blessings in a Backpack” school supplies drive to benefit local kids will begin soon.
- Ongoing clothing drive to benefit homeless men served by St Herman’s House in Cleveland, OH; new clothing is preferred.
- Parish will host Fellowship of Orthodox Christians of America youth events with bishops.
- Fr Nicholas Wyslutzky will help priests at St Thomas make Holy Chrism for April 21st service.

Minutes continued next page →

St Nicholas updates, continued:

- Parish is hosting an upcoming Orthodox Christian Women retreat featuring Fr Barnabas Powell as speaker. The event starts at 9:30 AM, preceded by Akathist at 8:30 AM.

St Thomas:

- OCW will have Divine Liturgy commemorating St Irene, held at St Thomas.

St Demetrius: No representation was present.

OCW:

- An all-day retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell is planned for April 20th. The \$20.00 registration cost includes breakfast & lunch.

Akron Summit County Clergy Association: No representation was present.

New Business:

- Distribution of funds to charities discussion was tabled for the time being. It will be re-examined at the May or June meeting. Once funds are decided, distribution of those funds will take place in September 2024.
- A St Constantine School (franchise model system for a pan-Orthodox School with a Classical Christian Curriculum) discussion meeting at Annunciation will be held May 19, 2024 at 3 PM and is open to any who are interested to attend. Additionally, Mark Raish will be meeting via a Zoom call on May 20.
- John Bober recommended setting an agenda for the May 20th meeting, including the elections of officers (so they can be sworn in during the June meeting), and setting a schedule of COCA Meetings for 2024-2025. We may need input on this from the Clergy Association to balance Old and New Calendars.
- COCA may consider contacting an area priest to help as spiritual adviser.
- Fundraising ideas/pan-Orthodox event ideas include a Pysanky workshop, singing workshop/learn tones in each other's traditions, icon writing workshop, and building on Dr. Bober's scavenger hunt/passport stamp/church hop idea. Basil Kochan mentioned getting a "COCA Bean Coffee" brew, he could elaborate further. Finally, the parishes could make a list of Orthodox persons we could approach for help and to donate time to teach/instruct/organize.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024 at Annunciation, begins 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Bob Snyder

Minutes submitted: Joshua Wherley – temporary COCA Secretary