

COCA September 2024

September 16 2024 / 6:12 PM / St Nicholas

ATTENDEES

St George: Judge Kathryn Michael, Robert Snyder

St. Nicholas: Basil Kochan

Annunciation: Fr Nick Manuel, Lou Poplos, John Bober

St Elia: Joshua Wherley

Presentation of Our Lord: Debbie Morgan, Maria Waterhouse

AGENDA

Old Business

Secretary read the minutes. A Motion is made by Basil Kochan to accept the minutes, and seconded by Joshua Wherley. The motion is passed.

The Treasurer report is given by Lou Poplos. The balance is \$5760.63. Joshua Wherley moves to accept the report, seconded by Debbie Morgan. The motion is passed.

New Business

- Presentation of Our Lord:

The beautification committee is working hard on a new landscaping and lighting project.

There are currently 2 new inquirers.

October 26-27 will be the new steeple celebration with Archbishop Nathaniel presiding. There will be Vespers at 5:00 on Saturday with reception afterward. The Liturgy on Sunday will be followed by a Swiss Steak dinner. All are invited.

There will be a Family Fall Fundraiser with chili hayrides for all on September 29 following Liturgy.

- Annunciation:

Annual Greekfest is September 19-21.

Annual Mission Walk is Oct 19 beginning at 9:30 benefiting non profits in Akron followed by a lunch of delicious Greek food!

- Archangel Michael - No representation.
- St Elia:

There is a family of 4 catechumens.

A new cross was installed and blessed to replace the one that was damaged/vandalized at the side of the church.

October 1-4 the parish is hosting the diocesan conference. Subdeacon Aaron Gray will be ordained to the diaconate.

- OCW:

There will be a retreat Oct 13 at 2:00 at St George. Fr. Deacon James Gresh will speak on his mission work in China.

- St George:

Mother Gabriella speaking this Saturday.

Instead of the parish summer picnic in the summer, there will be a Thanksgiving gathering Nov 17.

Young adults meeting tomorrow. For Ages 19-35. There are married couples that attend as well as young families.

The Men's group just started 3 months ago, they meet on the 1st Thursday every month.

- Bishop Anthony of Toledo has been moved to CA. He is being replaced by Archimandrite Jeremy Davis who has written 2 books.
- St Herman - no representation.
- St Mary : no representation.

- St Nicholas:

This Saturday is the golf outing on September 21st.

3rd annual Craft fair this Sat 9-5. There is a \$2.00 admission fee. Food will be available.

Sacred Alaska, the award winning movie/documentary will be shown this Monday September 23rd 7:00. All proceeds, including concessions, will go to the diocese of Alaska. Cash only at the door and for concessions. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

The All American Council will be in Arizona with the Canonization of St Olga in Alaska 16th of July vigil, canonization on 17th.

Thank you letter from St Theodosius parish was read by Basil Kochan. Restoration will mostly be covered by insurance but will need \$400,000-\$500,000 more. They have already raised about 200,000 through generous donations. Prayers are most welcome. 2-3 years forecasted for completion. St Nicholas parish had a dessert auction to benefit St Theodosius parish and raised \$8,000.

There will be a Health and Retirement fair on October 14.

The front steps are completed.

Brochures with information on St Nicholas Orthodox Cemetery between Massillon Rd and Arlington Rd were distributed. All are welcome.

- St Thomas no representation.
- OCW: book study is on Journey to Reality Zachary Porcu. It starts October 8, and will be held every Tuesday, in the mornings, skipping election day, and in the evenings by Fr James Leaks via ZOOM.
- Clergy Association: A combined Liturgy of all the Akron, Orthodox parishes will be celebrated Saturday April 26, 2025 of Bright Week. It will be at St Nicholas at 10:00. Bring foods to share with your own ethnic flair. Basil Kochan asked Fr Nick to have Clergy Association share this with their choir directors.
- St Nick said FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) has an annual Christmas choir production. He suggested all parishes in COCA

create a 2-3 Christmas choir video. Basil Encouraging Orthodox hymns and some chanting opposed to the secular carols. There is a Google link to Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America on YouTube. Need video by week before Christmas. Fr Nick encouraged videos with children singing.

- October 7th The Miraculous Icon of Tikhvin will return to St Nicholas at 7:00pm with Akathist.
- John Bober provided a handout to share on the objective of COCA and what we should be focusing on. COCA promotes fellowship, publicizes events, and encourages greater attendance, etc.
- Effective Parish Assessment by Orthodox Ministry Services was discussed. It is a free service offered by Bill Marianes who is associated with OCA Ministry Services. Any parish can do this. It is a multi question online assessment that any parishioner fills out. Orthodox Ministry then scores it and lumps it into 6 major pillars. It tells where your strong and weak points are. John strongly encourages all parishes of COCA to do this and we share our results with each other. This ministry has been in existence since 2022. There are podcasts describing this. Each podcast lasts about 2 hours. Approx 50-55 parishes have done this in the US.
- Debbie Morgan presents a flier for Faith and Blue October 5th at Hardesty Park 11-2pm. The Presentation of our Lord is planning on having a booth. Debbie Morgan suggests COCA join them. Everyone agreed, COCA should be present.
- Clergy Association priests support an Orthodox school, (St Constantine) in Akron.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30. Fr Nick Manuel led the closing prayer.

Next meeting is at St Elia on October 21 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Waterhouse