

Parish Council Meeting December 10, 2023

Present -Father Joel Gillam, Alex Ibrahim, Joe Solomon, Joseph F. Solomon, Cynthia Long, Michael Solomon, Gary Sarkessian, Tony Nasr, Kerry San Chirico, Jerome Burke, Marcia Ibrahim, Karen Burke

- I. Call to order and opening prayer - Fr. Joel 12:57
- II. Approval of November Meeting Minutes - separate attachment
- III. Pastoral Visit with Bishop Thomas for Sunday December 31 and January 1
- Father Joel will be away 12/27- 12/30 - no Vespers on Saturday 12/30
- IV. Chairman's report - Alex I –
 - a. Encouraging St. George Community to attend Advent Night - Saturday December 16
-with Pot Luck Dinner (sign up Genius) ,making ornaments, cookies and fellowship - begins after Vespers (4:30 pm) Sunday School Presentation after Liturgy on December 18
 - b. Working on church tax exemptions and possible 503 c 3 status
 - c. Presentation of a rough draft a brochure - “ Stewardship & Giving Guide “ - Alex and Emma
Many thanks to Emma Ibrahim for her help on the brochure
- V. Treasurer's Report - Tony Nasr
-see attached report for November
-\$ 660 collected for Thanksgiving Boxes
-\$ 2,067- collected and sent to the Archdiocese for Humanitarian Aid
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Choir - Karen Burke -Choir working hard in preparation for Nativity Services - having rehearsals Tuesday evenings in December and after services on Sunday
- Sunday school youth have been learning hymns and Christman carols in preparation for the the events
 - B. Adult Education - Kerry San Chirico - no report
 - C. Icon Committee- Caroline Becker- No report
 - D. Joe F Solomon - no report - in person meeting scheduled for later 12/10/2023
 - E. Maintenance Committee- Gary Sarkessian -
 - Church cleanup day scheduled for am 12/16
 - Obtaining door stoppers to keep doors open to prevent the pipes from freezing
 - Tony fixed Ladies room stall lock in November
 - Fr Joel set thermostat in annex to prevent pipes from freezing
 - Gary checking on sump pump in outside storage (adjacent to men's room) - may not be functioning
 - Fr. Joel advised that electrical status/improvements as recommended by Jonathan Black were reviewed
 - Faris working on HVAC balancing calculations
 - Joe Solomon getting register covers for the the downstairs heating and A/C distribution openings

Electrical updates - will inspect and/or update electric to insure that all 4 A/C compressors can run

F. Ministry Team (vacant) - no report

G. St. Katherine Women - Cynthia Long - Successful bus trip to Lancaster December 2 to Sight and Sound Theatre

H. Stewardship Committee - Jerome Burke

Reviewed topics from committee meeting November 14 - financial data supplied by Tony and Gary -

73 regular contributors to St. George over the past 2 years

9 families or individuals contribute 50 percent of collections

20 families contribute 75 percent of collections

Average donation \$ 2300 per year - Median donation \$ 730 –

- Discussion ensued with respect to how best encourage greater participation in the giving process
- Jerry gave brief Stewardship presentation on November 14 after Stewardship Committee sponsored coffee hour
- Other presentation in the future on “ What St George’s Means to Me “ - Gary S and Ben Daniel for the future
- If presentation done in great room - need microphone

Need direction from PC and Long Range planning about initiation of capital campaign and encouraging the faithful about making an annual pledge

I. Sunday School – vacant - Sunday 12/17 program after Liturgy- teens taking the lead

J. Teen Soyo – Alex I

- a. Cookie Event and White Elephant get together very successful
- b. Teens will be making cookies for Advent Night and neighbors
- c. Will be delivering cards and cookies to neighborhood residents

VI New Business

A. Nominating Committee- Gary S

- Officers with expiring terms- Alex, Ibrahim Kerry SC and Lucy Ibrahimend of 2023
- Alex I, Sherri SC and Carolone Becker have agreed to run- Emma Ibrahim and Gus Hadad eligible to run as they were 1 year appointments by Fr. Joel

B. –”Non- Orthodox Charities “ allocated in the budget -\$ 1000 available - Gary S

\$ 250 Nationality Services, \$ 250 Hope PHL and \$ -250 Upper Darby Food Bank - food donations are also encouraged dry– good - pasta, oatmeal ect

C. Orthodox Charities –\$ 3250 available Gary S -proposed charities

- \$ 500 Neighborhood Resilience Project - Pittsburg PA
- \$ 500 Project Mexico Orthodox Orphanage
- \$ 500 Saint Nicholas Orthodox Orphanage Uganda
- \$ 250 Saint Moses the Black Orthodox Church Pittsburg PA -(Antiochian)
- \$ 250 Reconciliation Services Kansas City MO. (Thelma’s Kitchen and St Mary of Egypt)

VII. General Business remarks

- Readers and greeters - January 14– Michael Solomon - reader - Jerome Burke Greeter
- VIII, Closing Prayer and Motion to Adjourn 2 pm
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Minutes Approved on January 14, 2024