

St. Raphael Annual Voter's Meeting  
Dec 5, 2021

Meeting opened at 12:41pm

A quorum was established - 25 voting members were present.

**Father Ignatius provided the Annual Priest's Update:**

Refinanced our mortgage this year and were able to acquire  
We hosted the Pan Orthodox blessing of the waters in Jan 2021 and received some media coverage for this.

We started the year with virtual services and virtual coffee hour.

Our Thursday evening book group has discussed 4 books this year.

Father recently offered a 6 week Intro to Orthodoxy course.

Kristi Abuissa grew vegetables in our garden.

We installed a new fence in the backyard.

Every 2-3 months we continue to offer prayers for our departed loved ones.

20th Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Anthony.

Charitable outreach efforts -

3 meals at the Catholic Worker House

We raised medical funds for a few of our parishioners.

We purchased the casket for Fr. Maximos Herman when he passed away unexpectedly.

We continue to provide for our community with the Food pantry.

This year we celebrated one chrismation, one baptism, and one funeral.

**Alli presented the Parish-wide Survey results:**

Parishioners feel that a successful Capital Campaign would help us minister to the surrounding community, build up an emergency fund, and ensure financial stability for Father.

The mortgage is a higher priority for most people than the kitchen or elevator projects.

Another high priority long-term for our parishioners is increasing engagement with our OCF group, hosting free community meals

**Alli provided other parish-wide updates:**

January 25 we are hosting a reading from "The Northern Lights of Christ" by a local Orthodox author from Cedar Rapids.

We determined through the feasibility study done by Linda Wastyn that we are eligible for several grants to help fund the kitchen and elevator projects. Individual donations will then be able to focus on the mortgage.

We need everyone to pray about the financial stability and future of St. Raphael's parish - Alli passed around a prayer sign-up sheet. Families are encouraged to pray at least once per week (Two Psalms relating to God's House were distributed to pray weekly.)

In 2022 we will have a sign-up sheet for baking sweet Artos bread for certain Feast days.

There will also be a sign-up sheet to be a greeter in 2022. Brian Horak has served as our main greeter in 2021 and we encourage others to join in the effort to greet visitors to our Sunday Liturgy.

Alli explained the process we will be following for the Capital Campaign. The feasibility study has been completed. Now we will enter the silent phase of the campaign when we will focus on continuing private conversations with potential large donors, and writing grants to obtain funds for the kitchen and elevator projects.

#### **Becky provided the financial update:**

2020 financial update:

We received PPP money in 2020, which did help us weather the pandemic. The PPP loan was through Celtic Bank. Net income in 2020 was negative. We did pass an unbalanced budget in 2020, but God provided. Sunday money for 2020 was \$7000 (unpledged).

2021 financial update:

We had additional costs this year for:

1. Funds needed for the 20th Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Anthony
2. Fr. Maximos Herman's casket
3. Taking over website domain hosting from a former parishioner (\$300 biannually)
4. We embarked on a feasibility study with Linda Wastyn for our parish Capital Campaign and as well as the design of a brochure describing our campaign that we can use for marketing within the community.

The mortgage balance currently stands at \$177,000. Our monthly mortgage payment is currently \$1600.

The council will publish the Parish Council minutes from our monthly meetings in the Church Bulletin to keep everyone informed about what is discussed at meetings.

#### **Becky presented the 2022 Budget:**

We voted on 3 versions of the same budget:

Healthy Church Budget (ideal - but we are not there with pledges)

Middle of the Road Budget

Keep the Doors Open Budget

If approved as a whole, the Parish Council will adjust as necessary and will move to “Middle of the Road” or “Keep the Doors Open” budget.

Father’s salary including 5% Cost of Living Adjustment is the same for all 3 budgets

Comments on other line items:

Our building insurance went up \$130 this year.

Charitable Outreach is a new line item - the council would like to be able to give to the community outside of ourselves to places like Informed Choices Medical Clinic, Ronald McDonald House, etc.

SUNDAY MONEY IS NOT A LINE ITEM THIS YEAR (it has been in the past).

Line items we don’t currently have funding for:

Liturgical supplies

Sunday School supplies

Choir supplies

Current pledges:

Mortgage: \$1535 per month currently pledged (\$100 short)

Operating Costs: \$6427.50 per month currently pledged (\$3000 short)

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Karen is at the end of her 3-year term on Parish Council and will not stand for re-election in 2022. Brian Horak’s first term also ends this month.

One council position will be filled by election, one by appointment.

The parish voted to fill 2 Parish Council positions:

Brian Horak and Austin Collins ran for the seats.

Brian Horak was voted in and Austin Collins was appointed by Father Ignatius to the Parish Council for 2022.