

Agenda
Annual Parish Meeting
February 2, 2025

- I. Opening
 - a. Divine Liturgy
 - b. Opening Prayer
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reports
 - a. Approval of 2024 Parish Meeting Minutes
 - b. Parish Rector
 - c. Parish Council President
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Financial Report
 - ii. 2025 Proposed Budget
 - e. Financial Secretary
 - f. Audit Committee
 - g. Building Committee
 - h. Cemetery
 - i. Education
 - j. Investment
 - k. Outreach/Evangelization
 - l. Technology
 - m. Choir
 - n. Myrrh Bearing Women
 - o. O Club
 - p. Nominating Committee
- IV. Elections
 - a. Parish Council & Officers
 - b. 2025 All American Council & Diocese Assembly Representative
 - c. Auditors (elect two)
 - d. Nominating Committee (elect one)
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - a. Church Activities
 - i. Golf Tournament – October 4, 2025
 - ii. Myrrh Bearing Women Ethnic Eats – November 8, 2025
 - iii. O Club Events
 - iv. Parish Feast Day – 125th Anniversary – September 7, 2025
 - b. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

**Annual Parish Meeting
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish
February 4, 2024**

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

Attendance was taken. 27 voting members present.

Roll call of council members:

Fr. Nicholas Finley

Robert Butchko, President

Lori Billy, Vice President

John Derr, Treasurer (deceased)

Sarah Butchko, Secretary

George Smith, Financial Secretary

Members at large: Jason Basso, Michael Butchko, Andrew Konon, Christine Schilling

Robert Butchko asked if everyone had reviewed the 2023 annual meeting minutes and if there were any questions or corrections. There were none.

A motion was made by Jason Basso and seconded by Brian Prince to accept the minutes as written; motion carried.

Reports were reviewed (see packet for reports).

Rector Report:

Father Nicholas' report is as written.

Parish education: broader participation in parish membership to help welcome those coming into our faith and welcoming them. There are free resources listed in Father's report. Please consider making use of these.

There were no questions.

President Report:

Robert Butchko presented his report for the year.

Business: according to the bylaws the cost of living was 3.2% and that impacts our spending limits as a council. Now the council is able to spend up to \$12,859 before we need parish approval.

We lost a parishioner this year (Mag Knipping) and she is leaving money to the church. Bob mentioned that this is an option for all of us.

Places of employment match charitable donations. We have collected almost \$10,000 this year from those programs. Check with your employer to see if they participate in this program.

Thank you to the parish for helping us be able to complete projects around the church this past year: sidewalks, bell, and icons.

Finances: we relied on a lot of outside sources. Take a good look at your finances and if you can give more, that would be wonderful. Costs are increasing.

Website: we are going to look at some things that we can do to tweak it. There is an Orthodox priest in MO who specializes in this and we have reached out to him. Our YouTube is now easier to access due to some adjustments made on the website.

Questions:

Andy: Is there a resource that we are accepting suggestions from? Yes-we will take suggestions from anyone.

Liz: Thank you for the microphone suggestions to be able to hear Father better online and for the links about our faith on the website.

There were no questions.

Vice President/Building Report:

Lori Billy presented the report as written.

Brick work: has to be done on the outside. We are risking some structural damage with water getting into the bricks. It has become a high priority. Mike has been working to find us bids. The tuckpointing is going to be around \$35,000. They would grind approx. 1 inch mortar, remove/replace broken bricks, cleanup job site, acid wash walls, waterproofing sealant, and the area below the windows-will remove existing stucco and replace. At the time of the bid, about 200 bricks that need to be removed. Each winter more bricks need to be replaced. There are cracks in the stucco and you can see the concrete blocks behind it. The plaster is going to be removed and new plaster put on. The mortar is \$24,730. There will be new mortar all around the church. The sealant should help out for many years to come. They only have to acid wash the bricks once. \$10,750 for the rest. The other bid was about \$40,000 just for mortar. The company we want to go with has a good rating on BBB and online 4.8 rating. They can start right away and would be finished before Pascha. The council has looked over this and are suggesting that we do both at the same time. We can discuss the money in the budget.

Questions:

Karen: will it stop the leaking in the bell tower? No-it's a separate issue.

Andy: Have you considered getting an estimate for a new door for the bell tower? No, we need to grind it down, get the rust off, and paint it. That will help it close tighter.

Solar Panels: electric bill is average of \$800 a month. In the state of IL, you get quite a bit of money back for installing solar.

BKJ solar-owner is on the IL board for solar. They came out and gave a presentation last week. They would put solar panels on the hall (front, back, and side) and part of the church. They take a years worth of electric bills. The savings would be silly to pass up the deal. The total would be around \$124,000. The state of IL has Srec money. If you do solar panels, you get money back from the state and federal government. We are considered non-profit and in a zone with not a lot of solar panels and a low socioeconomic area. We would get back non-profit \$73,744, \$37,296 back from feds. It would cost us around \$13,000. In payment reduction alone, we would save between \$8000-9000 a year. In the next few years, it's going to zero out and eventually we will be on the plus side. Our energy we create will be about 103%, which is over what we would need. We would be paying \$16 hook up fee per month per building. The first

payment would come in 6 months-12 months. The rest will be distributed quarterly. How do we pay for it? We have to pay the money up front. We can get a loan of possibly 5-6% and would be just for the solar. There would be no lien against the church, it would be against the solar panels. He could not get the paperwork for today, but is hoping to get it to us this week. There is a certain pot of money and someone else could get to it before us. We would not be committing to a contract today; we would be committing to hold it and they would come out and do all of their legwork and get us the paperwork. Then, he will come back with the contract. It would be October before they would be able to install the panels. Once installed, our electric bill will go away. You don't have any maintenance with the panels. There is a 20-25 year guarantee for maintenance. Lori and Mike went to FCB bank and they suggested a construction loan. We could take the money out right now and do the tuckpointing and go back later and take money out for the solar panels. The payments are over 20 years for the loan. The payments would be low and there's no penalty to pay off early. Our payments will drop as we make lump sum payments over time. The loan would be roughly \$175,000-monthly payment would be \$1432. We would still be paying the power bills until the solar panels are installed. Next year, we would be able to take \$800 off. The trust payment should come to us by the end of the year. If the solar loan comes back at a lower rate and conditions make that one better, then we have to find a loan for the tuckpointing or take out of investments. We would be better off having a debt percentage than cashing in investments. They are going to check the roofs (they are about 10 years old). If we re roof after solar panels, there is an additional cost of about \$5000 to take off and reinstall the solar panels. If the roof is part of the project, they believe they can make it seem like it needs to be replaced as part of this.

Questions:

Helen: Did you contact the insurance company? Yes-they said it may go up about \$200 a year. The equipment is warrantied for 25 years. They believe it will last longer. Hail damage is part of the warranty.

Janice: make sure we don't miss cutoff dates for these programs to get funds from federal and state programs. Once we lock in, we're good

Helen Allen makes a motion that we move forward with the solar panels. Janice Kren seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report:

Robert Butchko presented the report.

John Derr passed away. John put a lot of effort into the treasurer's job. Memory Eternal!

Father spoke about how grateful he was for John and Bob and Sharon for taking over.

Highlights from report:

Balance Sheet: total assets went up because of investments, even though we have a negative balance.

Under assets to the far right, you can't make the numbers add up. The savings money market has 3 funds within it. Take checking and investments and add 27%.

We had to use \$33,500 from investments to pay the bills. \$25,000 of offering money comes from someone who is not a member of our church.

We went through and called the phone company and internet and they lowered our bill. We have on the calendar to call each year to negotiate.

Expense sheet: we were over on building maintenance (sidewalk-added more to the project, altar room, lighting, bell), office expenses (phone and internet), urgent needs (3 cases).

If we get a loan for projects, we won't need as much money as allocated on the budget because we would be making monthly payments on the loan and not paying it all up front. Our janitor has been working at the same rate for the last 7-8 years, so we increased him \$50 a month. Our insurance also increased.

Questions:

Todd:Diocesan assessment-why did it go up? The way they calculate it is based on your offering. If you have a designated offering, that is not assessed. General is assessed. This year in June will be based on 2022. The assessed rate is 13%.

A motion was made by Shaun McKeal to approve the operating budget as presented and seconded by Jason Basso; motion carried.

Mike Macek motions to approve the tuckpointing project for 35,000. Seconded by Jason Basso; motion carried.

Elizabeth Sweet motions that we fund the project by incurring debt. Seconded by Jason Basso ; motion carried.

Audit Committee Report:

Sandy Ellis and Pat Lecko are the committee.

Sandy presented the report.

Sandy thanked John, Bob and Sharon. Everything that was in question, they found answers.

Recommendations: treasurer should have receipts, council members be diligent to submit receipts to the treasurer on time. That makes it hard to reconcile. In Quickbooks there were abbreviations and sometimes spelled out. For the auditors sake, please don't use abbreviations; consistent names.

Counters please be more diligent when posting donations.

No questions.

A motion was made by Karen Butchko to accept the audit committee report and seconded by Todd Sweet; motion carried.

Cemetery Report:

Sarah Butchko presented the report.

Since the report was completed, we have found that Calvary will no longer dig graves at our cemetery. We are pursuing other companies.

Questions:

Andy: Are we pursuing getting water to the cemetery? Yes, we want to get water to the tap. We can look at it this Spring to see how much it will cost to run a line. \$3000 puts a meter in.

Financial Secretary/Investment Report:

George Smith presented his report for the year.

If you would like a statement of your donations for 2023, please let George know.

Investments went up this year; 13.8% for the year. \$33,564 was withdrawn from investments throughout the year. Our investments were able to fund some of our projects (building fund). The percentage increase for each of the accounts were very fair and good. STL investments had a 13% rate of return. Invesco had a 34.5% return.

Questions:

Julie: Are the returns net of fees? Yes

Education Report:

Father Nicholas orally presented the report.

Mr. Brannon was running the church school by himself last year, so this year we added many additional teachers to help, as recommended by the parish council. Consider becoming involved in the church school if you aren't involved. If you aren't comfortable with helping with children, you can help Father Nicholas with Catechism classes. We need everybody involved to help create a culture.

There were no questions.

Investment Committee Report:

George Smith presented the report as written.

There were no questions.

Outreach Committee Report:

Father Nicholas presented the report orally.

We received some funds from the deanery from a trust. They were sending us a couple thousand dollars a year for outreach. We used the funds for the community BBQ's this year. There has been increased foot traffic and interest. There will not be any disbursements from the trust this year. They are waiting for the funds to increase. We would have to take funds from the parish if we want to continue with the community BBQ's.

No questions.

Technology Committee Report:

Father Nicholas presented the report.

There are some issues with the sound system and we're trying to work to improve some sound issues. We have opted to not have the wireless microphone for now.

Peter Lecko was chairing the committee and Brian Prince has been helping with the livestream. Share any difficulties or problems with Brian, so he can try to help fix them.

Questions:

Sandy: I heard you just fine when I watched from home.

Steve: the sound was gargled until the Sunday you stopped using the microphone.

Andrea: as long as you're facing front, you can hear Father just fine.

Choir Report:

Karen Butchko presented the report.
Father Nicholas thanked Karen, Lori, and all of the choir members. This is our greatest vehicle for outreach.
No questions.

Ladies Sodality Report:

Sharon Butchko presented the report.
The upstairs range has been replaced.
Nov. 9 is going to be the Ethnic Eats day.
March 12 we will start making peroghi.
No questions.

O' Club Report:

Andrea Davies spoke and report as written.
The bake sale is next week. Bunco is March 1.
There were no questions.

Nominating Committee/Elections:

For the office of President: Robert Butchko
Vice President: Michael Macek
Secretary: Christine Schilling
Treasurer: Julie Nadolny
Financial Secretary: George Smith
Members at Large: Jason Basso, Michael Butchko, Andrew Konon, Todd Sweet

Father Nicholas asked for any further nominations from the floor. Karen Butchko made a motion that the nominations be closed and the slate of officers be accepted; Steve Rydig seconded; voted on; motion carried.

Are there any nominations from the floor for the open positions?
Adina Prince nomiates Brian Prince to be a member at large. Andrew Konon would like to step down from the council.

Members at Large: Jason Basso, Michael Butchko, Brian Prince, Todd Sweet

Lori Billy made a motion that the nominations be closed for the nominations for members at large and the slate be accepted; Rebecca McKeal seconded; motion carried.

Diocesan Assembly Representative:

Robert Butchko nominates Lori Billy to serve as our Diocesan council representative. Jason Basso will serve as the alternate. There are no additional nominations.

A motion was made by Matushka Tanya Succarotte for Lori Billy to serve as Diocesan council representative; Sandy Ellis seconded; motion carried.

Auditors:

Sandy Ellis and Pat Lecko agreed to serve on the nominating committee. Jason Basso motions to accept and Bob Butchko seconds the motion; motion carried.

Nominating Committee:

Rebecca McKeal nominated herself as lay person and a council representative will be selected at our next council meeting.

Jason Basso motions to accept and Brian Prince seconds the motion; motion carried.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Church Activities:

Golf Tournament is October 5

Family Reunion/Picnic is September 8. The theme is the 90th anniversary of Mhyrr Bearing Women

Trivia Night-if someone wants to chair for next year

125th Anniversary: 2025-Archbishop Daniel will attend and he plans to bring a Deacon

Dioces has someone who will do workshops to help improve your choir. Karen would like to host this and invite other parishes.

Jason Basso talked to Father Tim and they have a church camp in Kansas (EOYC). Ages 7 and up. Jason volunteers to go and bring some kids from the parish. Father Nicholas and Father Matthew have been asked to take it over. Lori suggested maybe sponsoring a kid if you're willing and able.

Other:

None

A motion was made by Lori Billy and seconded Jason Basso to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Butchko
Sarah Butchko, Secretary

Fr. Nicholas Finley
Father Nicholas Finley, Parish Priest

Rector's Report 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As of September 1, 2024 (for the period between September 1, 2023 and September 1, 2024):

Supporting Membership - 62; Average Sunday Attendance at Divine Liturgy - 39; Average Sunday Communicants 38; Average Saturday Vigil/Vespers Attendance - 9; Number of Catechumens - 2; Baptisms - 0; Funerals - 2; Marriages - 0; Receptions into Orthodoxy - 1; Church School/Number enrolled - 10; Adult Education Participating - 7.

We've also received back into communion 2 parishioners who had been not attending up until this year, who were received back by having their confession heard and receiving Holy Communion

In last year's reports, there was an identification for the need for additional members of the parish. In light of this realization, the Parish Council and I had a book suggested for study by one of the Parish Council members. This book is entitled "Reclaiming the Great Commission" by Father Evan Aramatas. Father Evan is a priest in the Greek Archdiocese of North America who upon being ordained to the Holy Priesthood, asked his bishop to assign him to a location with no Orthodox Christian presence. In other words he was requesting to be placed somewhere that would require him (and his family) to start a parish with zero parishioners. The book offers opportunity for reflection and organization and team building skills, for of parishes of all kinds, in order to focus primarily on fulfilling the mandate of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Matthew's Gospel. Matthew 28:18-20 is commonly referred to in shorthand as "The Great Commission". "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Amen. These words given to us by our Lord and Savior through his apostle and evangelist Matthew are a clear indicator of what the work of this Parish chiefly is. The Lord is not committing this to people who have a particular skill set, or scholastic training. This is because this work is done in the Holy Spirit by the Church. So, each member of the Body of Christ is called to this effort. It is encouraging to realize that we are equipped for this work, each of us, by our participation in the Church Life, in particular by receiving the sacraments - harnessing our energy with God's energy so that the work we do is God's work and God's will. I've asked each of the reports submitted for this annual meeting to bear witness to this work of the Church by highlighting how the work of the past year has helped support this critical effort of the Parish. I ask God to continue to bless our efforts so that we may be His witnesses to salvation in the Church of God.

In Christ,

Very Reverend Nicholas Finley, Rector

V. Rev. Nicholas Finley

**Parish Council President's Report
February 2, 2025**

This was another year to be thankful for all that God has provided our parish. We were, through the generosity of several of you, able to make much needed repairs and upgrades to our Church property that will keep our Church and Hall functional and beautiful for many years. The Council has been actively studying about Church outreach which is helping us to examine our approach. Our Outreach program is taking some new approaches to reach out to seekers of Orthodoxy and you will hear about other new and exciting ideas from our Outreach/Evangelization Committee.

Council members were tasked with addressing the needs of the Church again this year. The various assignments are as follows:

Building & Grounds	Mike Macek*
Education	Fr. Nicholas*, Lori Billy, Sarah Butchko, Christine Schilling*, Justin Brannon and Maggie Fryntzko
Finance	Julie Nadolny*, Bob Butchko
Investment	Mike Butchko*
Nominating Committee	Todd Sweet*, Rebecca McKeal
Cemetery	Bob Butchko*, Mike Macek, Craig Rydgig, Sharon Butchko
Outreach/Evangelization	George Smith, Jason Basso, Fr. Nicholas
Training & Scheduling	Jason Basso*
Technology	Mike Butchko*, Peter Lecko
Audit	Sandy Ellis**, Pat Lecko**

*Council Member and Chair

**Elected at Annual Parish Meeting

I want to thank all of the Council members and parishioners for their assistance in working with these programs this past year. I encourage each of you to use your talents for the Glory of God and the betterment of our parish.

ACTIVITIES

Several of the committees have details of their activities in separate reports. Below is a listing of some of this year's completed projects:

Icons of Sains John the Russian and Mary of Egypt (framed and installed between windows in the Church)
Church tuck-pointed and window accents replastered
Cemetery provided water service
Lawn Sprinkler system installed on Church grounds
Solar energy systems installed to reduce electric costs

*Website upgrades and addition of the on-line donation capability
Facebook commercials for inquirers of Orthodoxy
Replaced lighting controls and new electrical panels and wiring*

FINANCES

This year was another year of major improvements to our Church property. We were blessed to receive donations that paid for the tuckpointing and the sprinkler system. In addition, we received \$30,000 from the estate of Mag Knipping (Memory Eternal!). However, even with these large donations, we struggled to meet our regular operating expenses. Fortunately, our investments gained 20.6% this year to keep our funds stable. Our Treasurer will provide a detailed analysis, but this is a troubling problem for our parish.

CEMETERY

Our Cemetery fund received almost \$10,000 in donations this year as we continue to grow the Perpetual Care fund. Thank you to all who contribute. With the water service now on our property, we can water our plants or install a sprinkler system to do so in the future. We are waiting for the Diocese decision regarding acceptance of our cemetery should there ever be a default problem.

FUND RAISER

The Golf Tournament fundraiser was very successful this year, raising \$8,998.39 with 10% being sent to Gateway FOCUS St. Louis. Thank you to all who sponsored holes, were patrons and who helped with soliciting hole sponsorships. Also, thanks to everyone who participated by playing, getting donations or helping on the day of the tournament. Next year the tournament is set for Saturday, October 4, 2025 at the Acorns Golf Links.

OUTREACH/EVANGELIZATION

The Council is preparing an Outreach/Evangelization program for this coming year to reach those in our area that are searching for the spiritual enlightenment in the Orthodox faith. We are using Facebook ads, reaching out to universities, and other ideas for letting people know that we are here for them. For the past few months, the Council has been reading a book about parish health and reclaiming of the Great Commission. It has been helpful for the Council in self-assessment of our purpose in our planning for Church growth and outreach. Each of us is called to spread the Word of God and I hope that this coming year we all become more involved and begin by participating in more of the services available to us and in making the Great Commission the guiding influence in our life in the Church!

PROPOSED PROJECTS

This year the Council has not proposed any special projects to be funded through the budget. Instead, we are listing identified needs that we hope to have sponsored through voluntary donations from parishioners. In this, our 125th year as a parish, we plan to have a celebration with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel in attendance. It would be nice to have these articles repaired/refinished or purchased. Proposed projects for funding this year are listed below:

Replating of the ceramic chalice, paten, spear and spoon	\$ 1,575
Baptismal font	\$ 1,000
Two rectangular candle stands	\$ 2,300
Two circular candle stands	\$ 2,000
Gospel stand	\$ 950
Divine Liturgy and Vespers books for pews	\$ 750
Refinish the cupola	\$25,000
Refinish pews	\$30,000

At this point, these are wants and not needs, with the exception of the chalice, paten, star, spear and spoon.

Thank you to all who have assisted in parish events and functions this past year, and thank you to all for the privilege to serve as your Parish Council President. May God Bless each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Robert G. Butchko
Parish Council President

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Annual Treasurer's Report

***Annual Parish Meeting
February 2, 2025***

***Julie A. Nadolny
Treasurer***

2024 In Review

Executive Summary

- Aligning with the principles outlined in “Reclaiming the Great Commission,” our financial stewardship is not just about managing resources, but about advancing the mission of the church. By thoughtfully directing resources, we ensure our financial decisions contribute to both spiritual growth and social impact, fulfilling our responsibility to expand God’s mission in our community and beyond
- Annual operating budget for 2024 (excluding special projects) was approximately \$201,000
- It costs ~\$17,000 per month to cover our routine operating costs
- We need offerings equal to \$17,000 every month to cover our basic operating expenses
- For 2024, we budgeted \$35,000 for the church tuckpointing (one family covered entire cost)
- Total budget including the tuckpointing project was \$236,000
- Actual 2024 expenses were ~\$260,000, or about 10% above budget
- Parishioner donations were just under \$200,000 and there was additional income of ~\$53,000 attributable to an estate contribution, golf tournament proceeds and cemetery outreach

2024 Income and Expenses			
	2024 Income & Expenses	2024 Annual Budget	Expenses as a % of Annual Budget
Income	\$250,927.01		
Expenses	\$259,979.22	\$236,769	110%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$9,052.21)		

2024 Operating Budget vs Actual Expenses

Expenses were approximately 10% higher than budget in 2024

Top 5 expenses account for ~80% of budget

	Budget	% of Operating Budget	2024 Actuals
Priest Compensation & Benefits	\$ 94,619	47.1%	\$ 92,084
Assessments to Diocese	\$ 21,200	10.5%	\$ 21,221
Utilities	\$ 19,750	9.8%	\$ 14,646
Building Maintenance	\$ 16,000	8.0%	\$ 30,015
Gifts & Charitable	\$ 13,000	6.5%	\$ 15,855
Insurance	\$ 8,500	4.2%	\$ 9,809
Office Expenses	\$ 6,100	3.0%	\$ 5,353
Cemetery	\$ 6,000	3.0%	\$ 10,124
Ecclesiastical Supplies	\$ 5,900	2.9%	\$ 6,393
Other	\$ 3,000	1.5%	\$ 4,087
Fundraisers	\$ 2,500	1.2%	\$ 3,860
Urgent Needs	\$ 2,000	1.0%	\$ 1,223
Assemblies	\$ 1,500	0.7%	\$ 993
Outreach	\$ 1,000	0.5%	\$ 2,561
Total Base Operating Costs	\$ 201,069	100.0%	\$ 218,224
Plus Special Projects			
- Church Tuckpointing	\$ 35,000		\$ 34,480
- Icons	\$ -		\$ 4,000
- Cemetery water line	\$ -		\$ 3,275
Total Special Projects	\$ 35,000		\$ 41,755
Total 2024 Operating Budget	\$ 236,069	10% over budget	\$ 259,979

Top¹⁶ Drivers of Expense

We had ~\$28,000 in unbudgeted expenses, some partially offset by special contributions; this is in addition to the \$35,000 budgeted for tuckpointing

2024 Expense Drivers	
Tuckpointing	\$35,000
A/C Replacement	\$7,125
Irrigation System	\$5,200
Icons	\$4,000
Cemetery water line	\$3,300*
Church electrical	\$3,200
Facebook Outreach	\$2,500
Bell repair	\$1,650
Headset repair	\$1,069
Total	\$63,044

*Expensed from cemetery perpetual fund

2024 Parishioner Donations

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Five parishioners cover 50% of budgeted operating costs

- Total parishioner donations were slightly below \$200,000 for 2024
- We had “loose” contributions of ~\$53,000 comprised mainly of an estate contribution, golf tournament proceeds and cemetery outreach
- With 5 parishioners covering 50% of the budgeted operating costs, there is a risk to our financial position if one were to leave
- At current giving levels, we will not meet the proposed budgeted operating costs for 2025
- Any future special projects will be on hold unless parishioners can give above their regular base offering to cover special project expenses

<u>Offerings by Dollar Amount</u>	<u># Parishioners</u>	<u>2024 total</u>	<u>% of operating budget covered</u>
\$10,000 or more	5	\$ 100,456	50%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	5	\$ 34,161	17%
\$2,500 - \$4,999	10	\$ 37,973	19%
\$1,000 - \$2,499	11	\$ 18,787	9%
\$1.00 - \$999	17	\$ 5,309	3%
\$0	7	\$ -	0%
Total Parishioner Donations	55	\$ 196,686	
Plus "Loose" Contributions		\$ 53,400	
Grand Total of All Contributions		\$ 250,086	

20 parishioners cover ~85% of the base operating budget

- Added Tithe.ly to NVM website for online donations - \$715 collected in 2024

2024¹⁸ Income & Expenses By Month

We were in a deficit position 8 of the 12 months

2024 Income Vs. Expenses By Month			
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
January	\$ 17,615	\$ 13,400	\$ 4,215.07
February	\$ 21,369	\$ 26,781	\$ (5,412.19)
March	\$ 38,799	\$ 13,845	\$ 24,954.09
April	\$ 34,017	\$ 29,613	\$ 4,403.56
May	\$ 37,229	\$ 44,760	\$ (7,531.65)
June	\$ 11,071	\$ 22,106	\$ (11,035.27)
July	\$ 8,538	\$ 20,107	\$ (11,569.09)
August	\$ 12,099	\$ 15,824	\$ (3,725.61)
September	\$ 39,123	\$ 17,670	\$ 21,453.58
October	\$ 11,040	\$ 18,799	\$ (7,758.60)
November	\$ 6,871	\$ 19,852	\$ (12,980.92)
December	\$ 13,157	\$ 17,222	\$ (4,065.18)
Total	\$ 250,927	\$ 259,979	\$ (9,052)
Average/Mo.	\$ 20,911	\$ 21,665	\$ (754)

2024²⁰ Expenses

Expenses by Category Compared to Budget (see separate page for details)

Proposed²¹ 2025 Budget

Proposed budget ~\$205,000 reflects a 2% increase over 2024 budget

- Primary drivers of budget increase:
 - Expenses for the All-American Council: +\$3,500
 - Priest health insurance increase: +\$2,900
 - Cemetery maintenance & repair: +\$2,300
 - Building maintenance: +\$1,600
 - Insurance for church and rectory: +\$1,500
- We anticipate a reduction in certain expenses:
 - Reduced utility costs due to the solar project: (\$7,300)
 - Reduced assessments to diocese 2025: (\$3,000)
- Proposing a 2.5% increase for the priest's compensation
- No special projects are planned or budgeted for 2025

Proposed²² 2025 Budget Detail

See attached document

2024 Expenses by Category Compared to Budget			
2024 Annual Expenses		Budget Comparison	
Item	Actuals	Budget	% of Budget
Assemblies	\$992.56	\$1,500.00	66.2%
Assessments	\$21,220.92	\$21,200.00	100.1%
Banking Administrative Costs	\$503.00	\$50.00	1006.0%
Building Maintenance	\$30,014.98	\$16,000.00	187.6%
Improvements	17,209.07	2,000.00	
Repairs and Supplies	3,032.57	4,000.00	
Alarm Service	1,028.62	1,100.00	
Lawn Care	2,574.40	2,500.00	
Trash Service	220.32	400.00	
Cleaning services	5,950.00	6,000.00	
Cemetery	\$10,124.07	\$6,000.00	168.7%
Cemetery Mowing	6,234.41	5,000.00	
Repairs and Improvements	3,565.00	1,000.00	
Utilities	234.66	0.00	
GIS	90.00		
Choir	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.0%
Compensation	\$92,084.13	\$94,619.00	97.3%
Priest Salary	14,649.96	13,050.00	
Priest Housing Allowance	50,000.04	51,600.00	
Priest Auto Allowance	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Priest Cell Phone	1,059.96	1,060.00	
Priest Pension	8,482.27	9,051.00	
Priest Health Insurance	13,596.60	13,500.00	
Priest Life Insurance	536.00	536.00	
Priest Misc	0.00	0.00	
Priest Self Employment Tax	2,559.30	4,622.00	
Ecclesiastical Supplies	\$6,392.90	\$5,900.00	108.4%
Candles	4,258.05	4,000.00	
Cleaning & Repair	375.00	500.00	
Robes	1,229.90	1,200.00	
Religious supplies	529.95	200.00	
Religious Articles	0.00	0.00	
Education (Church School)	\$139.72	\$250.00	55.9%
Flowers	\$24.00	\$500.00	4.8%
Gifts and Charitable Donations	\$15,854.94	\$13,000.00	122.0%
Insurance	\$9,808.74	\$8,500.00	115.4%
Office Expenses	\$5,352.94	\$6,100.00	87.8%
Land Line Phone	1,719.94	1,800.00	
Postage	252.32	100.00	
Website	600.00	500.00	
Software fees & licensing	630.48	400.00	
Internet	1,802.74	2,300.00	
Office supplies	347.46	1,000.00	
Outreach Programs	\$2,561.00	\$1,000.00	256.1%
Urgent Needs	\$1,223.32	\$2,000.00	6.2%
Utilities	\$14,646.43	\$19,750.00	74.2%
Electric & Gas	12,600.32	16,000.00	
Water	2,020.65	3,000.00	
Sewer	25.46	750.00	
Fundraiser events	\$3,859.79	\$2,500.00	154.4%
Misc	\$3,420.78	\$2,000.00	171.0%
Base Operating Budget	\$218,224.22	\$201,069.00	108.5%
Special Projects	\$41,755.00	\$35,000.00	119.3%
Tuckpointing	34,480.00	35,000.00	
Icons	4,000.00	0.00	
Cemetery Water Line	3,275.00	0.00	
Total with Special Projects	\$259,979.22	\$236,069.00	110.1%

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

ITEM	2025 Proposed Budget	2024 Expenses	2024 Budget	Comments
Assemblies	\$5,000.00	\$992.56	\$1,500.00	All American Council
Assessments	\$18,180.00	\$21,220.92	\$21,200.00	
Banking Administrative Costs	\$50.00	\$503.00	\$50.00	
Building Maintenance	\$17,600.00	\$30,014.98	\$16,000.00	
<i>Improvements</i>	\$2,500.00	17,209.07	\$2,000.00	
<i>Repairs and Supplies</i>	\$5,000.00	3,032.57	\$4,000.00	
<i>Alarm Service</i>	\$1,100.00	1,028.62	\$1,100.00	
<i>Lawn Care</i>	\$2,600.00	2,574.40	\$2,500.00	
<i>Trash Service</i>	\$400.00	220.32	\$400.00	
<i>Cleaning services</i>	\$6,000.00	5,950.00	\$6,000.00	
Cemetery	\$8,300.00	\$10,124.07	\$6,000.00	
<i>Cemetery Mowing</i>	\$6,200.00	6,234.41	\$5,000.00	
<i>Repairs and Improvements</i>	\$1,500.00	3,565.00	\$1,000.00	
<i>Utilities</i>	\$500.00	234.66	\$0.00	Water
GIS	\$100.00	90.00		
Choir	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Compensation	\$99,585.25	\$92,084.13	\$94,619.00	
<i>Priest Salary</i>	\$16,266.25	14,649.96	\$13,050.00	2.5% cost of living adjustment
<i>Priest Housing Allowance</i>	\$50,000.00	50,000.04	\$51,600.00	
<i>Priest Auto Allowance</i>	\$1,200.00	1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
<i>Priest Cell Phone</i>	\$1,060.00	1,059.96	\$1,060.00	
<i>Priest Pension</i>	\$9,278.00	8,482.27	\$9,051.00	
<i>Priest Health Insurance</i>	\$16,400.00	13,596.60	\$13,500.00	20% increase in premiums
<i>Priest Life Insurance</i>	\$536.00	536.00	\$536.00	
<i>Priest Misc</i>	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	
<i>Priest Self Employment Tax</i>	\$4,845.00	2,559.30	\$4,622.00	
Ecclesiastical Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$6,392.90	\$5,900.00	
Candles	\$4,000.00	4,258.05	\$4,000.00	
Cleaning & Repair	\$500.00	375.00	\$500.00	
Robes	\$0.00	1,229.90	\$1,200.00	
Religious supplies (incense)	\$500.00	529.95	\$200.00	
Religious Articles	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	
Education (Church School)	\$250.00	\$139.72	\$250.00	
Flowers	\$500.00	\$24.00	\$500.00	
Gifts and Charitable Donations	\$14,000.00	\$15,854.94	\$13,000.00	
Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$9,808.74	\$8,500.00	
Office Expenses	\$6,500.00	\$5,352.94	\$6,100.00	
<i>Land Line Phone</i>	\$1,800.00	1,719.94	\$1,800.00	
<i>Postage</i>	\$200.00	252.32	\$100.00	
<i>Website</i>	\$600.00	600.00	\$500.00	
<i>Software fees & licensing</i>	\$600.00	630.48	\$400.00	
<i>Internet</i>	\$2,300.00	1,802.74	\$2,300.00	
<i>Office supplies</i>	\$1,000.00	347.46	\$1,000.00	
Outreach Programs	\$1,000.00	\$2,561.00	\$1,000.00	
Urgent Needs	\$2,000.00	\$1,223.32	\$2,000.00	
Utilities	\$12,450.00	\$14,646.43	\$19,750.00	
<i>Electric & Gas</i>	\$5,200.00	12,600.32	\$16,000.00	
<i>Solar Loan Payments</i>	\$4,000.00			Solar Loan Payments
<i>Water</i>	\$2,500.00	2,020.65	\$3,000.00	
<i>Sewer</i>	\$750.00	25.46	\$750.00	
Fundraiser events	\$2,500.00	\$3,859.79	\$2,500.00	
Misc	\$2,000.00	\$3,420.78	\$2,000.00	
Operating Budget	\$205,115.25	\$218,224.22	201,069.00	Budget increase of 2%
Special Projects	\$0.00	\$41,755.00	\$35,000.00	No special projects budgeted
<i>Tuckpointing</i>	\$0.00	\$34,480.00	\$35,000.00	
<i>Icons</i>	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
<i>Cemetery Water Line</i>	\$0.00	\$3,275.00	\$0.00	
Total	\$205,115.25	\$259,979.22	236,069.00	

Audit Committee Report

February 2, 2025

Auditors: Patricia Lecko, Sandra Ellis

Activity: Audit conducted on January 14, 2024

Findings:

- The books were found to be in good order. There were two missing receipts, but notes of explanation were found. Minor corrections were made to reflect the breakdown of a bank deposit. There were minor discrepancies in the cemetery account which will be discussed with the treasurer.
- The church balance is in reconciliation with the bank balance.

Recommendations:

- The treasurer should have receipts for posting to the charged accounts.
- The credit card should be monitored. It should be linked to the online banking at PNC Bank.
- Weekly donations are entered in Google Sheets. This needs to be saved each week. If someone accidentally writes over weekly figures, the data would be lost. It could easily be reconstructed from saved weekly data if needed.

The Audit committee thanks Treasurer Julie Nadolny for her hard work and devotion of duty to our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Audit Committee members Patricia Lecko and Sandra Ellis

Parish Council Vice Presidents Report for 2024
February 2, 2025

During the past year we have managed to get several repair projects completed

1. Tuckpointing to the complete exterior of the church was completed along with the window accents being replastered. The mortar, plaster and the bricks were sealed with a waterproofing agent.
2. The irrigation system was installed on the Fifth Street side of the church and in the front of the church and hall.
3. Solar panels were installed on the roof of both the church and hall to help reduce our electric bills. The system has been tested and was working properly but has yet to be turned on by Ameren.
4. The circuit breaker box in the hall was replaced in conjunction with the solar panel installation.
5. The lighting control system in the Church was completely replaced.

This year I have listed the following areas for repair if financially feasible.

1. Replacement of the steel exterior rear doors to the church. They are both original to the building. I believe the cost of the doors and hardware to be between \$1,200 and \$2,000 each with us doing the work. Despite being 60 years old the steel frames are in good condition but must be professionally reworked and painted.
2. The steel railings at the rear of the church as well as the exterior steel doors and wood frames on the exterior entrances to the hall basement need to be professionally reworked and painted.
3. The steel hatch to the cupola needs to be professionally reworked and painted. A temporary repair was done 2 years ago but it's time for a more permanent repair that will at least slow if not stop the water leaking into the bell tower. The choir books are stored in this area and are at risk.
4. The 2 ceiling fans in the Church are making noise and they can no longer be controlled including being turned off/on, speed or rotation. Replace both with 1

larger commercial fan that can be remotely controlled to better suit our needs. I estimate the cost to be about \$800 plus the cost of renting a lift which will also be used to split a lighting control circuit.

5. The gold cupula/dome has cracks in it and the finish is deteriorating. I believe that when a major hair storm hit Madison in 2007 it damaged the dome but it was not noticeable at the time. The dome is fiberglass so I talked to the owner of a auto body shop that I know and trust in Madison about removing it with a crane and to transport it to his shop to sandblast, refurbish and paint it with a bright gold paint for fiberglass such as is on the cupula on the hall. He looked at it with a drone and decided that it may not survive removal so it will need to be refurbished in place. I haven't got the actual price range yet but I feel it won't exceed \$25,000. Special donations will most likely be needed to fund this.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Macek
Parish Council Vice President

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church
Cemetery Report
2024**

Committee members: Bob Butchko, Sharon Butchko, Mike Macek and Craig Rydgig

This year, water service was added for future sprinkling of the landscape areas. The service was extended to a spigot behind the entrance monument above the main landscape area to the left of the stairs. Also, this year the Parish approved opening the cemetery to non-Orthodox relatives of those interred in the cemetery (see policy for specific requirements). To date we have had a few inquiries but no lot sales.

The information shown below will be included with the 2025 Annual Appeal letter for the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund. As you can see, we were blessed to receive almost \$10,000 in donation, which offset our expenses by approximately \$2600.

Thank you for your donations and assistance in making our cemetery beautiful.

Bob Butchko

REPORT TO BE SENT TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF ALL INTERRED IN THE CEMETERY

The Perpetual Care fund was created to assure that the Cemetery will always be maintained and cared for properly. The fund was created in 2012 with an initial installment of \$30,000 from the Church.

Cemetery Responsibilities: Provide regular maintenance for the cemetery to include grass mowing, road maintenance/repair/landscaping, straightening headstones, filling sinking ground and other miscellaneous work such as grouting and repairing the sidewalk, steps and the Cross. Currently, the Church pays for the mowing costs of \$6,000 from its annual budget.

Future projects: Add sprinkling system to new water connection for landscaping at an estimated cost of \$2,500. Install a sign to identify the cemetery from IL-157 at an estimated cost of \$6,000. Update Cemetery GIS database with photos and history information of those interred In the Cemetery.

Current Balance of Fund: ~\$154,000. The Fund collected \$9,677.56 in 2024. Expenses totaled \$7,074.66. Funds are invested in three different mutual fund accounts, one blue chip common stock fund and one money market. Average rate of return over the past 5 years is over 8%. This year's rate of return was 13.8%

Average annual amount of cemetery donations for past five years: \$5,500

Current annual maintenance/operating cost: \$7,000

To view the cemetery lot layout and to read about any departed interred in the cemetery click on the GIS Cemetery database website: <https://diamondmaps.com/map.ashx?mid=12285> – Photos included also

Education 2025

I. Church School (*Director*)

II. Adult Education

We took a break from the annual Book Study, though there have been classes offered in Biblical Poetry as well as ongoing conversations with several parishioners who are reading and studying on their own. In particular one parishioner read a book by Father Thomas Hopko “The Names of Jesus” and had recommended it to the Rector. This may be the basis for a future book study.

III. Inquirers

There is no formal course for inquirers. Technically, there ought not to be. At the open of 2024 shortly after the Annual Meeting there was an effort to lead an Inquirer’s Class focusing on “The Orthodox Way” by the late Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. There was one inquirer attending regularly. The main focus of any Inquirer interaction is to be available to help with any questions in order to foster understanding of Orthodox worship and Orthodox Christianity in general to facilitate further inquiry and offering an openness toward a beginning of catechetical instruction to those seeking to enter the fullness of the life of the Church. This is an ongoing effort. A primary focus is connection of inquirers/guests with parish members and the priest to help support any needs of those interested to learn more.

IV. Catechism

There are currently two catechumens in our parish. One is on a break from formal instruction until further notice due to personal concerns. The parish priest has notified this catechumen that he looks forward to hearing from them when they would like to resume instruction. The other catechumen is attending services and instructions faithfully and is making significant strides in embracing the Orthodox Faith.

Very Reverend Father Nicholas Finley

V. Rev. Nicholas Finley

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH LONG TERM INVESTMENTS 1 JAN - 31 DEC 2024

2024 was a good year for our investment portfolio producing a **net increase of 16.5%** while maintaining a relatively consistent asset mix as previous years that is focused primarily on growth and value assets.

Overall Long Term Portfolio Balance:

Jan 1 2024	Total: \$260,044.46 <i>STL Inv. Advisors: \$57,875.54</i> <i>AXA Advisors: \$202,168.92</i>
Withdrawals & Deposits	\$9,000 into STL Inv Advisors (Jan 2024)
Dec 31 2024	Total: \$313,556.34 <i>STL Inv. Advisors: \$78,786.15</i> <i>AXA Advisors: \$234,770.28</i>

The Nativity's investment assets are managed by two investment advisors.

Father James McKoul of AXA Advisors, LLC manages approximately 75 percent of the total long-term investment portfolio. The portfolio is diversified with a mix of domestic and global equities and income bonds. Currently, the portfolio is invested in three mutual funds with the following asset mix:

Mutual Fund Holdings	Purpose	Value (12/31/2024)	Asset Percentage
Alliance Bernstein Large Cap Growth A	General	\$100,194.38	42.7%
Alliance Bernstein Discovery Value A	Cemetery	\$67,823.70	28.9%
Alliance High Income A	Cemetery	\$33,762.83	14.4%
Invesco Global Fund A	General	\$32,989.28	14.1%

Doug Ramey of Saint Louis Investment Advisors manages approximately 25 percent of the total long-term investment portfolio. The investments are made up of a mix of growth and value mutual funds in primarily North American markets. Currently, the portfolio is invested in combinations of 8 Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) with the following asset mix:

ETF Holdings	Purpose	Value (12/31/2024)	Asset Percentage
See Listings Below	Building	\$24,902.48	31.6%
See Listings Below	Cemetery	\$46,720.26	59.3%
See Listing Below	General	\$7,163.41	9.1%

Investment Listings

INVESCO S&P 500 EQUAL

ISHARES CORE S&P MID CAP

ISHARES CORE S&P SMALL

ISHARES CORE S&P US

ISHARES EXPANDED TECH

ISHARES S&P GROWTH

ISHARES S&P VALUE

PROSHARES S&P 500 DIV

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Butchko

Outreach Committee Report 2025

The field of the outreach committee is closely related to the work of education and worship in the life of the parish. To that end, one of the primary efforts of this committee is to be cognizant and involved in the work of catechesis and identify opportunities for how this effort can be enhanced and supported at all levels. Several of these levels include (but are not limited to): existing parishioners, parishioners who have strayed, children and Church School Education; catechism to those seeking to enter the Orthodox Church, people outside the Church who have varying degrees of familiarity with Holy Orthodoxy. This last group is often identified in popular thought as the exclusive target group for outreach, but this misrepresents the important work that takes place with outreach in the parish as a whole. With this in mind it is important to help the parish members be familiar with the need for continual education and ascetical effort for the work toward salvation of each member of the community. And in identifying these aspects of outreach work, it of course points to sharing our faith with the community in which our Parish resides as well as the larger community around us. In order to support this holy work the outreach committee has encouraged and witnessed Orthodox Sponsors attending and participating in catechism with their respective godchildren/catechumens. There is an ongoing effort to provide adult education for all members of the parish. Further there has been continual reminders in Sunday Homilies that we are each of us called to be a vessel of divine grace in order to be sent out to the world around to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially within Holy Orthodoxy. Further, there were in the previous calendar year (2023) two BBQ mixers that were aimed at making connections with people in the community of the City of Madison. The parish was unable to fund more of these for 2024, however, we hope to budget 1 or more similar events for 2025. This all supports the work of the Great Commission at every level in order to ensure that the members of the parish community are equipped to preach the gospel of Christ, and supports opportunities to “reach out” to those within, near, and far, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Glory to God for all things!

Technology Committee, 2024 Report

My goals in improving our use of technology this past year have been:

1. To serve our members by making our YouTube livestreams available for those who cannot get to church, and to make information easily available through our website.
2. To make Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church more visible to our neighbors through the internet, by making our YouTube content, our website, and our Google Maps listing easier to find and more useful for those seeking to follow Christ.

I have focused on 3 areas this past year.

First, I brought our listing in Google Maps up to date. We had 3 separate entries in Google Maps for the

church, some with out of date information. These have been consolidated into one entry, and the information has been updated. (It was not so easy to get Google to give us the right to manage our own

entry.) We are now able to see analytics telling us how many people interact with our Google Maps listing, and what actions they take as a result.

I have also updated the church website, reorganizing it a bit, and adding some new material. We are

also able to see analytics for how people interact with the website. Both the website and our entry in

Google Maps have seen modest increases in traffic, but examining the numbers more closely remains as

work to do in the future. We also added the ability to donate to the church through our website.

Finally, I have also worked on improving the sound in our YouTube streams. I started with the goal of

eliminating the clipping (that is, a static sound caused by sound levels being too high for the system). I

have gradually learned about filters that can help with keeping the sound level appropriate with minimal

adjustments during the services. I m still working on this goal, and on ways to improve the quality of

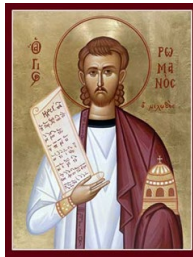
sound in general.

I will continue working to improve our offerings. As of this writing, I intend to focus on improving sound

for our smaller services, where the microphone in the Nave is the main source of audio input. I m planning to see if our camera support higher resolution than it is now giving us.

I appreciate all who have given me feedback about any of these areas; in many cases, this feedback has

allowed me to address problems I was not aware of. Thank you!

**St. Romanus*****The Sweet Singer***

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church Annual Meeting – February 2, 2025 Choir Report

How do we promote our faith? How do we share our faith with our community – to draw others to worship. We sing our faith – “...each verse, each tropar, each stichera is a marvelous poetic statement of the Faith”.

The choir members dedicate their time and their voices, practicing and improving current music as well as learning new music for the various services. We continue to update the choir materials, to add new arrangements of music to the Liturgy and the various Feast Days, drawing from the increasing number of websites that provide access to Orthodox liturgical music.

The choir has continued the tradition of caroling to Parishioner’s homes, bringing the joy of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ with traditional carols – both in English and Slavonic.

We would like to thank all of the choir members for their continuing dedication and hard work; and also thank the Parish Council and our parishoners for their continued support.

Thank you.

Karen Butchko, Choir Director
Lori Billy, Assistant Choir Director

Society of Myrrh Bearing Women
February 2, 2025

This year has been a very busy one for the sisterhood. We had six pierogi sessions and made almost 4,500 pierogi. We have sold all of them, and will begin replenishing our inventory in February. If you are able to find the time, we would love to have you join us for these sessions.

In January we hosted the luncheon for the visit of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. At that time, we presented Father Nicholas a Riassa in honor of his elevation to Archbishop.

In March we hosted the Lenten Dinner for the second Sunday of Great Lent. Thanks to all the ladies who contributed their skills to this event.

In September, the Sisterhood was honored on their 90th Anniversary. At the end of Divine Liturgy, each lady in the parish was presented with a medallion depicting the icon of the Myrrh Bearing Women. Thank you to the Church Council for hosting a luncheon in their honor. At this event, the Sisterhood presented the parish with a \$1000 check.

This past year we sponsored our second annual Ethnic Eats event on November 9. At this event, there was a Welcome Table with brochures explaining the Orthodox Faith and a schedule of our services for anyone that was interested. Several people signed their email to the list indicating they were interested in obtaining more information about the Orthodox Faith. Father has reached out to the people on the list. Thank you Elizabeth for spearheading this endeavor. We have scheduled next year's event for Saturday, November 1.

In December, the Sisterhood held our first Christkindl Market. Proceeds of \$406 from this event was given to the parish for the Urgent Needs Fund. We also presented the parish with a check for \$2000.

We continue to provide supplies for coffee hour and other essentials needed at the church.

We thank God for his many blessings in the past 90 years and pray that we can continue to support the Church through our work.

Sharon Butchko
President

FOCA (O Club) Report 2024

This past year our club consisted of 18 members.

“Gifts of Love” raised \$195 for St. Vladimir’s Camp in Ohio.

We gave \$295 to St. Andrew’s Charity this past year.

\$100 was for hole sponsors for our golf tournament. Our members played or helped out with the organizing.

We held our Bunco games for FOCUS and raised \$520. They restocked their pantry after closing for work on the basement floor.

Again, with the Youtube channel for F.O.C.A, a Christmas concert was held on December 25, with many churches participating.

Our cookie sale made a profit of \$593. I thank our bakers and customers.

With the goals of the club: pray, study, toil, we try to meet the goals of the church. We donate to St Andrew’s Fellowship and Stewards of the O.C.A.

Andrea Davies

President