

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting - February 3, 2015**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council**

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Brooks Ledford led the meeting in prayer. Donna thanked everyone for attending.

**Roll Call - Linda Biando: Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Biando, Michele Anderson, Michele Lorimer, Elvira Gusho. **Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini, Janice Leyden. **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi.

**Clergy:** Father Brooks. **Absent:** Nilda Salavachi. Michael Leyden was also present during the meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** The January 2015 minutes were presented by Michele Lorimer. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Linda Biando and seconded by Elvira Gusho. All were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** The January 2015 Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Linda Biando and seconded by Michele Lorimer. All were in favor. **1)** A transfer of \$35,000.00 was made from the checking account to the investment account. **2)** Pledge and icon money is coming in. **3)** Archdiocese Expense is about \$9,200.00 a year. **4)** A report of the Priest's Housing Allowance was presented showing an estimated cost of \$25,000.00 in 2015 and \$15,000.00 in 2014. A motion was made to accept the Priest's Housing Allowance Report and was seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

**Pastor Report:** Father Brooks

- Father reiterated 2014. He wants to remind everyone the importance of his hierarchy. With his 22 years experience as a priest, he listens to many questions and suggestions from the people, but he will make the final decisions as we move forward. As "captain of the ship," his perspective of 2014 has been positive. Although there is room for improvement, Father sees a vibrant welcoming feeling from the parish.
- Home visitations are still underway. Fr. recently visited the home of Grigor Lakuriqi and his family. He spent a few hours at their home offering prayer and communion.
- In 2014 Fr. felt that Great Lent as well as Holy Week and Pascha went well. He will be more stern regarding what time the service will begin for Pascha this year. During Great Lent last year the church was open Tuesdays-Fridays, that will begin again this year when Lent begins.
- Visitors from the John Jay Institute brought some people in for a church tour. They will visit again in February.
- The Newsletter came out almost monthly. We received positive feedback regarding the Newsletter and the website.
- In the fall 2014, Fr. began teaching the High School class. Fr. was happy with the group of

young people , however consistency is a problem. Fr. sends emails to encourage them to have their parents bring them to church.

- Also late in the fall the YALL group began. They are interested in picking a book to read during Great Lent and then having a group discussion about their books. Fr. is hopeful that the YALL group members will attend Wednesday evening discussions.
- The Outreach Committee had one meeting before Christmas. They will have another meeting soon. This committee reaches out to the parishioners who are unable to attend church. They make sure that our parishioners do not fall between the cracks.
- Fr. also gave an overall view of his work week:
  - Tuesday A.M. he tends to his emails and messages. He begins his reading for the Liturgy. He does not take any appointments on this day.
  - Wednesday he makes appointments to visit or council people.
  - Thursday is set aside for home visits.
  - Friday is his study day as well as for prayer and finishing the sermon.
  - Saturday Fr. catches up on weekly issues and visitations.
  - Sunday he deals with no church business. Fr. enjoys coffee hour at which time he can connect with the parishioners.
- Fr. presented a breakdown of the outgoing petty cash. He gave \$30.00 to Covenant House in December and also a total of \$250.00 to people he helped who came into church from off the street.
- Fr.'s perspective is that things are going in the right direction. He wants the people to know that he loves them and that he is committed to them. He thanked the parish council.

**Vice Chairman's Report:** Peter Ghicondey

- Peter thanked Fr. Brooks.