

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Annual report 2024



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Clayton, Wisconsin

Annual Parish Meeting

February 11, 2024

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, & Determine Quorum
2. Approval of 2023 Minutes
3. Parish Reports (*written*)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Auditor's Report
6. 2024 Budget
7. Elections
 - A. Parish Council (3 positions; two-year terms)
 - B. Cemetery Committee (2 positions; two-year terms)
 - C. Auditor (1 position; two-year term)
8. Presentation: Endowment Fund
9. Old Business
 - A. Other
10. New Business
 - A. Other
11. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes February 12, 2023

Quorum: At 11:36 AM a quorum was counted.

Opening Prayer: O Heavenly King

Secretary's Report: Minutes from 2022 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Paula McDaniels and 2nd by Susan Fall. Carried Unanimously.

Parish Reports: Presented in meeting packet. Motion to approve: Mary McDaniels, 2nd: Laurie Fall. Carried Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Megan Jansa presented the Financial Report from 2022. Motion to approve: Krista Ottinger, 2nd: Helen Falkenthal. Carried Unanimously.

Auditor's Report: Dave Kaseno and Jon Mulinix stepped in to audit the church finances- special thanks to them. Dave reported the records were immaculately done and accurate. Motion to approve: JoAnn Schramski, 2nd: Cindy Dennis. Carried Unanimously.

2023 Budget: Treasurer Megan Jansa presented the 2023 budget. A special thanks to Michelle Wojcik, as the benefits she receives through her job greatly reduce the insurance costs for the church (~ \$1800./month saved). A special thanks to Fr. Chris for being willing to blow snow in his driveway. Motion to approve: Steve Fall, 2nd: Jessica Bingham. Carried Unanimously.

Parish Council Election: Steve Dzubay, Megan Fall, and Jacob Fall were elected to the parish council.

Auditor Election: Dave Kaseno (2 year term) and Mary McDaniels (1 year term) were elected.

Cemetery Committee Election: Tom Moriak and Jerry Kistner were elected.

Old Business: Parking lot was brought up and remarked that the last bid, several years ago was ~\$67K. We will need to reevaluate.

New Business: Megan Jansa will be organizing a Ukrainian Egg workshop on April 1. The church dome skin will need attention and it will be investigated.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 12:13 PM by Lynnae Nehring, 2nd: Helen Falkenthal

Closing Prayer: It is Truly Meet!

Respectfully Submitted by Dennis Fall

Pastor's Report 2024

Fr Christopher Wojcik

2023 was an amazing and joy-filled year. Our parish celebrated a wedding, a 50th wedding anniversary, five Baptisms, and four additional Chrismations, in addition to welcoming a steady stream of beautiful visitors and inquirers in every season.

We also solemnized three burials on our grounds: Ella (Skapyak) Handa, Roger Schramski, and Paul Prusak. Holding their lives in love and prayer while experiencing our loss, we celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

I've enjoyed unwrapping layers of meaning in some of Jesus' more obscure parables during Adult Ed sessions this year, always learning way more than I taught. Each person's questions, insights, and wisdom provide an ongoing blessing for everyone present.

I also want to thank the parish for supporting me in my Spiritual Direction certification program. Spiritual Direction differs from both pastoral counsel and teaching in a profound way. Pastoral counsel seeks to help a person address a particular issue they are facing in a godly way; teaching is the transmission of the tenets and practices of our faith to inspire growth. Spiritual Direction is different in that it focuses on helping a person be aware of the ways God is moving in their life, both in the big things and the little. Its goal is to empower a person to hear God's silent voice, to experience the Kingdom of God within themselves.

One of the more meaningful outings we had was when a group from HTOC went to FOCUS in St Paul on a cold, snowy evening this past March, serving warm meals to underprivileged people. A delicious dinner was provided to folks of every race and age: families living in cars, drug addicts, working poor, veterans, and homeless elderly – each one beautiful, and each one treated with a dignity worthy of the image of God within them.

I know that in spite of all the challenges we face in our lives, we will continue to grow in love, in spirit, and in faith in Jesus Christ. It is my deepest desire that each of you continue to experience God dwelling within your wonderful self.

Finally, I cannot thank you enough for all your love and support for Michelle and me. You are truly an amazing church community, and we are so blessed to live and love and celebrate among you.

2023 Presidents Report

Time marches on.....how true that is. This past year has been quiet, yet busy. Volunteers worked within the winter months to paint the walls and ceilings of the south/main entrances, stairways (upper and lower) and choir loft entrance. A suspended ceiling within the bathrooms and south entrance was completed and new lights were installed. Work was completed before the sisterhood had their annual church cleaning days. The church glistened and gleamed for another beautiful Pascha.

Tom Moriak, Jacob Fall and Bob Fall teamed up to get our cheese curd wagon set-up, working, and running smoothly for Clayton Cheese Days. A job well done and greatly appreciated. Great weather was a plus as we participated at the Moon Lake Threshermen's event. Members of Holy Trinity, gave of their time and talents to work at both of these events, making them successful fund raising events. It was great to see the return of our Harvest Festival. We need to commend our Sisterhood, for bringing back this fantastic festival. It was heart warming to see everyone working together for a common goal of public relations and fund raising. Many good comments from our visitors and people were pleased that we brought it back. As with all of our endeavors, within Holy Trinity, it takes a lot of team work to have success.

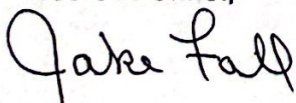
Many thanks to Matt Cuper for conducting meeting in my absence. Thanks to Tom Moriak, Jacob Fall, and Bob Fall for organizing the Cheese Curd wagon during cheese days. Everyone said that you did an outstanding job, greatly appreciated. Huge thanks to each person who volunteered of their time and talents. Weather it is working together for the beautification of our church and its grounds, or giving of your time through Sunday School, working in the curd wagon, mowing the lawn around the church sign and grounds or maintaining the flower beds. Believe me, we appreciate everyone working together and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Memory Eternal to Paul Prusak, a life time member of our Church. You will be missed.

Thank you to Father Chris and fellow council members for your ideas, opinions, support and guidance throughout the year. Holy Trinity and its members are truly blessed to have Father Chris and Michelle, as part of our "Parish Family". It has been a true honor, to have worked with all of you.

Blessings to one and all.

Yours in Christ,



Jake Fall

2023 Sisters of Holy Trinity Report

2023 turned out to be a wonderful year as we welcomed back some of our old traditions beginning with the Lenten season. We hosted and had volunteers serve three dinners after Presanctified Liturgy. It was great to have everyone back together for those events. Megan Jansa spearheaded an Ukranian egg decorating class in April and even the snow couldn't keep our volunteers and class participants away! In addition, we made our annual Easter donations of \$100 each to FOCUS, IOCC, and Warm the Children. We felt grateful to be able to contribute to such great causes.

We celebrated St. Thomas Sunday with the annual Easter Egg Hunt in April and in June celebrated Pentecost with a pot-luck and chicken dinner. We served 67 people. We also hosted a funeral luncheon for the memorial of Ella Skypyak in July. In October we helped to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Mark and Ginny Ryder and welcomed in Tam and Joselynn Decker with cakes provided by Valerie Fall. We also welcomed four new members to the Sisterhood, Adrianna Crotteau, Katie Mulinix, Adelle Schiltz, and Bailey Steinberg. In August, Helen Falkenthal stepped down from her volunteer position of Sunshine Coordinator. She served for countless years and brought many people joy. Mary McDaniels graciously offered to step in.

September brought back probably one of our biggest days of the year, the Harvest Festival. We were so excited to be able to provide this gift to our community again. Many thanks go out to Susan Fall and Trudi Seibel for co-chairing the event and making this dinner a reality again. We served 356 meals including take-outs. Our raffle was updated resulting in an increase in ticket sales and we hope to continue that style of raffle for the future. Thanks to everyone in the parish for your individual donations and volunteerism. It takes the entire parish to make events like this a success.

In December we had the healing service, the Christmas program by our Sunday School and Youth Group, as well as held a funeral luncheon for Paul Prusak. Thanks for Carol Cuper who volunteers her time to head up our funeral luncheons. We made our annual Christmas donations of \$150 each to the Clear Lake Food Pantry and FOCUS. Kate Moskal was added to the Church Cleaning staff along with Evelyn Fall and thanks to Nikki Thomas for making our communion bread.

It truly is an honor to serve Holy Trinity and it wouldn't have been possible without the 2023 elected officers and volunteer positions, Ella Anderson, Kris Minor, Mary Timm, Darla Fall, Susan Fall, Trudi Seibel, Jessica Bingham, Mary McDaniels, Valerie Fall, Laurie Fall, and Carol Cuper.

Your 2023 Sisters of Holy Trinity President,

Kari Moskal

Choir Report 2023

First of all I would like to thank Fr. Chris for setting us up with the correct music for every service (and writing out easy directions for me to follow.) This makes my job so much easier! Thank you also, Kari Moskal, for directing when I am unable to (three weeks straight during my battle with COVID) even though you already have several full-time jobs. One more thank you to Monk Mark for helping out with readings and little details that pop up...also his willingness to direct if needed. Please know that EVERY singer is valued and helps make the service even more beautiful and meaningful.

A confession: My favorite services are when we do congregational singing. Whether you know it or not, you all help out with your voices especially when our attendance is down. That said, I vow to make up a new and improved singing book that everyone can use for Divine Liturgies. This will cut down on the distraction of constantly communicating what page to turn to and make the music flow more smoothly. Of course I cannot do this alone, and already have several people including Fr. Chris to help with this project. Hopefully we can get started on this within the next month.

A couple more thoughts to share, and please forgive me for making a few suggestions; they are guaranteed to help improve our singing experience. When the second bell is rung at 9:30 on Sundays everyone should be in their place in the choir loft. Also, it is extremely helpful to WATCH THE CONDUCTOR. (Anyone who has ever participated in a musical ensemble has heard this multiple times.) Please choose a page-turner for each stand, as it is much more efficient. Finally, we all love coffee hour for a reason; we get to socialize, talk, laugh and catch up with some of our favorite people. Coffee and conversation happen AFTER the service!

Thank you again for singing with our choir! When I started this job I had no idea it would be mine for this long. I realize my singing days are numbered, as I am struggling with my voice, but I can still direct as long as YOU lend your voices.

Sincerely, *Paula*

Youth Group Report

2024

Youth Group usually meets two Wednesdays a month, and had a full schedule for the past year.

Our average attendance is 7 students, and we've had a good time learning about God's presence in their lives, learning about the Savior's parables, doing art projects, playing games with spiritual lessons, and simply spending some quality time together.

And as usual, our teens do some amazing stuff for our Church:

- ➔ Colored Easter eggs for the St. Thomas Sunday Egg Hunt
- ➔ Read at the Tomb over Holy Friday/Saturday
- ➔ Sang in the choir
- ➔ Served in the altar
- ➔ Cleaned the church
- ➔ Assisted with the wine-pouring at Communion
- ➔ Worked and served at the Harvest Festival
- ➔ Chanted the Epistle and other readings during services
- ➔ Helped with Sunday School & VBS
- ➔ Decorated our church Christmas tree
- ➔ Did an icon project (led by Debbie Cuper)
- ➔ Participated in our annual Christmas Program

When you consider the demands on a teen's time – between school, work, sports, arts, and family – this level of participation should make us all joyful and deeply grateful.

I could not be more proud of our teens, and I hope each of you will take the time to ***tell them how much they are appreciated!***

Fr. Chris

2023 Holy Trinity Cemetery Report

We had a work day last spring with a nice turn out. The all volunteer care of the cemetery worked well again this year. Thanks to all who pitched in!. I believe this is a wonderful way to give .

There were three burials this year: Ella Skapyak (July) , Roger Schramski and Paul Prusak (December).

Sincerely,

Thomas Moriak

Sunday School Report 2023

A great year so far from the Sunday School. We have 25 children split into 4 classrooms. We did a Christmas program titled, "Live Auditions".

We are still learning about saints and feast days each Sunday. We also do a group craft project each month.

Thank you for the wonderful year so far!

Stacie Moriak

Metrical Records from 2023

Baptisms: (5)

- 1) Adelle C Schiltz (May 21, 2023)
- 2) Henry O Schiltz (May 21, 2023)
- 3) Hazel S Schiltz (May 21, 2023)
- 4) Archer M Schiltz (May 21, 2023)
- 5) Grace N Cuper (October 22, 2023)

Chrismations: (4)

- 1) Thomas R Butler (June 4, 2023)
- 2) Bailey M Steinberg (September 3, 2023)
- 3) Joselynn D Decker (October 29, 2023)
- 4) Tam D Decker (October 29, 2023)

Weddings: (1)

- 1) Courtney Moskal & Matthew Gretzlock (September 9, 2023)

Burials: (3)

- 1) Ella Skapyak Handa (July 15, 2023)
- 2) Roger B Schramski (December 15, 2023)
- 3) Paul P Prusak (December 19, 2023)

Membership *as of December 31, 2023:*

Adults: 74
Children: 30

Charity Budget for 2024

January	\$200	Pregnancy Help Center (RICE LAKE)
February	\$200	Women's Shelter (MILLTOWN)
March	\$200	Grace Place (NEW RICHMOND)
April	\$200	FOCUS of Minneapolis
June	\$100	Clayton Fire Department
	\$100	Clayton First Responders
October	\$200	Int'l Orthodox Christian Charities
December	\$200	Lifeline Food Pantry (CLEAR LAKE/CLAYTON)
Other:	\$1800	Summer Camp Scholarships (6 kids @ \$300 per camper)

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**Total Charity Budget:     \$ 3200**

| Account Balances- As of 12/31/2023 |             |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Account *                          | 12/31/2022  | 12/31/2023  |
| Capital Improvements               | \$18,884.90 | \$21,693.61 |
| Cemetery Fund Savings              | \$8,343.41  | \$9,847.56  |
| General Checking                   | \$30,100.18 | \$32,464.10 |
| General Savings                    | \$8,765.00  | \$6,535.98  |
| Total                              | \$66,093.49 | \$70,541.25 |
| *All accounts at Citizens          |             |             |

| Credit Card Accounts* |            |              |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Visa                  | (\$134.13) | (\$2,000.24) |
| *Paid off each month  |            |              |

| Investment Accounts    |              |              |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Janus Balanced Fund    | \$66,616.70  | \$64,103.65  |
| Janus Research Fund    | \$18,362.43  | 18,402.22    |
| Legion Captial         | \$80,000.00  | 80,000.00    |
| Memorials (6543)       | \$8,729.83   | \$17,446.64  |
| General Fund CD (8507) |              | \$10,239.57  |
| Total                  | \$173,708.96 | \$190,192.08 |

|                |              |              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Overall Totals | \$239,668.32 | \$258,733.09 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|



Proposed 2023 budget

| INCOME                    | 2023 Budget      | 2023 actual      | Variance        | 2024 Budget      | Notes                                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Concession Stand          | \$8,000          | \$8,713          | \$713           | \$8,000          |                                                          |
| Gifts, Memorials Received | \$2,500          | \$1,672          | -\$828          | \$2,500          | One-time gifts, memorials                                |
| Harvest Festival          | \$5,500          | \$4,327          | -\$1,173        | \$5,500          |                                                          |
| Interest Income           | \$1,000          | \$122            | -\$878          | \$1,000          |                                                          |
| Investment Income         | \$5,200          | -\$2,723         | -\$7,923        | \$5,200          | put 8,034.91 into CD. Legion Investments- \$433.32/month |
| Other Income              | \$1,000          | \$350            | -\$650          | \$1,000          | land rental                                              |
| Sunday Collections        | \$93,063         | \$119,211        | \$26,148        | \$99,384         |                                                          |
| Cemetery Fund             | \$600            | \$1,550          | \$950           | \$600            | Cemetery plots                                           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>       | <b>\$116,863</b> | <b>\$133,221</b> | <b>\$16,358</b> | <b>\$123,184</b> |                                                          |

| EXPENSES                   | 2023 Budget      | 2023 actual      | Variance        | 2024 Budget      |                                                              |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Altar supplies             | \$2,000          | \$1,311          | -\$689          | \$2,000          | Candles and cups                                             |
| Charity                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Church Camp                | \$1,800          | \$300            | -\$1,500        | \$1,800          | Est. 6 campers                                               |
| Monthly & Discretionary    | \$2,000          | \$1,485          | -\$515          | \$2,000          |                                                              |
| Diocese Council/ AAC       | \$0              | \$0              | \$0             | \$0              |                                                              |
| Fund-Raising Expense       | \$2,400          | \$1,353          | -\$1,047        | \$2,400          | Online Donation Service Charges and Envelopes                |
| Education/Sunday School    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Continuing education       | \$3,300          | \$3,388          | \$88            | \$3,300          |                                                              |
| Sunday School              | \$350            | \$300            | -\$50           | \$350            |                                                              |
| Insurance                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Health                     | \$6,096          | \$6,096          | \$0             | \$6,096          |                                                              |
| Life                       | \$1,172          | \$1,171          | -\$1            | \$1,172          |                                                              |
| Property                   | \$4,460          | \$5,432          | \$972           | \$5,432          |                                                              |
| Workers Comp               | \$475            | \$457            | -\$18           | \$475            |                                                              |
| Medical payments           | \$4,500          | \$4,679          | \$179           | \$4,500          |                                                              |
| OCA Dues                   | \$14,704         | \$14,704         | \$0             | \$13,716         | Projected, based on DMW order of 13% 1,143.50/month          |
| Office                     | \$300            | \$1,968          | \$1,668         | \$300            |                                                              |
| Church/Parish Maintenance  | \$1,000          | \$1,885          | \$885           | \$1,000          |                                                              |
| Tax                        |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Property                   | \$204            | \$204            | \$0             | \$204            |                                                              |
| Social Security            | \$6,217          | \$5,184          | -\$1,033        | \$6,217          | Based on salary + equity                                     |
| Travel                     |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Priest's Mileage, Trips    | \$2,000          | \$2,000          | \$0             | \$2,000          | Reimbursement for Spiritual Retreat + Mileage                |
| Lodging for Visitors       | \$250            | \$0              | -\$250          | \$250            |                                                              |
| Utilities                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Electricity                | \$3,700          | \$3,666          | -\$34           | \$3,700          |                                                              |
| LP Gas                     | \$6,500          | \$4,469          | -\$2,031        | \$6,500          | Pre-pay 2,175 gal @\$1.52/gal. for 2023/2024.                |
| Telephone & Internet       | \$2,450          | \$2,437          | -\$13           | \$2,450          |                                                              |
| Trash Disposal             | \$546            | \$647            | \$101           | \$546            |                                                              |
| Wages                      |                  |                  |                 |                  |                                                              |
| Choir Directors (\$35/wk.) | \$1,900          | \$1,955          | \$55            | \$1,900          |                                                              |
| Priest & Substitutes       | \$36,600         | \$36,600         | \$0             | \$37,920         | COLA directed by diocese 3.2% for 2024                       |
| Equity                     | \$6,600          | \$6,600          | \$0             | \$6,816          |                                                              |
| Pension                    | \$8,964          | \$8,217          | -\$747          | \$10,140         | \$845/month, mandatory increase to 14% contribution for 2024 |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>      | <b>\$120,488</b> | <b>\$116,509</b> | <b>-\$3,979</b> | <b>\$123,184</b> |                                                              |

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| <b>NET</b> | <b>-\$0</b> |
|------------|-------------|

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Adult Members (2023)</b>          | <b>72</b>      |
| <b>Annual Cost per Member (2023)</b> | <b>\$1,673</b> |
| <b>Weekly Cost per Member (2023)</b> | <b>\$32</b>    |

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Adult Members (2024)</b>          | <b>74</b>      |
| <b>Annual Cost per Member (2024)</b> | <b>\$1,665</b> |
| <b>Weekly Cost per Member (2024)</b> | <b>\$32</b>    |

Capital Expenses To Do: Rectory Shower and Kitchen Floor  
Expected: \$12,000

# Elections for 2024

## Parish Council

Elect three (two-year terms)

Dan Thomas, Jake Fall, & Matt Cuper's terms are ending.

*Dan is eligible for re-election.*

*Megan Jansa, Steve Dzubay, & Jacob Fall have one year left.*

## Auditors

Elect one (two-year term)

Mary McDaniel's term is ending

*Mary is eligible for re-election*

*Dave Kaseno has one year left*

## Cemetery Committee

Elect two (two-year terms)

Steve Fall & Bob Fall's terms are ending.

*Both are eligible for re-election.*

*Tom Moriak & Jerry Kistner have one year left.*