

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Annual report 2024



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Clayton, Wisconsin

Annual Parish Meeting *February 9, 2025*

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, & Determine Quorum
2. Approval of 2024 Minutes
3. Parish Reports (*written*)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Auditor's Report
6. 2025 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. Old Business
 - A. Other
9. New Business
 - A. Other
10. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – February 11th, 2024

1. Quorum: At 11:49am a quorum was counted, 31 members present

Opening Prayer: O Heavenly King

2. Approval of 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Helen Falkenthal, second by Mary McDaniels, motion approved.

3. Parish Reports (written)

Motion to approve the reports made by Jerry Kistner, second by Julie White, motion approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

Megan Jansa gave the report

Motion to approve the report by JoAnn Schramski, second by Paula McDaniels, motion passed

5. Auditor's Report

Mary McDaniels gave the report for herself and Dave Kaseno

Motion to approve the report by Michelle Wojcik, second by Carol Cuper, motion passed.

6. 2024 Budget

Treasurer Megan Jansa presented the 2024 Budget.

A special thanks to Michelle Wojcik as the benefits she receives from her job greatly reduce the insurance costs for the church (saving the church approximately \$2K per month).

Motion to approve the 2024 budget by Valerie Fall, second by Julie White, motion approved.

7. Elections

Elected to the Parish Council: Dennis Fall, Jerry Kistner, Dan Thomas

Elected to the Cemetery Committee: Bob Fall, Steve Fall

Elected to the Auditor Position: Mary McDaniels

8. Presentation of an Endowment Fund for Holy Trinity

Dan Thomas gave the presentation for Holy Trinity to start an Endowment Fund for the future benefit of the church.

Motion was made to authorize the Parish Council to start an Endowment Fund for Holy Trinity by Mary McDaniels, second, Tom White, motion passed.

9. Old Business

Rectory bathroom remodel set for March.

10. New Business

Discussion on replacing the church driveway and the church dome. We still have a few serviceable years left for each

11. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn at 12:43pm by Jerry Fall, second Dan Thomas

Closing Prayer: It is Truly Meet

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Thomas

Pastor's Report 2025

Fr Christopher Wojcik

What a grace-filled year we have concluded. Our parish celebrated three Baptisms, and a whopping *eleven* additional Chrismations in 2024. Amazingly, our roster of child members (*under 18 yrs*) rose from 30 to 41 in just one year's time – a 37% increase! And we continue to welcome a steady stream of beautiful visitors and inquirers, with several more Baptisms and Chrismations already scheduled for this spring.

We solemnized two burials on our grounds: Anne McDaniels, a daughter of this parish lost too young, and James Gleboff, grandson of former HTOC priest Gregory Gleboff. Holding their lives in love and grief, we celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

Adult Ed has been exploring the Sacraments of the Church. Everyone's questions, insights, and wisdom provide an ongoing blessing for myself and all who are present.

I again want to thank the parish for supporting my Spiritual Direction certification program, from which I graduated in April. Spiritual Direction 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 quiet voice within themselves. I currently see a handful of both parishioners and outside clients each month for Spiritual Direction. It is a time commitment on the person's part, but if this is something that interests you, please browse the [Pastoral Care](#) page on our church website for more information.

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.

I want to thank all the leaders of the parish in every organization and service group for their wonderful work serving God and each other: the Council, the Sisters of HT, Sunday School, the various committees, choir, wine pourers, altar servers, cleaners, workers, and the Readers who cover for me when I take my (much-needed!) PTO days.

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.

2024 President's Report

2024 was a year of extraordinary change, balanced by comfortable stability. An interesting year to be a first-time President.

Early in the year, we had to bid farewell, much too early, to Annie McDaniels (Memory Eternal). A sad time for Annie's family and our church community.

On the brighter side, we've had the great fortune of experiencing magnificent growth. Several new parishioners and families have joined the church. Additionally, a significant number of regular visitors have expanded our community- beyond what many of us long-time members thought possible.

It's truly amazing to have amassed the crowds we have seen regularly over the last year. It wasn't long ago attendance was only that high during Christmas and Pascha seasons.

To our new community members: Please bear with us "seasoned" members as we get to know you all. I'm sure we'll all confuse each other with others within the community as we get to know each other. Let us not be concerned about our slow pace of learning and possible mistakes, but embrace the hope and joy the opportunity brings!

Our concession stands and Harvest Festival earned gracious income through the hard work, dedication, and donations of our community members. These events are led by an even more dedicated crew of support staff the entire week leading up to each event. Thank you to all the leaders and contributors to our parish events.

The Cemetery, church grounds, and church itself were well-kept as usual. The Sunday School and Youth Group are thriving with an abundance of students. The choir sounds great. The Sisterhood keeps doing all of the usual thankless tasks. The council is strong and does its best to navigate through whatever obstacles face us. What a community we have! Thanks to all that led and contributed to these efforts/teams.

Our consistency with all of our groups and events, as well as the fantastic leadership of Fr. Chris, provide us with much-needed stability during our times of change.

2025 will bring change and challenge for sure, but I have a feeling our community is up to the task! Our growth is providing space constraints for our Sunday School and Coffee Hour activities. We need to start thinking about some long-term fund-raising projects (driveway, steeple, restrooms, overall space, etc.). We'll all do our best as a community to plan for the future!

I thank you all for your support of the council and our community over the last year, and allowing me the honor to be the President of the Council.

In Christ,

Dennis Fall

Parish Council President



2024 Sisters of Holy Trinity—a year in review

This past year has brought gatherings both joyous and sorrowful, and many new faces to Holy Trinity. We welcomed many new members to our church community, bringing joy and new fellowship. We also celebrated the lives of those that have passed and hosted luncheons to provide support and nourishment to the families within our parish during the funerals.

We enjoyed fellowship in the spring with the Ukrainian egg decorating course, easter egg hunt, and Pentecost potluck which was both tasty and well attended. Pascha was a wonderful celebration with standing room only in our church, and many new faces to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The summer brought the opportunity to serve and interact with our community as well as many members of our church that were present at these events. Despite the rain, Clayton Cheese Days was a success as well as the Old Time Farm Fest. It was fun to get together as a parish to volunteer and see one another outside of church.

Many recipes were brought together as Megan Jansa spearheaded the creation of *Taste and See*, our new church cookbook! It is a beautiful compilation of recipes, tried and true, and was completed in perfect timing to have copies sold at our Harvest Festival. On a beautiful sunny Sunday in September, we hosted our annual Harvest Festival! It was a great success, with many new faces coming from near-and-far to try our cabbage rolls and visit our church. We had live music, provided by a new parishioner which created a wonderful atmosphere for our visitors as they dined, shopped, and enjoyed the day. It truly 'takes a village' for this event to come together, so thank you to everyone who supported the event with their time and talents.

Finishing the year with an outpouring of love and generosity, we held the advent healing service, the Sunday School Christmas program, and our Sisterhood donations to various community causes. Both financially and with donated good, we supported members of our church community and local community as they faced health struggles. We donated financially to Halos of the St Croix Valley which provides resources and support to families who have lost children, and FOCUS Minnesota. Additionally, we hosted a winter clothing drive and hygiene items for FOCUS MN, and delivered multiple jam-packed SUV trips of goods to their St Paul building.

With another year of new faces and shared talents, the Sisters of Holy Trinity have taken steps to welcome new members within our church, impacting the lives of both our church and local community.

Blessings for another wonderful year,
Ella Anderson
2024 Sisterhood President

2024 Choir Report

First of all I want to thank everyone who sings with our choir, even if you are standing downstairs with your family. Music is such an important part of worship and I cannot imagine our services without it. It is an honor to be able to direct the choir and I feel very lucky to have Kari willing to take my place, as well as others who step in and help. It actually does “take a village” sometimes when the service isn’t a typical, predictable one. Also, thank you so much, Fr. Chris, for setting things up for me and sticking little notes in my music!

My confession for this year’s letter: I apologize for not following through with the new music books I promised to make. I honestly did work on them from home but finally realized that I seem to fall short when it comes to actually putting it together. I would rather be part of a small committee for this task than try to do it alone. It is so much easier to sing from the congregational music book Fr. Chris made years ago, especially when we have newer people singing with us. Our old blue books are literally falling apart. I will do whatever I can to make this happen in 2025.

Since I have the opportunity, I’d like to remind everyone of some behaviors which would make our choir experience as good as it can be:

1. Please be at your stand BEFORE the 9:30 bell, even one minute would help!
2. Turn your stand so that the director is easy to see at all times.
3. Please watch the conductor, no matter who it is.
4. Choose one person to be the page-turner at your section.
5. Be careful with whispering; you would be surprised how distracting it can be.

Thank you again for contributing your voice! I do realize that I cannot sing as well as I did years ago, but I can still direct. Again, I value each and every one of you as a singer and a friend!

Sincerely, *Paula*

Youth Group Report

2025

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

We now have 10 students – the largest Youth Group in fifteen years! We've been emphasizing and studying the goodness of creation, especially humanity. We've discussed God's presence in their lives, the creation accounts in Genesis, played games with spiritual lessons, and simply spent some quality time together. We even had a bowling outing in January.

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

- Color Easter eggs for the St. Thomas Sunday Egg Hunt
- Read at the Tomb over Holy Friday/Saturday
- Sing in the choir
- Serve in the altar
- Clean the church
- Assist with the wine-pouring at Communion
- Work and serve at the Harvest Festival
- Chant the Epistle and other readings during services
- Teach Sunday School
- Help with VBS
- Decorate our church Christmas tree
- 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 am so proud of our teens, and I hope each of you will take the time to ***tell them how much they are appreciated!***

Fr. Chris

2024 Holy Trinity Cemetery Report

I sincerely appreciate the way we take care of the cemetery with our volunteer forces.

Our work days are always very productive from the typical routine care to stump grinding.

Thanks to all who pitched in!

Those that came before us are proud.

There were two burials this year: Annie McDaniels (May), James Gleboff (September).

Sincerely,

Steve Fall

2024 Sunday School Report

A great year so far from the Sunday School. We have 28 children split into 5 classrooms. We did a Christmas program titled, "Christmas Lights". We have a special focus on icons this year. We discuss different aspects of a different icon each month. We do a group project each month, and Monk Mark comes for a discussion each month as well. Thank you for the wonderful year so far!

Stacie Moriak

Metrical Records from 2024

Baptisms: (3)

- 1) Asher Hames (June 23, 2024)
- 2) Jeremiah Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 3) Ezra Brabant (October 20, 2024)

Chrismations: (11)

- 1) Stephen Poynter (May 4, 2024)
- 2) Anthony Jansa (May 4, 2024)
- 3) Brock Hames (June 23, 2024)
- 4) Kyli Hames (June 23, 2024)
- 5) Urijah Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 6) Judah Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 7) Moira Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 8) Kristen Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 9) Wade Brabant (June 30, 2024)
- 10) Hal Flettire (December 22, 2024)
- 11) Jonathan Chapel (December 22, 2024)

Weddings: (0)

Burials: (2)

- 1) Anne McDaniels (May 11, 2024)
- 2) James Gleboff (September 27, 2024)

Membership as of December 31, 2024:

Adults: 90
Children: 41

Charity Budget for 2025

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
November	\$200	(Open)
December	\$200	Lifeline Food Pantry (CLEAR LAKE/CLAYTON)
Other:	\$2400	Summer Camp Scholarships (8 kids @ \$300 per camper)
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<b>Total Charity Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 4000</b>	

**Budget total is the same as 2024**



INCOME	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Variance	2025 Budget	Notes
Concession Stand	\$8,000	\$7,377	-\$623	\$8,000	
Gifts, Memorials Received	\$2,500	\$3,763	\$1,263	\$2,500	One-time gifts, memorials
Harvest Festival	\$5,500	\$5,800	\$300	\$5,500	
Interest Income	\$1,000	\$91	-\$909	\$1,000	
Investment Income	\$5,200	\$2,983	-\$2,217	\$5,200	
Other Income	\$1,000	\$350	-\$650	\$1,000	Land rental
Sunday Collections	\$99,384	\$114,736	\$15,352	\$107,550	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$122,584</b>	<b>\$135,101</b>	<b>\$12,517</b>	<b>\$130,750</b>	

EXPENSES	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Variance	2025 Budget	Notes
Altar supplies	\$1,000	\$921	-\$79	\$1,000	Wine, Altar Server Books, Candles, and Cups
Charity					
Church Camp	\$1,800	\$1,673	-\$127	\$1,800	Est. 6 campers
Monthly & Discretionary	\$2,000	\$1,644	-\$356	\$2,000	
Diocese Council/ AAC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100	21st All American Council Assessment
Fund-Raising Expense	\$2,400	\$933	-\$1,467	\$2,400	Online donations service charges and envelopes
Education/Sunday School					
Continuing education	\$3,300	\$1,550	-\$1,750	\$3,300	
Sunday School	\$350	\$122	-\$228	\$350	
Insurance					
Health	\$6,096	\$6,282	\$186	\$6,500	
Life	\$1,172	\$1,099	-\$73	\$1,200	
Property	\$5,432	\$7,587	\$2,155	\$8,000	Increased of \$2155 from 2023
Workers Comp	\$475	\$489	\$14	\$500	
Medical payments	\$4,500	\$5,542	\$1,042	\$5,500	
OCA Dues	\$13,716	\$14,541	\$824	\$14,900	Projected, based on \$1241.69/month
Office	\$300	\$1,823	\$1,523	\$300	Copier/maintenance and Deposit Slips
Church/Parish Maintenance	\$1,000	\$811	-\$189	\$1,000	Sisterhood gave \$3000 for rectory bath repairs
Tax					
Property	\$204	\$189	-\$15	\$190	
Social Security	\$6,217	\$5,449	-\$768	\$6,300	Based on salary + equity
Travel					
Priest's Mileage, Trips	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,250	Reimbursement for Spiritual Retreat + mileage
Lodging for Visitors	\$250	\$0	-\$250	\$250	
Utilities					
Electricity	\$3,700	\$3,257	-\$443	\$3,700	
LP Gas	\$6,500	\$2,283	-\$4,217	\$6,500	Pre-pay 3200 gal @\$1.47/gal. for 2024/25.
Telephone & Internet	\$2,450	\$1,816	-\$634	\$2,450	
Trash Disposal	\$546	\$802	\$256	\$800	
Wages					
Choir Directors (\$35/wk.)	\$1,900	\$2,100	\$200	\$2,200	
Priest & Substitutes	\$37,920	\$37,920	\$0	\$39,120	Check on COLA for 2025
Equity	\$6,816	\$6,816	\$0	\$7,000	
Pension	\$10,140	\$10,042	-\$98	\$10,140	\$845/month
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$122,184</b>	<b>\$117,691</b>	<b>-\$4,493</b>	<b>\$130,750</b>	

<b>Adult Members (2024)</b>	<b>74</b>
Annual Cost per Member	\$1,651
Weekly Cost per Member	\$32
<b>Adult Members (2025)</b>	<b>90</b>
Annual Cost per Member	\$1,453
Weekly Cost per Member	\$28

# Elections for 2025

## **Parish Council**

Elect three (two-year terms)

Steve Dzubay, Megan Jansa, & Jacob Fall's terms are ending.

*Jacob F is eligible for re-election.*

*Dennis Fall, Dan Thomas, & Jerry Kistner have one year left.*

## **Auditors**

Elect one (two-year term)

Dave Kaseno's term is ending

*Dave is eligible for re-election.*

*Mary McDaniels has one year left.*

## **Cemetery Committee**

Elect two (two-year terms)

Tom Moriak & Jerry Kistner's terms are ending.

*Both are eligible for re-election.*

*Steve Fall & Bob Fall have one year left.*

# HTOC Endowment Fund update

Church membership voted at the 2024 annual meeting to investigate options for forming an endowment fund to aid parish's long-term financial stability and offer a choice for 'legacy' gifts.

After exploring several options with three law firms, we settled on a partnership with the Hudson-based *St. Croix Valley Foundation's* Agency Fund. SCVF already has some 90 non-profits as Agency Fund partners, including five area churches, including *Ezekiel Lutheran, Pilgrim Lutheran, Lakes United FC, Our Saviors Lutheran, St. Paul Episcopal*.

Our arrangement takes advantage of *SCVF's* expertise in accepting complex gifts such as appreciated stocks, IRA distributions, real estate, vehicles, bequests, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, and cryptocurrency. Management fees are less than 2 percent.

Beginning July 2025, Holy Trinity can access an annual dividend of at least 4 percent each year, if desired. The sum can be used to supplement our annual budget or spend it on special projects.

As of Dec. 31, 2024, Holy Trinity Endowment Fund totaled \$20,250 from three donor gifts.

It has been suggested that donor gifts and memories/*In Memory Of* inscriptions be recorded in a book, available for viewing in the library area. Nothing has been formally decided yet.

Gifts can be given anytime. Simply include a note that designates the gift to "HTOC Endowment Fund".

