

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Annual report 2025



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Clayton, Wisconsin

Annual Parish Meeting *February 8, 2026*

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, & Determine Quorum
2. Approval of 2025 Minutes
3. Parish Reports (*written*)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Auditor's Report
6. 2026 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
2025 Annual Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2025

Fr. Chris called the meeting to order at 12:03pm with the singing of *O Heavenly King*. A quorum of 36 adults was confirmed out of possible 90 eligible adult members.

Minutes from the 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Tony Fall, seconded by Lynnae Nehring. The vote was unanimous.

Fr. C noted that **parish reports** had been available for viewing via a .pdf document for several weeks, as well as printed copies in the fellowship area. Reports were approved on a motion by Mary McDaniels, seconded by Doria Saros. The vote was unanimous.

Jacob Fall recapped highlights of the **treasurer's report**. Motion for approval offered by Helen Falkenthal, seconded by Julie White. The vote was unanimous.

Fr. C requested a report from **auditors** McDaniels and Dave Kaseno. McDaniels said their review found everything to be satisfactory. Approved on a motion by Joanne Schramski, seconded by Krista Ottinger. The vote was unanimous.

Jacob Fall offered details on the **2025 budget**. He noted an \$1,100 diocesan assessment for the upcoming All-American Council, and an increase in monthly diocesan dues because of our larger membership. Conversely, we're receiving three-months credit on dues in 2025 because of a calculation error at the Chicago end. A 2.8 percent mandated COLA increase also boosted some priest-related expenses. Approved on a motion by Matt Cuper, seconded by Lenae Nehring. The vote was unanimous.

Elections: Nominations for Parish Council were opened for three seats. Dave Kaseno moved to close nominations, seconded by Steve Fall. After balloting, the winners were Matt Cuper, Jake Fall, and Jacob Fall. Nominations for one two-year term as auditor were invited. Meghan Jansa moved to close nominations, seconded by Nehring. Jon Mulinix was elected.

Nominations were invited for two seats on the Cemetery Committee. A motion to close nominations was made by Lynnae Nehring, seconded by Krista Ottinger. Elected were Tony Fall and Tom Moriak.

There was no **old business**.

Under **new business**:

Val Fall inquired whether there was any update on repairing the "weeping" walls in the restrooms. Dennis Fall noted that a compromised NW downspout outflow contributed to the situation. It will be addressed in the spring. Jacob Fall suggested a synthetic injection remedy he applied to in another area of the basement might also be used.

Kari Moskal suggested the need to resolve a situation where the Sisterhood's representative on the church council also serving in a Sisterhood leadership role. She offered a motion that the Sisterhood representative should not be allowed an officer's role on the council. Mary Sue Moskal seconded it. Jake Fall suggested the motion be amended to be optional. Voting was 32 in favor, to 1 opposed to a rule that a Sisterhood representative cannot serve in an officer's role on council unless she agrees.

Motion to adjourn at 12:50pm by Dave Kaseno, seconded by Ella Anderson. The meeting concluded with singing of "It is Truly Meet."

Respectfully submitted by Steve Dzubay

Pastor's Report 2026

Fr Christopher Wojcik

What a grace-filled year we have concluded. Our parish celebrated five Baptisms, and six additional Chrismations in 2025. Amazingly, our Sunday School roster now has 44 students. And we continue to welcome a steady stream of beautiful visitors and inquirers. Our combined adult & child membership is currently 144 (*96 adults, 48 children*). For comparison, at the beginning of 2021, our combined membership was 99 (*69 adults, 30 children*) – a 45% increase!

We solemnized the burial of Alexsi Currier with love, loss, and hope in the resurrection, and celebrated the wedding of Jonathan & Hal Manthis.

Adult Ed has been covering a mosaic of different topics, and your questions, insights, and wisdom provide an ongoing blessing for myself and all who are present.

I would again like to share with you that I am available for one-on-one Spiritual Direction. Spiritual Direction is an hour you commit to sit with me and explore how God is moving in your life, both in the big things and the little. The Spiritual Direction relationship can be as short as a single session; it can go on monthly for years; or it can happen intermittently. If this is something that might interest you, please browse the [Pastoral Care](#) page on our church website for more information.

I know that despite 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 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.

I would also like to thank Fr Andrew Jaye who covered my sabbatical, and to each of you for your prayers, support, and flexibility while I took some much-needed time to attend to my own spiritual life for those 6 weeks.

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.

2025 President's Report

2025 continued where 2024 left off.

The magnificent growth we experienced last year continued in 2025. Even more new parishioners and families have joined the church. Additional regular visitors on top of our members continue to fill our church almost every Sunday.

I'm going to repeat what I said last year.... 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 were dampened by rain, but the teamwork made for better income than we expected given the weather. Harvest Festival once again was a success 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. All of our church groups (Sunday School, Youth Group, Choir, Sisterhood, and Parish Council) continue their good works. Thanks to all that led and contributed to these efforts/teams.

Thank you for your support of the council and our community in 2025.

In Christ,

Dennis Fall

Parish Council President

Dear Parish of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church,

It has been a pleasure being the Sisterhood President for 2025. It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly. We are continuing to see growth within our walls and that is a very welcomed sight. The Sunday School has outgrown their space and now have an early section before church and a late section after church is done. Staying in the trend of growth our congregation added nine new members between chrismation and baptism.

During the Paschal Lenten season the sisterhood made monetary donations to three seminaries; St. Vladimir, St. Tikhon, and St. Herman. In April Megan Jansa and Lynnae Nehring hosted their Ukrainian egg workshop with 14 attendees, of which none were our church members. It is great that traditions have been presented and passed on. All proceeds were graciously donated to the Sisterhood from Megan and Lynnae. We were able to expand the Pentecost dinner menu with the addition of hotdogs and additional pieces of chicken for our expanding parish.

In September we held our annual Harvest Festival with preparing a whopping 1,750 cabbage rolls for our event. This kind of feat does not go down easily, taking many hands and behind the scenes work over several days to make our production seem effortless to all that come and partake. Donations were also taken for Sophia Forchas during the festival and the Sisterhood and Council added to the donation increasing it to \$1200.00. In times of sorrow such as this, seeing a community come together to support a cause is very heartwarming.

November, we held our annual Sisterhood outing/meeting at the home of Valerie Fall. It was very nice to be able to come together with a nice pot luck and camaraderie. At this meeting we decided on our annual Christmas donations to go to the Clayton Fire Department, Lifeline Food Pantry, and a care package to Joe Fieldbinder.

This year we also had to say goodbye to one of our dear parishioners Alexsi. He will be sorely missed by all, and may we all remember his booming voice during liturgies.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be your 2025 Sisterhood President, it has been a pleasure.

In Christ,

Trudi Seibel

Choir Report 2026

Thank you to all who sing with us each Sunday and also special services and feast days. Our choir is an essential part of our worship, and while the service could continue without it, it would certainly not be the same. Although we are not performing a concert I believe that every time we sing we should strive to offer our very best. Maintaining all four vocal parts remains important to me even though it is not always possible. I truly appreciate everyone's efforts to attend as consistently as they can. One of the greatest treasures of Orthodox worship is our prayerful acapella tradition. YOUR voices make that happen.

You may have noticed that we have been using Fr. Chris's white Divine Liturgy books more often. These were especially helpful during the time of visiting priests and have also made it easier to move smoothly through the service by limiting our choices. I am continuing to work toward creating a new, all-inclusive choir book with additional options. Please hold me to this promise; if the new books do not appear the responsibility is mine.

A few reminders that bear repeating:

1. Please be at your stand and ready to sing immediately after the second bell.
2. Position your stand so the director is easy to see.
3. Please watch the conductor, no matter who it is.
4. Choose one attentive person at your stand to turn pages.
5. Be mindful of whispering, as it can be surprisingly distracting and can be heard downstairs.

Thank you again for offering your voices. I value each of you greatly, not only as choir members, but also as friends.

Sincerely,

Paula McDaniels

2025 Holy Trinity Cemetery Report

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

Our workdays are always very productive and fun. Thanks to all who pitched in! There was one burial this year: Alexsi Currier (October).

Sincerely,
Steve Fall

Sunday School Annual Report 2025-2026

What a fun year we have had! Our theme this year was “Starting at the Beginning.” We have been learning all about Genesis and started our learning with the Days of Creation. We will continue the theme into January 2026 with Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the generations leading up to Noah, the Great Flood and many, more! During Thanksgiving we learned about gratitude and made some thankful leaves. We also celebrated St. Nicholas Day and had a craft to follow the lesson. Thank you to Megan Jansa for putting together a successful and touching Christmas Program. This year we had a sign up for the program and were able to add microphones, which were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Paula for leading the songs in the program.

The kids have been working very hard and learning a lot. All the projects they have been doing will be put together in a portfolio and given back to them at the end of the year. Hopefully they will have fun looking back on all the activities and share what all they have learned. If you ever get a chance or are curious about what we have been up to, come take a look at the sample projects that have been done so far.

This year our Sunday School has grown to approx. 35 students from Pre-K to 8th grade. This does not include the handful of kiddos we have had from visitors or the 9 students in Youth Group. We have carried over the early morning classes with the older age groups, 5th - 8th graders, starting at 8:45am and the rest of the classes coming downstairs after communion. With this many kids we have been encouraging using our walking feet to keep everyone safe and cleaning up after each other to keep our church clean.

All of this could not have been done without the support from the other teachers and Fr. Chris. A BIG thank you to Laurie Fall, Darla Fall, Joselynn Decker, Evelyn Fall, Lily Fall, Val Fall, and Megan Jansa. Thank you also, to all who have offered their services as substitutes.

We hope the children of our parish continue to enjoy their time in Sunday School and continue to grow with God.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynnae Nehring, Co-Sunday School Director

Youth Group Report

2026

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

We again have 10 students. We've been emphasizing prayer practices and meditation, the teachings of Jesus, and just random topics like truthfulness, dealing with grief, and loving our adversaries. We discuss God's presence in our lives, play games with spiritual lessons, and spend some quality time together.

I also want to thank Kari Moskal for covering Youth Group while I was on sabbatical in November – much appreciated!

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
- ➔ Attend summer camp

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

Charity Budget for 2026

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

Budget total is the same as 2025

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## Metrical Records from 2025

### **Baptisms: (5)**

- 1) Maeve Fieldbinder (April 13, 2025)
- 2) Theodore Fieldbinder (April 13, 2025)
- 3) Russell Collins (June 8, 2025)
- 4) Grant Popp (August 24, 2025)
- 5) Roland Fieldbinder (December 3, 2025)

### **Chrismations: (6)**

- 1) Thomas Schaffer (March 23, 2025)
- 2) Amanda Schaffer (March 23, 2025)
- 3) Henry Schaffer (March 23, 2025)
- 4) Emma Schaffer (March 23, 2025)
- 5) Lauren Fieldbinder (April 13, 2025)
- 6) Joseph Fieldbinder (April 13, 2025)

### **Weddings: (1)**

- 1) Hal Flettre & Jonathan Chapel (August 2, 2025)

### **Burials: (1)**

- 1) Alexsi Currier (October 31, 2025))

### **Membership as of December 31, 2025:**

Adults:	96
Children:	48

## **Audit Committee Summary Report**

### **Parish Financial Review – Calendar Year 2025**

**Prepared by:** Jonathan Mulinix, Mary McDaniels (Audit Committee)

**Date:** January 15, 2026

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#### **Overview**

The Audit Committee met with the parish treasurer to review the financial books, records, and procedures for the 2025 calendar year. Based on the documentation and discussions, the treasurer has demonstrated consistent diligence in managing the parish's finances. Records are well-organized, payments and receivables are appropriately tracked, and controls are in place to support the integrity of parish funds. Designated funds appear to be used in accordance with their intended purposes, and the treasurer maintains a professional working relationship with both the bank and church leadership.

However, several items were identified that require attention or clarification. These findings are summarized below.

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#### **Key Findings and Recommendations**

##### **1. Investment Review – Legion Capital Bond**

###### **Summary:**

The church currently holds a substantial investment in a bond issued by *Legion Capital Corporation*. As of this report, the most recent scheduled bond payment has not been received, and public disclosures indicate the company has defaulted on its obligations to investors.

###### **Key Points:**

- Legion Capital suspended all bondholder payments in early 2025, citing liquidity issues and cash flow shortfalls.
- The company is currently in default under its bond agreement, and investors have been advised that payments will remain suspended.
- The company's SEC registration has been revoked, and it is no longer a compliant reporting entity, which significantly reduces transparency.
- Multiple law firms have launched investigations on behalf of affected investors and are pursuing recovery through arbitration.

**Recommendation:**

Given the high risk of loss and ongoing payment suspension, the Audit Committee strongly recommends that if the Church Council has not already done so, they should consult with qualified legal or financial professionals to evaluate options for recovery or write-down. A formal update should be provided to the parish on the status of the investment.

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**2. Sunday Offering Counting Variances**

Some minor discrepancies were observed between the amounts counted after Sunday services and the actual bank deposit totals.

**Recommendation:**

Counters should ensure accuracy when tallying offerings. In cases where discrepancies arise, the treasurer should continue to follow up with the counting team for reconciliation and documentation.

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**3. Multiple Bank Accounts Across Committees**

The church maintains multiple accounts (e.g., Cemetery, Sisterhood), but there is no centralized document tracking each account and its designated treasurer.

**Recommendation:**

Finish creating a master list documenting each account, its purpose, and the responsible stakeholder (e.g., Cemetery Treasurer, Sisterhood Treasurer) to support transparency and succession planning.

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**4. Online Access and Committee Oversight**

The treasurer suggested that committee stakeholders should have online access to view their designated accounts and assume more active oversight.

**Recommendation:**

The Audit Committee supports this proposal and recommends the Church Council evaluate its implementation. This could reduce over-reliance on a single individual and encourage shared responsibility. This would also increase efficiency, reduce errors and the amount of time one person must dedicate when others are capable of managing certain aspects of their own accounts.

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## 5. Harvest Festival Cash Handling Procedures

Large cash volumes from events like Clayton Cheese Days, Old Time Farm Fest, and the Harvest Festival are currently managed without formal protocols.

### **Recommendation:**

Written procedures should be developed to document the handling, counting, transport, and deposit of event-related cash. This will strengthen internal controls and reduce risk.

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## 6. Harvest Festival Revenue Allocation

There is ongoing uncertainty regarding whether funds raised from the Harvest Festival should be deposited into the General Church Fund or the Sisterhood Account.

### **Recommendation:**

Clarify and document the intended fund destination in a Church Council meeting, and communicate it clearly to all stakeholders involved in the event. While we know the answer to this question will require a deeper dive into how each of these groups funds our festival, this was also a concern that came up in the Harvest Festival survey.

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## Conclusion

The treasurer continues to demonstrate strong stewardship over parish finances. The audit revealed no evidence of mismanagement, and routine controls appear to be in place and functioning. The key area of concern relates to the status of the Legion Capital investment and associated risks, which warrant prompt attention by the Church Council.

### **Signatures:**

*Jonathan Mulnix*

Auditor

*Mary McDaniels* Auditor

Date: January 15, 2026



2026 Budget

INCOME	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	2026 Budget	Notes
Concession Stand	\$10,000	\$8,800	-\$1,201	\$10,000	
Gifts, Memorials Received	\$2,500	\$9,821	\$7,321	\$2,500	One-time gifts, memorials
Harvest Festival	\$5,500	\$8,192	\$2,692	\$5,500	
Interest Income	\$1,000	\$52	-\$948	\$1,000	
Other Income	\$1,000	\$550	-\$450	\$1,000	Land rental
Sunday Collections	\$110,000	\$131,323	\$21,323	\$125,000	
Cemetery Fund	\$3,000	\$332	-\$2,668	\$3,000	Cemetery plots
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$133,000</b>	<b>\$159,070</b>	<b>\$26,070</b>	<b>\$148,000</b>	

EXPENSES	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Variance	2026 Budget	Notes
Altar supplies	\$1,000	\$942	-\$58	\$1,000	Wine, Altar Server Books, Candles, and Cups
Bank Charges	\$1,200	\$1,147	-\$53	\$1,200	Bank Charges for online donations
Charity					
Church Camp	\$1,800	\$2,040	\$240	\$2,100	Est. 6 campers, Includes both Summer and Winter Camps
Monthly & Discretionary	\$2,000	\$1,200	-\$800	\$2,000	
Fund-Raising Expense	\$3,000	\$3,958	\$958	\$4,000	
Education/Sunday School					
Continuing education	\$3,300	\$3,780	\$480	\$3,800	
Sunday School	\$350	\$179	-\$171	\$350	
Insurance					
Health	\$6,500	\$6,552	\$52	\$6,500	
Life	\$1,200	\$1,171	-\$29	\$1,200	
Property	\$8,000	\$8,932	\$932	\$9,000	Church Mutual
Workers Comp	\$500	\$469	-\$31	\$500	
Medical payments	\$5,500	\$2,840	-\$2,660	\$5,500	
OCA Dues	\$14,900	\$10,134	-\$4,767	\$14,302	Projected, based on \$1,191.86/month
Office	\$300	\$1,415	\$1,115	\$900	copier/maintenance, envelopes, calendars, etc
Church/Parish Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,036	\$36	\$1,000	
Tax					
Property	\$190	\$189	-\$1	\$190	
Social Security	\$6,300	\$5,636	-\$664	\$6,300	Based on salary + equity
Travel					
Fuel	\$300	\$47	-\$253	\$100	
Priest's Mileage, Trips	\$2,250	\$2,425	\$175	\$2,250	Reimbursement for Spiritual Retreat + Mileage
Lodging & Meals	\$250	\$126	-\$124	\$250	Clergy Convention
Utilities					
Electricity	\$3,700	\$3,326	-\$374	\$3,700	
LP Gas	\$6,500	\$4,371	-\$2,129	\$4,500	Pre-pay 3000 gal @\$1.47/gal. for 2025/26.
Telephone & Internet	\$2,450	\$2,843	\$393	\$2,900	
Trash Disposal	\$800	\$1,022	\$222	\$1,000	Parish house garbage pickup from Watermans started in January 2026
Wages					
Choir Directors (\$35/wk)	\$2,200	\$1,820	-\$380	\$2,200	
Priest & Substitutes	\$39,120	\$39,120	\$0	\$41,520	5% raise and 3.5% increase COLA
Equity	\$7,000	\$6,816	-\$184	\$7,380	\$615.00/month
Pension	\$10,140	\$11,219	\$1,079	\$11,500	\$845/month then in June 2026 increased to \$868.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$131,750</b>	<b>\$124,755</b>	<b>-\$6,995</b>	<b>\$137,142</b>	

<b>NET</b>	<b>\$10,858</b>
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<b>Adult Members (2025)</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Annual Cost per Member (2025)</b>	<b>\$1,524</b>
<b>Weekly Cost per Member (2025)</b>	<b>\$29</b>

<b>Adult Members (2026)</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Annual Cost per Member (2026)</b>	<b>\$1,429</b>
<b>Weekly Cost per Member (2026)</b>	<b>\$27</b>

# Elections for 2026

## **Parish Council**

Elect three (two-year terms)

Dennis Fall, Dan Thomas, & Jerry Kistner's terms are ending.

*Dennis F & Jerry K are eligible for re-election.*

*Matt Cuper, Jerry Fall, & Jacob Fall have one year left.*

## **Auditors**

Elect one (two-year term)

Mary McDaniels's term is ending

*Mary is eligible for re-election.*

*Jon Mulinix 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 & Tony Fall have one year left.*