St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

Annual Parish Meeting 2019

The meeting began with the singing of “O Lord, Save Thy People.”

Call to Order – Subdeacon Aaron Blanco read the requirements for a quorum. The parish has about 70 active adult members, so 35 would be needed in attendance for a quorum. Thirty-seven present, so a quorum was declared.

Review of 2018 Minutes – Phyllis Tausch motioned to approve the minutes with no changes. Helen Kaye seconded the motion. All in favor. Secretary note: don’t go paperless, because not everyone can read the screen.

Priest Report - greeting and encouragement. Fr. David has been preparing the office and got in touch with priests at St. Sophia, Sts J&A, St. Ephraim, St. John Cassian. Wants to revive clergy brotherhood and get more activity between parishes.
In November, Fr. John Behr visiting, 2nd and 3rd. Making sure to make it a pan-Orthodox event for San Antonio. Not much else to report from two weeks here.

Election of Parish Council Officers. Stepping down are Scott, Elaine, Helen. Sbdcn Aaron read the qualifications for PC membership.
Nominations: Helen Kaye, by Anya ???, Michelle Brewer by Adrianna Brown, Elaine Jenkins by Reader Jerry Troy, Mark Sikorski and Eugene Ponomarev by Sbdcn Aaron.

Phyllis Tausch moves to close, Greg Lundblade seconds, all in favor.

The presidents of the Sisterhood and Brotherhood counted the votes. The new parish council members are Helen, Michelle, Eugene.

Selection of Lay Delegate and Alternate to Diocesan Assembly.

The assembly will be at St. Seraphim Cathedral in Dallas. Nominations: Ben Meadows and Adam Rajper by Sbdcn. Aaron, Patrick Burnham by Jenée Blanco (declined), Greg Lundblade by Vita Lundblade, Samuel Irizarry by Ben Tolleson, Scott Smith volunteered.
Laura Farris motioned to close, Greg Lundblade seconded, all in favor. Ben Meadows is the May delegate, Scott Smith is alternate.

Youth Group Report

Caelum Blanco presented the report for the Youth group. The teens raised funds by serving the parish during coffee hours and luncheons throughout the year. They also raised money through icon sales before Christmas and Pascha. They were able to financially support two orphanages for a total of 19 months. Three of our youth traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana on February 1st for the Diocese of the South’s All Saints Winter Camp. Ten of the youth attended All Saints Sumer Camp at Camp Akiva in Point, Texas from June 30th to July 5th.

Please see the Teen Group president for learning how you can support the teens and youth with prayers and financial gifts. Ideas for fundraisers also welcome.

Choir Report

Reader Ben Tolleson presented the Choir report. The choir has been improving due to grace of God, increased rehearsals, individual practice and study, better overall attendance. Special preparation made for visit of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Lent, Holy Week, Pascha. New position, Choir Librarian, filled by Chrysa Hefty, for organizing and simplifying the choir books.

Some new parishioners in choir. Choir membership split into regular and backup members; backup members are those who are not in regular attendance. 14 regular members, 12 backup members. Regular rehearsals have been held on Sundays; now they will be Sunday after Liturgy, Wednesday at 6pm, and Saturday at 4:30pm.

As Reader Ben has just started a master’s program, so Caelum Blanco and Sovreyne Wiggins will be filling in to cover absences as director. There are plans to have a workshop with Deacon Anthony Stokes. A few parishioners have expressed interest in choir, the membership numbers may soon increase. Liturgy books will be redone very soon.

Building Committee Report

Reader Steven Baine gave building committee report.
There was a question about the windows. Sbdcn Aaron gave a report about the progress and that the repairs would be coming in well under the approved budget.
Small-scale repair needs can be taken to the building committee

Sisterhood Report

Jenny Baine and Adriana Brown gave the sisterhood report. In March there was an election. (Restate from Sept minutes). Also getting younger girls “little sisters” involved. The Sisters supported the Ukrainian dance troupe in a recent city cultural event. Bread making(?). May garage sale - profit went to choir books, luncheon for Fr Dmitri, help for the Wootens in moving. The Sisterhood also hosted a social night in June.

Brotherhood Report

The Brotherhood report was presented by Eugene. First, the Brotherhood expressed thanks to leadership from other committees. At the August meeting, new members were greeted, and new officers were elected. Reader Jerry Troy is the new president, Ted Brewer is the new vice president, Greg Lundblade is the new treasurer, and Samuel Irizarry is the new secretary.

Bookstore Report

Jeff Bryant gave the report for the bookstore. The St. Anthony Book Store continues to provide books, icons and worship material for our parish.We have suppliers from across the country and overseas. We strive to provide products at the lowest prices we can as well as providing books for those interested in becoming Orthodox at no cost. Our balance as of 1 Sept is: Checking account: $3491.90; Cash: $67.25

Cleaning Team Report

Adriana Brown delivered the report for the cleaning team. The team has been busy keeping the fellowship hall clean, the temple floors mopped and carpets vacuumed. Call for volunteers; there are only 4 families at the moment. There was also a general appeal for help during and at the end of the service, double-checking that trash, paper, and other items are picked up where you were standing or sitting or nearby.

Icon Project

Jerry Troy delivered the icon project report. Over the past year, the icon project reached its goal of collecting $20000 for the Dormition Icon, which was completed not long before the annual meeting. Special thanks to Panos from Greece, Fr. Leo, Jenée Blanco.

Social Media
Scott Smith gave the social media report. Two new admins were added to the parish Facebook page to help with monitoring and regular updates. The parish is looking at starting a Youtube Channel and assessing the need for a presence on other sites such as MeWe. Updates to the site are needed; we are looking at migrating to another host or just overhauling the design.

Budget

The proposed budget was presented by NIck Brown.

Diocese giving stipend to help with transition to new priest. There is a substantial increase in priest salary due to having wife and kids.

Increase in building insurance needed, as well as slight increase in routine and deferred maintenance. We still have the alarm system; looking at decreasing the sensitivity to make it easier to keep on.

Increase in budget to cover lay delegate for diocesan assembly.
We are spending more on bulletins based on actuals.
Starting up Sunday school again under Matiushka Natalia’s leadership
Would be better to have youth raise money for any bounce houses in the future for accounting/budget and liability. Discussed having a line item for youth camp registration assistance

Total proposed budget $138239.40. We received in 2018 $85338 in donations, spent $100369.
Reader Jerry Troy motioned to approve the budget, Jeff Bryant seconded, all in favor.

New business

Fellowship hall - special meeting upcoming. There is a major need for more space.
Phyllis Tausch motioned to form an exploratory committee, Tina Gilson seconded. All in favor

Special meeting- to decide what to do with large excess of loan funds. We will add business to the agenda to decide how the parish can support the youth activities.

Reminder: benevolence fund still exists and looking for volunteers and donations

Can Council track down the old Sunday school account?

Jeff Bryant motioned to adjourn, all in favor.

The meeting ended with the singing of “It Is Truly Meet.”