

ANNUAL REPORTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2026



THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY PARISH AND SAINT SERAPHIM OF SAROV CATHEDRAL

The Orthodox Church in America • Diocese of the West

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington

His Grace, the Right Reverend Vasily, Bishop of San Francisco and the West

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, *Rector*

Archpriest James Jorgenson, *retired, attached to Holy Trinity, SF*

Archpriest David Lowell and Archpriest Damian Kuolt, *retired, attached*

Priest Nicholas Carr and Priest Daniel York, *assigned*

Protodeacon Jeremiah Crawford, *assigned*

Deacon Justin Margitich and Deacon Aaron Wilkerson, *assigned*

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AGENDA for 2026 Meeting

1. Call to Order ~ Opening Prayers:
“O Heavenly King” & Prayer. “Memory Eternal” and “Many Years”
2. Appointment of Recording Secretary, Chairman and Tellers
3. Count to Establish Quorum (*50%+1 of voting members*): 81 needed to be present
4. Acceptance/Correction of Minutes from previous Annual Meeting of February 1, 2025
5. Review Agenda, add additional items, if any (please speak with Fr Lawrence prior)
6. Reports (additional comments and questions):
 - a. Comments from Rector
 - b. Treasurer’s Report — comments/explanation on the income and expenses of 2024
7. New Business:
 - a. Consideration and adoption of 2025 Budget — **pg. 32**
 - b. Ratification and confirmation for Treasurer (per the By-laws every two years)
 - c. Elections for Parish Council — *see Candidate list*, **pg. 42**
 - d. Nomination/election for two delegates for the Diocesan Assembly, Colorado Springs, Oct. 20–23
 - e. Nomination of Honorary Life-Time Member
 - f. Open Forum
 - g. Report of Elections
 - h. Adjournment ~ “It is Truly Meet” and Parish *Troparion* (last page)

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

We will be reporting to the Diocese that we have **160 adult members** (last year we reported 141, which was probably low). According to the new bylaws which we approved a few years ago, the quorum for all Parish Meetings shall be at least 50 + 1% of voting members, or in this case, **81 voting members**. In the absence of a quorum at the Annual Parish Meeting, that Meeting may be adjourned immediately, and then, reconvened, and those in attendance shall constitute a quorum at that Meeting.

Please note: there are NO DUES for Parish Membership. The Church is not a club or union and therefore has no membership fees. **Parish Members are those who believe, regularly confess and commune, worship and live according to the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Faith;** additionally members are those who financially support their parish, as an offering of thanks to God, from whatever resources He has given.

The Parish is a local Orthodox Eucharistic community canonically established by and subject to the authority of the Diocesan Bishop. It is also a local community of the Church, having at its head a duly appointed priest and consisting of Orthodox Christians who live in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church, comply with the discipline and rules of the Church, and regularly support their parish. Of course, a living and active parish is much more than that. The newly-revised Diocesan Parish Bylaws continue with a definition of what it means to be a parishioner, and specifically, a parish member who is eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting:

- a) According to the new bylaws, a voting member of the Parish is a parishioner who:
 - i. Shall be a Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christian;
 - ii. Shall be at least 18 years of age;
 - iii. Shall have partaken of the Sacraments of **Private Confession and Communion** in the Parish **regularly** in the 12 months immediately preceding the Parish Meeting, and shall have regularly been present for celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Parish for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of the Parish Meeting;
 - i. The By-Laws indicate elsewhere that a voting member is one who lives according to the teachings, liturgical and spiritual life of the Orthodox Church. In other words, accepts the Creed and the Tradition of the Church.
 - iv. Has fulfilled the financial obligations established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and the Parish.
 - v. Shall not be a voting member of any other parish at the time of such Parish Meeting.

HONORARY LIFE-TIME MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

- Alex Sokol (nominated in 1993)
- Eugenia Vorobey (1994)
- Nick and Olga Belenkoff (1995)
- Magda Sokol (1996)
- Catherine Balatzki (1997)
- Leonid Sakovich (1998)
- Alexandra Hrenoff (1999)
- Musya Sakovich (2000)
- Sophie Silverman (2001)
- Archpriest Michael & Matushka Eleanor Margitich (2002)
- Eugene Gordenev (2003)
- Zoya Drake, (2004)
- Olga Canyuch (2005)
- Petar & Eugenia Griovski (2006)
- Andrew Skikos (2007)
- Nina Antipova (2008)
- Sarah Ingenito (2009)
- Barbara Owens (2009)
- Natalie Hansen (2010)
- Alla Keyes (2011)
- Tesfom Gebremichael and Meheret Weldu (2012)
- Nilus Veenis (2013)
- Eleni Rose (2014)
- John and Deanna Panages (2015)
- Catherine and Gregory Sanford (2016)
- Tom and Denise Pellizzer (2017)
- Deacon Jeremiah and Catherine Crawford (2018)
- Gretchen McPherson (2019)
- Archpriest John and Matushka Xenia Schettig (2020)
- *There was no Annual Meeting in 2021*
- Herman Vasquez (2022)
- Subdeacon Marc and Genevieve Richardson (2023)
- Martin Thong (2024)
- Grace van Curren (2025)

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 2025

- I. Call to Order - Opening Prayers. We began with prayers and hymns at 12:15 p.m.
- II. Appointments
 - A. Recording Secretary: Bonnie Alexander; Chair: Karen Werder; Tellers: James Green, Miranda Limonczenko and Mat. Patricia Jorgenson. Chair Karen Werder expressed a remembrance of her predecessor, Tom Pellizzer, of blessed memory.
- III. Count to Establish Quorum Attendance of 75, establishing a quorum (at least 50%+1 of voting members).
- IV. Acceptance of Minutes from February 4, 2024 Annual Meeting
 - A. Minutes were accepted as presented.
- V. Review of Agenda (additional items, if any). No additions.
- VI. Reports (additional comments and questions)
 - a. Comments from Rector
 - i. Thanks to everyone in attendance.
 - ii. Parish Council term limits have been reached by Serge Anderson who has served for about 30 years. He was presented a gift.
 - iii. We will receive a St. Vladimir Seminary graduate in May as an associate pastor, not an intern. We are at the point at which our parish is growing and we need to plan for the future.
 - iv. We are blessed with the retired priests who are part of our parish (Fr. James and Mat. Patricia Jorgenson and Fr David and Mat. Elaine Lowell) who continue to serve in impactful ways. In June, Fr. Damian and Mat. Joanna Kuolt will arrive to live in the quarters next door for retired priests. In addition Archbishop Benjamin, whose presence has enriched our Parish, will retire in July. Fr. Nicholas and Mat. Esther and Fr. Lawrence & Mat. Ann are both of retirement age, although not ready to retire. We need to begin preparing for their and our retirements.
 - v. Recognized “invisible” outreach efforts, specifically, *Angels Unaware* and the *Mat. Olga Diaper Bank* and those who serve in those ministries.
 - vi. Thanks to Carmen Anderson for being secretary and to Bobbi Griovski, who mentors Carmen.
 - vii. Recognized members who come “to give” rather than only “to receive.” He encouraged all to serve the church by participating in one or more of the many ministries we undertake as a Parish.

- b. Treasurer's Report — comments/explanation on the income and expenses of 2024
 - i. Thanks to Maria Vasquez, who helps with counting the weekly deposit; and to Bibiane Vissoh and Ellie Ignatieva, who take payment at the Agape meals to cover fees for the janitors.
 - ii. Without John Hartman's generous bequest, we would be struggling to meet our expenses, because of the icon program, mostly.
 - iii. Thanks to Joseph Marino and Preston Booker for their work on the solar panel project.

VII. New Business

- A. Consideration and adoption of 2025 budget— Motion: Karen Werder/Ole Kern. Motion carried by acclamation.
- B. Ratification and confirmation for Treasurer— Since the Treasurer is appointed, he needs to be ratified and affirmed by the Parish. Motion: Bobbi Griovski/Joe Marino. Motion carried by acclamation.
- C. Elections for Parish Council. Candidates for the five open positions are Peter Tennyson, Kathleen Rhodes, Joseph Marino, Franchesca Duval and Yedit Haile. Since all the positions will be filled, the entire slate will be elected by acclamation. Motion: Karen Werder/Serge Anderson. Motion carried by acclamation.
- D. Nomination and election for two delegates for the All-American Council, Phoenix, July 14-18. Motion to accept Mat. Elaine Lowell and Carmen Anderson as delegates: Preston Booker/Karen Werder. Motion carried by acclamation.
- E. Honorary Lifetime Member. Grace van Curen received this honor with words of thanks the many labors she does for the parish and congratulations.

VIII. Open Forum/Questions

- A. Denise Pellizzer reported on a need for someone to help guide the cook for the March 30 Agape lunch which will be vegetarian; Greg Sanford volunteered.
- B. Carmen Anderson encouraged more parent involvement in the youth programs— Sunday School; St. Seraphim Week; the Christmas Play, etc.
- C. The Sisterhood has been fundraising for scholarships for St. Eugene's Camp each month for the past year. We need more parents to participate in these activities.
- D. Ray Basch asked about the bell tower. The prohibitive cost (\$400,000) of building the tower prevents us from going further at this time.

- E. Karla van Meter reported on the *Thriving Parish Project*. We had over 102 suggestions that came out of the focus groups. We were referred to the Annual Report Booklet page 40-41 for the details of findings.
- F. John Gilluly emphasized we need more volunteers to help in the gardens and landscaping, which is a big job. Many hands make light work!
- G. Aaron Brodeur mentioned that if people need photos (new or updated) for the Directory, he will have his camera with him on Sundays.
- H. Mat. Ann needs help pruning the roses next Saturday.
- I. Bobbi Griovski mentioned that our parish Listserve “GROUPS” is a major form of communication. Anyone who needs to be added to the Listserve should see Bobbi.

IX. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned with hymns and prayer at 1:08 p.m.

PARISH MINISTRIES ~ DURING 2025

The Parish is not an organization like those in society—it is the Body of Christ (see *Epistle to the Ephesians* and elsewhere) which has organizations that enable it to function. Whatever the task, we all strive to do it for the benefit of the members of the Body of Christ and therefore, as servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we seek His blessing first.

Parish life: worship, hospitality, teaching, cleaning, decorating and so on—all are obviously task-oriented—and it is not by the ministration of the angelic powers that things get organized and occur, but by the hard work, diligence and love that the servants of God have for one another. And those who are “doing” whatever is involved, do it in a prayerful way, a sacrificial way, and seek to accomplish the work with each other in a unity of the Spirit. That common work has its own rewards.

Giving thanks to God for all who work for the parish, let us also pray for them, as we do at the Vigil, for those who are “weary in well-doing” (Gal. 6:9) and let each of us, as we are able, also work along side them for the upbuilding and “edifying of the Body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12).

• Parish Council Members

Starosta: Peter Tennyson

Parish Treasurer: Martin Thong

Secretary: Miranda Limonczenko

Members: Kathleen Rhodes, Peter Tennyson, Timothy Danford, James Greene, Andrew Mikrikov, Joseph Marino, Franchesca Duval and Yedit Haile.

Alternates: Kristina Daya

• Ordained clergy

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, *Rector*

Priest Nicholas Carr, *assigned*

Priest Daniel York, *assigned July 2025*

Protodeacon Jeremiah Crawford, *assigned*

Deacon Justin Margitich, *assigned*

Deacon Aaron Wilkerson, *assigned July 2025*

Archpriest David Lowell, *retired, attached to St. Seraphim*

Archpriest Damian Kuolt, *retired, attached to St. Seraphim*

Archpriest James Jorgenson—*attached to Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF, frequently attends here*

• Subdeacons:

Subdeacon Marc Richardson, Subdeacon Nicholas Alva, Subdeacon Leo Bullanikov

• Readers:

Reader Nicolas Craig Custer, Reader Andrew Mikrikov, Reader Patrick Stewart

Matushka Esther Carr, Ryan Panteliemon Duval, Michael Dovey, John Gilluly, Peter Tennyson,

Gretchen McPherson, Aaron Wilkerson, Jr.

• **Altar Servers:**

Gabriel Nicholson, Herman Vasquez, Ambrose Brodeur, Luke Rademacher, Matthew Rademacher, Aaron Wilkerson, Jr., Xavier Wilkerson, Anthony Mikrikov, Luca Mattei, Ephraim York, Cyprus Nikolai Schempf, Gary John Collins, James-Gabriel Epstein

• **Sacristan and Assistants who served during the year:**

Billy-Justus Rogers, Corey-James Lee, Peter Tennyson, Atticus Nicholas, and Catechumens assisting after all services

• **Prospora & Preparation of Holy Bread / Litya Loaves (Artoklasia):**

Lara Anderson—*Coordinator*; Asya Samardzhiev, Barbara Owens, Genevieve Richardson, Gretchen McPherson, Lorna Booker, Wilkerson Family, George Staykow, Martin Thong, Alandrea Greene, Emily Hinsley, Billy Justus Rogers, Bonnie Alexander, Elizabeth Carol Thong

• **Choir Members During 2025 (8 AM and 10 AM Choirs)**

Choir Master: Reader Nicolas Craig Custer

Assistant Directors: Alexander Margitich, Deacon Justin Margitich

Members: Bonnie Alexander, Nicholas Alva, Dana Ames, Anastasia Brodeur, Matushka Esther Carr, Sophia Basch, Eleni Rose-Collard, Anna Koval, Timothy Danford, Ole Elisha Kern, Victor Koretsky, Miranda Limonczenko, Zoya Margitich, Lucy Martin, Gabriel Nicholson, Dimitri Nicholson, Genevieve Richardson, Aly Sidjakov, Xavier Wilkerson, Aaron Wilkerson, Paloma Theophania Wilkerson, Belen Wilkerson, Anastasia Mikrikov, Dominic Tufo, Daniel Gonet, Gregory Severs, Natalia Severs, Jeff Boyd, Lucas Schick, George Ty Gale

• **Bell Ringers:**

Fr. Lawrence, Aaron and Paloma Theophania Wilkerson, George Ty Gale

• **Candle Desk Attendants:**

Catherine Carpenter—*Coordinator*, Denise Pellizzer, Debbie Buse, Lydia Nicholson, Kathleen Rhodes, Asya Samardzhieva, Elitsa Ignatieva, Daphne Russell, Gigi Williams

• **Usher Teams:**

Karen Werder—*Lead*, Martin Thong, Preston Booker, Kathleen Rhodes, Chuck Russell, Brian Rademacher, Joseph Marino, Brendan Doonan, Gabriel Dolce-Pacheco, Ilsa Winters, Kathleen Morgan

• **Live-Streaming Services:**

Timothy Danford, Andrew Travis Koeller, Stefan Perez, Gabriel Scarborough, Thomas Winowich, Nikki Singh

• **Agape Meal Coordinator:**

Eleni Collard, Dana Fox

• **Sunday Agape Meal Set up:**

Grace Van Curren, Gabriel Scarborough, Greg Sanford, Emad Joujeh, and others

• **Church Cleaning:**

St. Seraphim is cleaned weekly by Alma Gomez and her crew, whom we hire

• **Temple Floral Team:**

Denise Pellizzer—*Coordinator*, Daphne Russell, Kathleen Morgan, Karla Van Meter, John Gilluly, Lara Anderson, Alejandra, Paloma, Belen and Celeste Wilkerson, Matushka Karin Crawford, Lorna Booker, Alicia Krueger, Matushka Patricia Jorgenson, Vicky and Larisa Basch, Zlata Carmen Baudi, Barbara Owens, Karen Werder, Gigi Williams, Gabrielle Hanley, Nikki Singh, Jonah Caron

• **Ironing Icon covers:**

Genevieve Richardson, Gretchen McPherson, Maria Vasquez, Barbara Owens, Debbie Buse, Cathy Veenis, Matushka Patricia, Matushka Joanna Kuolt, Christina DeMichel, Jesse Isaac Pell, Kathleen Morgan, Martin Thong

• **Sewing:**

Maria Vasquez, Katrina Danford

• **Garden:**

Ann Margitich—*Coordinator*

• **Supplies, Storage Building, Pantry:**

Catherine Carpenter and Esther Schau

• **Duplex and Parish Building Manager:**

Theodore Dechant

• **eScrip:**

Natasha Tennyson

• **Holy Myrrh-bearing Women and Men (Care for the Reposed):**

For men: Serge Anderson, Ryan Panteleimon Duval, Deacon Jeremiah

For women: Bonnie Alexander, Christina DeMichele, Gretchen McPherson, Lorna Booker

• **Women's Prayer Groups:**

Catie DeCarlo and Arianna Hunter

• **Funeral Memorial Meals:**

Daphne Russell and Debbie Buse

• **Nativity Play:**

Carmen Anderson—*director and producer*

• **Catechists:**

Fr. Lawrence, Matushka Esther Carr, Matushka Ann Margitich, Gretchen McPherson, Deacon Aaron Wilkerson, John Gilluly, Ray Basch, Reader Andrew Mikrikov

• **Library:**

Jesse Isaac Pell (and as of Jan. 1 Anna Koval)

• **Sisterhood Coodinators:**

Natasha Tennyson—*President*, Carmen Anderson—*Treasurer*

- **St. Seraphim Men’s Fellowship:**
Seraphim Hanley—*Coordinator*
- **Monastery Pilgrimages:**
Joseph Marino—*Coordinator*
- **Church School (K–HS):**
Vicky Basch—*Coordinator*; Father Daniel and Matushka Marina York, Protodeacon Jeremiah Crawford, Gretchen McPherson, Anastasia Brodeur, Natasha Tennyson, Carmen Anderson, Billy Rogers, Arianna Hunter; Matushka Esther Carr and Lara Anderson, *Substitutes*
- **Young Adult Group (18–25):**
No Coordinator
- **Mercy Meals for the Sick:**
Anastasia Brodeur
- **Parish Hall Event Coordinator and Manager:**
Debbie Buse
- **Catholic Charities Liaison:**
Denise Pellizzer
- **Matushka Olga Diaper Bank:**
Linda McKee and helpers
- **Angels Unawares (formerly “Nomadic Shelter”):**
Michael Dovey, Peter and Natasha Tennyson, David and Linda McKee and volunteers
- **Auditor:**
Chuck Russell
- **Church Office:**
Carmen Anderson—*Secretary*
Bobbi Griovski—*Assistant*
Ole Kern—*Assistant to the Treasurer*
- **Planned Giving Ministry:**
Stephanie Chapralis—*coordinator*

RECTOR'S REPORT ~ February 1, 2026

Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“... may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3: 12,13.

St. Paul is speaking to us in this verse today, reminding us that our life—in this case, our common parish life—is given by God with a purpose: to increase in love of others as a preparation for the establishing of the New Heaven and New Earth of His Kingdom. The late and great, Ever-memorable Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), writing about how one is to progress towards this goal of “holiness before our God and Father” stresses that “each day we are to renew our relationship with others through imaginative sympathy, through acts of practical compassion, and through cutting off our own self-will...not once and for all through some grandiose gesture, but every day afresh.” For me, that’s a good description of parish life, the goal of how we interact as we pray together, work together and have fellowship together.

Thanks be to God that we can once again gather for our Annual Meeting to discuss our finances, our common life, our goals, make corrections and elect new parish council members. We begin, continue and end our deliberations with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to sanctify our time together. We should also begin with expressing gratitude for those who labor for the Lord and the upbuilding of this parish. As we say during the Divine Liturgy, “Among the first...” let us thank our Diocesan Hierarch, Bishop Vasily, for his excellent pastoral care for us and the other 60+ parishes in this Diocese of the West. We also are extremely blessed and grateful to His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, who is always here, continually encouraging and praying for us. His presence in our Church Services is a source of joy and stability.

May the Lord bless those who bake the prosphora and the “lambs” which will be used at the Divine Liturgy. Their offering of time and skill is deeply appreciated. There is always room for another person to help in this regard. See the report below.

May the Lord bless those who love the beauty of the House of the Lord. We are all grateful to God for the clergy that serve this parish so well. In this we are extraordinarily blessed! We are grateful for our Deacons with their beautiful voices, reliability and joyful demeanor; our Subdeacons—who spend great amounts of time as an offering to the Lord and for the upkeep and maintenance of the Holy Altar. We are also grateful for all the Altar Servers and Church Readers who do much, much more than is obvious to anyone.

We are all incredibly grateful to our Choir Master Nicolas for his directing, knowledge and singing, to his assistants Alexander and Deacon Justin Margitich, and to the entire Choir for the ministry

they offer to the Lord. Glory to God. We thank our Sacristans who do so much, certainly most of us have no idea of how much; the same can be said for the Candle Desk attendants and our ushers and those who manage our live stream. There are many shut-ins that stay connected to the parish through that broadcast.

Thanksgiving to God must be offered for those who teach Church School, mentor our younger members and provide support to our children. We thank those catechists who assist me in teaching the catechumens at the Sunday morning “Liturgy sessions.” We are extraordinarily blessed with such talented and devout people.

Let us also recognize the great blessing we receive from those who plan, arrange and prepare meals for the Sunday Agape, and especially for the Agapes on our parish feast days.

We all give thanks to God for the gifts He gives: the bounty, talent, treasure, time and financial blessings which enable all of us to offer a portion of these things back to Him as a way of showing our trust and thanks to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Special mention must be made of those who tend the gardens here, to make this a beautiful place, a place where it is obvious that loving care has been given. Thanks also to our property manager, Theodore Dechant, who spends a great deal of time fixing this and that around here, along with the gentlemen who assist in those tasks.

Of course, I am grateful to the Parish Council, in particular the Warden, Peter Tennyson, and the Parish Treasurer, Martin Thong for all their work for the good of the parish, done out of love for God and their fellow parishioners. All of us are grateful for the men in the parish that offer their skills in repairing/replacing/digging/maintaining. We have a large piece of property, and it needs a constant and very intense level of care. thank you, gentlemen for caring!

It’s not a good idea to start naming names of those we are grateful for, since we might, firstly, inadvertently forget a key person, and secondly deprive that person of the grace of God that comes from doing things quietly and anonymously. However, I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank our parish secretary, Ms. Carmen Anderson, for her diligent and capable work, and the way she so good-naturedly does that work. Thank you!

Events and Activities During 2025

- Holy Unction was served for the sick on January 8, 2025 with many faithful in attendance.
- In January we began celebrating an early Liturgy in the Protection Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. By September, the early Liturgy was served each and every Sunday. Many thanks to Fr David Lowell, Fr Nicholas and Fr Daniel who alternate serving, and to Choir Master Nicolas for singing and directing a choir there each week. The early Liturgy has proven to be very popular (35–50 attend each week), helpful and a blessing.

- Our festive Blini Luncheon was held before Lent once again. Many thanks to Matushka Esther and her crew.
- Our parish participated in a dinner at the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Novato on March 30th, by providing food and help.
- A Saturday retreat on *Almsgiving and Works of Mercy* in the Parish was held on March 22 with talks by Fr. David and Elaine Lowell (former directors of Raphael House in SF) and Mr. Jeff Gilman (director of the Redwood Gospel Mission). About thirty people were in attendance.
- We had the immense joy of baptizing twenty-five precious new members on Lazarus Saturday and another twelve later in the year. As the Lord sends those who are searching for the true faith, for the Orthodox Church, let us all prepare ourselves to welcome, assist and mentor them. Those baptized here in the last two years have gotten involved in many aspects of parish life, thus ensuring a continual renewal for ministries and activities here.
- The Matushka Olga Diaper Bank continued its vital work under the supervision of Linda McKee. This ministry was created by those who responded to the challenge I made to the parish to get involved in helping expectant mothers and single moms in need.
- The St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship met for dinner once a month this year, up until September. We will resume shortly with our get-togethers. The men also had a Sunday trip for Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco, followed by a SF Giants game. Two monastery trips were made, one to St. John in Manton and the other to St. Herman in Platina.
- St. Seraphim Cathedral once again hosted a number of choral concerts of sacred music. My own thinking is ambivalent about using the temple of God as a concert venue, but, on the other hand, such events do provide goodwill from the greater Santa Rosa community, especially since we no longer have the Glendi.
- Father James continues to teach a Thursday evening Bible Study, via Zoom. What a wealth of spiritual life and teaching he has given us, and we are very grateful to him.
- In July Father Daniel and Matushka Marina and their children were assigned to serve here at the Cathedral as associate priest, i.e. Fr Daniel is not an intern here, preparing to go to another parish, but is assigned to be here, and we are grateful to God for this assignment. Certainly he and his family have made a very significant, profound and positive impact on the parish.
- Also in July we were blessed with the arrival of Fr Damian and Matushka Joanna Kuolt, now actively retired (pastoring St. Jacob Mission in Bend, OR until Pascha). Both have already made significant and positive impact on our parish life and we appreciate their presence very much. As careful readers of the weekly announcements will recall, Fr Damian is the property manager of the Home of Mercy and will be working to upgrade the grounds. There is a great deal to share about the couple, and I hope everyone will take the time to speak with them.

- Father Daniel hosts a study of the Book of Genesis every other Wednesday evening, and there has been a great appreciation for this class, and very good attendance at it.
- We partnered with the *Redwood Gospel Mission* to host guests in the *Angels Unawares* program. Michael Dovey and the Tennyson family generously worked to keep this program going, along with those who volunteered to help out. Our thanks to them all.
- Our parish continues to support a room for a family at *Catholic Charities* at the new *Caritas Village* downtown. Until we can organize ourselves in doing the kind of work that's being done there, we will continue to support Catholic Charities. There's no need to reinvent the wheel, so to say.
- Fr. Nicholas continues his very impactful pastoral work here helping to serve the Divine Services in the Cathedral and at the early Liturgies at the Protection Church, hearing confessions, blessing homes, and offering pastoral care. Bishop Vasily and Abbess Melania have asked him to help more regularly going forward at the Monastery in Calistoga.
- Denise Pellizzer and a team organized the preparing of backpacks for the homeless at Nightingale.
- Matushka Eleanor departed this life, at the age of 96, on Bright Friday. Of course, this is a significant day for the Margitich family, but being the wife of our former rector, the Ever-Memorable Mitred Archbishop Michael (departed 2017) it has significance for the parish. As such, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin served the first memorial at Matushka Eleanor's deathbed, along with Fr Alexander Krassovsky (from Sts. Peter and Paul). Her funeral a few days after her repose—on Radonitsa—was attended by many clergy and faithful.
- Our parish participated in the annual *Baby Bottle Blast* fundraiser with Bridges Pregnancy Clinic and Care Center, with the goal of supporting expectant mothers and mothers in need. Our thanks to Subdeacon Nicholas Alva for his work.
- A Memorial Day Panikhida was served at the Santa Rosa Cemetery, per usual.
- Joseph Marino kindly organized two fall pilgrimages to the Monastery of St. John in Manton.
- Clergy from all over the world gathered in Alaska in June to participate in the services of glorification for St. Olga, Matushka and Wonderworker of Alaska. Archbishop Benjamin brought our parish a relic of St. Olga, which will be set out for veneration once her icon is painted.
- On June 29, the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, our parish was privileged to host the north bay retirement dinner in honor of Archbishop Benjamin, with faithful and friends from all over the diocese in attendance. Our thanks to those who helped organize the dinner.
- In July I traveled, along with Fr Daniel to Phoenix to attend the All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. Not only is this this gathering, done every three years, important in itself, but at it Archbishop Benjamin would formally retire, and an election for a new bishop by the Diocese of the West would be offered to the Holy Synod. As we know, our new Bishop Vasily was

elected for the Diocese, and on the day after Dormition, August 16, ordained Bishop at the solemn and very joyful Hierarchical Liturgy at Holy Trinity in SF. *Axios! Eis Polla Eti Dhespota.*

- We are extremely grateful to Archbishop Benjamin for arranging to have Aaron Wilkerson ordained to the Sacred Diaconate on Sunday, July 6th, 2025, which enabled him, having completed his DVP work, to participate in so many hierarchical and special services here and elsewhere during the summer. We are grateful to Deacon Aaron and his family for all the work that went into his preparation for ordination and for accepting this great blessing and sacred burden. All will agree that his service, and his family's, are exemplary.
- Our parish hosted the Diaconal Vocations Practicum/Choir Practicum of the OCA in July, with about 80 participants—double the attendance of previous years with the addition of the choral program. The week of hard work and hospitality culminated with the Vigil for the Procession of the Precious Cross on July 31/August 1, presided by His Grace, Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth. An enormous amount of work went into organizing and hosting this event. We have been asked once again to host the next one, in July 2026. Dates are being finalized.
- During August the remaining areas under the dome in St Seraphim Cathedral (that is, the pendentives and the arches) were completed. This is a major milestone in completing the iconography in the temple. Our thanks to those who commissioned the frescoes and to those who helped clean up and prep the church for services during the painting. During December and early January wall painting continued, with the completion of *The Sacrifice of Isaac* and *Moses before the Burning Bush and Receiving the Law* in the holy altar. The beams below the frescoes on the south and north transepts were also painted with matching ornamental designs. The areas around the side door on the north transept were also painted.
- Also in August we hosted Anastasia Pamela Barksdale from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, who gave the parish a lovely, informative and inspiring talk on Archbishop Anastasios of Albania and the incredible work he did there for many decades.
- The 10 AM Sunday Choir has been developing very nicely indeed under the direction of Alexander Margitich, who is assisted on some days by Deacon Justin. We thank the members for taking their work seriously and faithfully attending rehearsals each Sunday at 9 AM. It would be my hope, as new members join and are trained, to occasionally have a “Left-side” choir for some hymns.
- Our Sisterhood hosted a number of talks this year, which you can read about in Natasha Tennyson's Sisterhood Report.
- We were deeply honored to welcome Metropolitan Tikhon, Archpriest Alessandro (Chancellor of the OCA) and Archdeacon Peter Ilchuk for the Vigil of Dormition, which was absolutely transcendent and beautiful.

- The Church School organized a “Back to school” dinner on Sunday August 31, hosted by the St. Seraphim Men’s Fellowship. The dinner was very successful, delicious (thank you Tim Flood and others) and enjoyable for many of our parents and children.
- The 100th Anniversary of the Pilgrimage to Fort Ross was marked by a conference here at the parish, on Friday, October 3rd, with about one hundred participants, including Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Daniel of Chicago the former Bishop of Santa Rosa, Metropolitan Nicolas of ROCOR, Archbishop Kirill of the Western Diocese of ROCOR, Metropolitan Maximillian of Irkutsk, and numerous other dignitaries and guests. We thank all those involved in the very intense and full labor. The next day, October 4th, many hundreds of faithful and clergy gathered at the Fort for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, which was a joint effort of our Diocese and that of ROCOR’s western diocese. Yours truly, with Fr Daniel, Fr Damian and others were honored to set up the altar area (mostly with our sacred church items) and a very large Altar built by Seraphim Hanley and Billy Rogers. Many thanks to all who made the event such a success.
- The Church School also hosted the *Honoring the Saints* evening (last one was about six years ago) for the parish children to offer a story and a costume about their favorite or patron saint. The dinner and fellowship were wonderful. We will certainly organize this once again come October.
- Most of the trees on the parish property were professionally trimmed, not only for the health of the tree but to eliminate the possibility of falling branches during wind and storms.
- A “Memorial Table” with carving (for in front of the Crucifixion icon) was commissioned in memory of the late Reader Tom Stephen Pellizzer, and delivered in October.
- The first annual “Meet and Greet” event was held on Sunday, November 9th directly after the Divine Liturgy. New members, catechumens, parish veterans and guests had a chance to introduce themselves to one another—hopefully some friendships will be created. Many thanks to those who organized the very successful afternoon.
- Once again a Thanksgiving Day Dinner was held in the parish hall organized and mostly prepared by John Gilluly. It was a lovely time of fellowship and gratitude to God with about 90 people in attendance.
- A women’s prayer and reading group was organized by Catie DeCarlo and Arianna Hunter and others. Participants gather at someone’s home, for a grace-filled time of praying an Akathist, reading a selection from a spiritual book, and perhaps sharing prayer requests and gratitude with one another. Each session is about an hour and a half long. Any questions, please speak with Catie or Arianna.
- The annual Christmas play was presented by Carmen Anderson and the children on Sunday Dec. 21. Our thanks to those who set up the stage, took it down, acted, prepared costumes and served the delicious meal before the show. Thank you!

- Parish Feast Days were celebrated with solemnity and joy: St. Seraphim on January 2; the feast of the glorification of St. Seraphim on July 19 and the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin on October 1, which is also the feast of St. Romanos, the patron of our choir.
- In the Fall, we contracted to have some significant repair to our roof, flashing and counter-flashing (waterproofing, essentially) done. The work took much longer than expected, due to contractor delays, but now we can fairly confidently say, our frescoes and walls are safe from water intrusion. Since the church was built in 1996, we had continual water intrusion (not so much leaking, dripping, as moisture buildup and wet walls), which would damage the frescoes. Our thanks to Peter Tennyson for managing this rather big project.
- We are richly blessed with twenty-one Catechumens as of January 1, 2026 with another ten to fifteen inquiring individuals. God willing we will have maybe 12 baptisms on Lazarus Saturday, and more in during the Paschal period.

What are some concerns and plans for the coming year?

- Our **Diocesan Church Summer Camp** (Sun–Sat) was once again held at Hye Camp above Dunlap (east of Fresno in the foothills), with a number of our parish children participating. This camp is an important event in the life of those kids that attend—daily morning prayers, common meals, Christian ed, fun, games, crafts, daily Vespers, choir rehearsals, singing, fellowship, confessions, Divine Liturgy, etc. For some children, this is the spiritual and social highlight of their year—a very wholesome, Godly and life-changing moment. I would ask our Parish to take the initiative and set aside funds (\$550 for each child) in the budget to help the Sisterhood with camp scholarships (for those who are putting in some community hours and have financial need) and to assist the Camp itself. I can’t stress enough how important this is for our youth. One hears: “The youth are the future of the parish...” and one hopes that by some miracle—usually with nothing but good intentions and hopes—that the youth here today will be strong Orthodox Christians in the future. That’s not a good approach. The youth are full members of the parish now—we are not waiting for them to become adults to do “something.” Statistics are clear that *youth groups*, across all denominations and including the Holy Orthodox Church (not a denomination), are not an effective way to involve, catechize and value our youth. On the other hand, church camp, the mentoring of adults to youths, hands-on activities at the church (kitchen, yard, choir) give our youth a way to participate in church life that is sustainable, that has a future and value for them. **Perhaps some of us would like to pledge funds towards this worthy cause.**
- Having two Divine Liturgies each Sunday could potentially lead to the formation of two parish communities, members disconnected from one another. However, many of those who attend the early 8 AM Liturgy also regularly attend the Vespers and Vigils on other evenings so there is interaction, and

parish ministries are continue to be staffed by both groups. So for now, I do not have concerns about this.

- Some twenty years back our parish had a yearly Stewardship Program, in which members were asked to commit to a financial pledge, be it weekly, monthly or yearly. In a system like that, the parish council and treasurer could create a realistic budget for the year. The Pledging system was abandoned eventually, mostly due to my own laziness in not implementing it, but as it turned out, the parish members did not need a “system” in order to make a financial offering and the finances remained strong. Our approach was, “if it ain’t broken, don’t fix it.” However, we should never forget that our tithes and offerings are firstly done in thanksgiving to God for what he has given us. Many of our folks struggle financially, since Sonoma County is such an expensive place to live, but let each be mindful that whatever our financial situation is, we can all give a proportion—whatever the percentage you prayerfully establish—of what God has given to us each week, month and year. Proportionally given is a way in which each and every person can make an offering—God has shown that He will grant the increase.
- Should we begin to investigate establishing a mission parish, and where? As your pastor, I do not have the goal of a mega-church. As a parish grows to fill the church to capacity, one realizes that it’s time to build a new church. When, how and where are all big questions.
- How can we save money as we care for the parish grounds? Reading our financial report one can’t help but notice how much we spend on grounds. We have a large piece of property with lots of buildings. Maintenance is not optional, grounds keeping is not optional. However, are there ways for parishioners to commit to help—and *commit* is the key word—with some of the work? This is a conversation that we can have with Ted Dechant, Matushka Ann and some members of the parish council.
- The vineyard: while some Russian Orthodox gentlemen from Sacramento have done some trimming, picking and bottling—we received five cases a few years back—the vineyard has not been of any value for the parish. We have some experts in the parish who can advise us, and a discussion needs to happen with Kristof Anderson (a legit winemaker) from our parish and those interested.
- The olive trees: in years past, the Sisters from Calistoga would hire people to care for the trees and pick the olives. They are no longer able to make this happen, so this year we had a bumper crop of olives with fruit fly infestation. Again, we have some people in the parish that can advise us. So this year we will spray the trees to stop olives from developing—until we deal with how to pick the fruit).
- The back parking lot will remain gravel (per the County regs) so that rain water can filter down through the gravel rather than running off and flooding the street or our parking lot. We need to maintain the lot, meaning get rid of weeds and potholes.
- The playground is a wonderful addition, shall we say, attraction for children and parents. Young children can enjoy the play structure as parents enjoy chatting with one another. But it’s also important to provide a place for the teens and some of their parents to play—yes, play together. To that end, I’ve

proposed that in that “dead space” behind the Parish Hall kitchen area, we make a basketball/pickleball court. Before we spend any money, of course we will work of costs and a time line for the parish council to approve, amend or cancel.

Finally, I ask the forgiveness of all of you for my lack of understanding, my lack of attention, help in times of need, and any offensive and hurtful remarks and attitude. I thank you all for your love, patience and willingness to work for the upbuilding of this Church community.

Extra-Parish Duties

- I serve as the District Dean of the Pacific Central Deanery and in that capacity, assist the clergy and parishes of the Deanery in miscellaneous and multiple matters with visits, emails and phone calls. In that capacity I also serve on the Diocesan Council, which advises the Diocesan Hierarch on questions regarding the Diocese. This body meets quarterly in San Francisco and sometimes, to save travel costs, via Zoom.
- I was appointed to serve on the Metropolitan Council (taking the place of someone who had to step down), at least until October.
- I continue to serve as Chairman of the *Liturgical Music Department* of the Diocese of the West. I hope to pass this responsibility to someone with more time and expertise than myself.
- I work with the *Mission Board of the Diocese*, which provides support to Mission parishes, and in that capacity attend the Annual Mission Parish Retreat each February, and advise as asked by missions.
- I continue to serve as the Confessor for the Sisters of the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga.

With love in Christ and gratitude to each of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Lawrence Magister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct flourish at the end.

Holy Mysteries in 2025

38 Baptisms in 2025 (33 in 2024)	Baptism Date
1. Katrina Joy Fritschen	4-12-2025
2. Leopold Artemus Fritschen	4-12-2025
3. Gabrielle Hamilton	4-12-2025
4. Cyprus Nikolai Schempf	4-12-2025
5. Francine Olga Mack	4-12-2025
6. Abner Aurelius Jimenez	4-12-2025
7. June Junia Jimenez	4-12-2025
8. Charlie Kassiani Mack	4-12-2025
9. Emily Seraphima Mack	4-12-2025
10. Alfredo Justin Jimenez	4-12-2025
11. James Gabriel Epstein	4-12-2025
12. Zachary Matz	4-12-2025
13. Julie Julitta Frampton	4-12-2025
14. Iris Riassa Matz	4-12-2025
15. Paisley Lucia Matz	4-12-2025
16. Jeffrey Basil Boyd	4-12-2025
17. Lachlann Gregory Boyd	4-12-2025
18. Nicholas Justinian Garrett	4-12-2025
19. Nathan Ziegler	4-12-2025
20. Michiel (Kiel) Smit	4-12-2025
21. Michael John Danford	4-12-2025
22. Suzanne Danford	4-12-2025
23. Natalia Marie Severs	4-12-2025
24. Gregory Dean Severs	4-12-2025
25. Daniel Gonet	4-12-2025
26. Caleb Lawrence Henderson	4-26-2025
27. Jessie Rose Thomas Guiver	6-1-2025
28. Liliane Pareskevi Caron	6-1-2025
29. Dominic Nicholas Tufo	6-1-2025
30. Elaine Segale	6-1-2025
31. Kathleen Morgan	6-1-2025
32. Stephen Carver Anderson	6-1-2025
33. James Wallace	9-14-2025
34. Lucas Schick	9-14-2025
35. Christopher Martin	9-14-2025

36. Cinthia Elizabeth Correa	9-14-2025
37. Jonah Caron	9-14-2025
38. Nael Semere Tesfamichael	9-20-2025

4 Marriages in 2025 (1 in 2024)	Marriage Date
1. Zachary Matz/Julie Frampton	6-1-2025
2. Benjamin Seraphim Hanley/Gabrielle Hamilton	7-6-2025
3. Timothy Danford/Katrina Fritschen	7-20-2025
4. Andrei Burack/Anastasia Lisenko	11/11/2025

3 Funerals in 2025 (5 in 2024)	Date of Repose
1. Willard James Ballard	1-12-2025
2. Matushka Eleanor Margitich	4-25-2025
3. Salwa Sue Koura	4-21-2025

TOTALS of Baptisms and retention for the last ten years

Parish membership varies, flowing up and down, some moving, leaving the faith, dying. Here are some stats about all that.

From 2015–2025 there were 175 baptisms. 84 children and 91 adults. 22 moved away and still attend church. 14 adults left the faith, and 20 or so children who were baptized do not attend church regularly or at all (total of 34 no longer here). About 117 of the 175 still attend.

Baptized, 2015–2025:.....	175
Adults baptized:	91
Children baptized	84
Moved, still Orthodox:	22
Left church, adults:	14 <i>14% loss, sadly, not uncommon everywhere</i>
Left church, children	20 <i>Parents did not bring children after baptism</i>
Adult/Children, still here:	117
Died (Adults in this group):.....	2

The *Parish Photo Directory* from 2014-15 reveals the following information:

• **Adults shown: 197**

Of that number 30 left the church. 44 moved away and 44 died (funerals here).

• **Children of those adults: 54**

Of that number, sadly, 26 left the church. There are many stories behind that number.

TREASURER'S SUMMARY FOR THE 2026 MEETING

Definition of Fund Accounting

A Nonprofit focuses on accountability, whereas profitability is the focus of a business. We must be accountable to funding sources.

There are three designations of FUNDS:

I. Unrestricted

- A. Stewardship money
- B. Plate offerings – these can be used for general operations

II. Temporarily Restricted

- A. Money given for specific purposes or programs (frescos, internship, projects)

III. Permanently Restricted

- A. Endowments: Money to be maintained intact in perpetuity (income and expenses can be recognized in *unrestricted* or *temporarily restricted* funds)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

- *ASSETS*: Bank accounts, Building and Property
- *LIABILITIES*: None
- *EQUITY*: Fund balances (these show the balance-to-date of any fund). See *Equity Fund Activity Summary, pg.*

The total amount of the unused money pledged by parishioners for specific projects (Fund Balances.....Charity, John Hartman, etc), i.e

Temporarily Restricted Funds is \$656,775.18

This amount is covered by Total Bank Accounts \$315,545.09 and OCCIF Loan \$400,000.00 for a total of \$715,545.09

All things considered, financially we have had a wonderful year. With the generous faithful offerings of the members of the church we were able to cover our yearly operating expenses with an excess of \$23,498. This excess, together with accumulated money in our Exchange Bank accounts— \$20,000 withdrawn from the John Hartman Fund, \$10,000 withdrawn from the Building Fund—were used to fix and eliminate water intrusion into the Temple, for the plastering in preparation for wall paintings and renovating a Rectory bathroom. Please understand that this is about the day to day operating expenses of the church, meaning salaries, regular maintenance, etc. People will have noticed that icons have been painted last year and these were funded by monies that were previously donated into the icon funds. —*respectfully, Martin Thong, Parish Treasurer*

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Budget vs. Actual 2025 / January - December 2025

	Total		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Revenue			
Candles Income	26,432	20,000	6,432
Duplex Rental	35,848	25,000	10,848
Education Retreat		2,000	(2,000)
Hall Rental	3,810	9,000	(5,190)
Total OCCIF and CD Interest	\$ 16,045	\$ 18,000	\$ (1,955)
Plate Offerings/Anon (cash)	17,143	10,000	7,143
Prospora	3,682	3,000	682
Sunday Lunch/Other meals	17,181	16,000	1,181
Tithes and Offerings	396,729	340,000	56,729
Total Revenue	\$ 516,870	\$ 443,000	\$ 73,870
Gross Profit	\$ 516,870	\$ 443,000	\$ 73,870
Expenditures			
Altar Needs	21,434	13,000	8,434
Bank/Credit Card Expenses	4,130	5,500	(1,370)
Building Fund Expenses			0
Church Furnishings & Altar Expense	3,883		3,883
Construction Expenses	9,650		9,650
Total Building Fund Expenses	\$ 13,533	\$ -	\$ 13,533
Candle Expenses	6,446	9,000	(2,554)
Choir Director - Alex Margitich	8,600		8,600
Total Choir Director - Nicholas Custer	\$ 22,462	\$ 23,600	\$ (1,138)
Total Diocese of the West	\$ 36,016	\$ 45,000	\$ (8,984)
Education		5,000	(5,000)
Adult Classes	2,029	0	2,029
Church School	313	0	313
Youth Group Expenses	182	0	182
Total Education	\$ 2,524	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,476)
Garbage	8,137	9,000	(863)
Government Costs (next page)			0
County Taxes	8,310	9,000	(690)

Permits	2,221	2,500	(279)
Total Government Costs	\$ 10,531	\$ 11,500	\$ (969)
Honorarium	0	6,000	(6,000)
Insurance		0	0
Property	14,002	14,000	2
Worker's Compensation	3,520	4,000	(480)
Total Insurance	\$ 17,522	\$ 18,000	\$ (478)
<i>Intern (moved to Fr Daniel/now assistant)</i>		30,000	(30,000)
Total Office expenses: copy machine, online software, website, postage, printing, supplies	\$ 26,331	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,331
Parish Hall Manager	850	500	350
PG&E	13,180	18,000	(4,820)
Total Phones	\$ 3,704	\$ 3,000	\$ 704
Priest / Fr Lawrence		103,000	(103,000)
Car Allowance	6,510		6,510
Compensation	76,484		76,484
Life Insurance	402		402
Retirement Payment	20,986		20,986
Total Priest / Fr Lawrence	\$ 104,382	\$ 103,000	\$ 1,382
Priest - Fr. Daniel York	\$ 28,576	\$ -	\$ 28,576
Priest - Fr. Nicholas Carr	21,516	22,000	(484)
Total Property Maintenance (replans, grounds, expenses)	\$ 54,351	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,351
Prospora Expense	44	2,500	(2,456)
Housing Rental / Fr. Daniel	17,707		17,707
Secretary	22,000	22,000	(0)
Sunday Lunch Expense			0
Hall and Church Cleaning	32,164	35,000	(2,836)
Kitchen Supplies/Food	15,383	12,000	3,383
Total Sunday Lunch Expense	\$ 47,547	\$ 47,000	\$ 547
Total Travel Expenses	\$ 1,849	\$ 2,000	\$ (151)
Total Expenditures	\$ 493,371	\$ 433,600	\$ 59,771
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 23,499	\$ 9,400	\$ 14,099
Net Revenue	\$ 23,499	\$ 9,400	\$ 14,099

“Non-Operating Income/Expense” for 2025

2025 Equity Funds Activity Summary: Funds given for a specific purpose

	2024 Balance	Income	Expense	2025 Balance
Altar Flowers		\$5,041.00	\$3,278.00	\$1,763.00
Bell Tower	\$2,866.00			\$2,866.00
Bells	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
Building	\$8,244.00	\$4,386.00	\$9,530.00	\$3,100.00
Charity	\$16,945.00	\$9,353.00	\$21,189.00	\$5,109.00
Designated	\$2,102.00	\$5,722.00	\$7,324.00	\$500.00
Gabe Griovski Memorial	\$0.00	\$500.00		\$500.00
Funeral James Ballard		\$600.00		\$600.00
Funeral E Covey	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Icon	\$132,711.00	\$41,142.00	\$84,293.00	\$89,561.00
John Hartman Endowment	\$516,530.00	\$14,797.00	\$34,376.00	\$496,951.00
MOM Diaper	\$4,504.00	\$5,830.00	\$2,958.00	\$7,376.00
Norway Mission	\$2,500.00	\$4,577.00		\$7,077.00
Pass-Through	\$5,036.00		\$12,635.00	(\$7,599.00)
School and Youth	\$468.00	\$14,000.00		\$14,468.00
Sisterhood	\$3,544.00	\$1,790.00	\$2,930.00	\$2,404.00

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church
Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

	Total		
	As of Dec 31, 2025	As of Dec 31, 2024 (PY)	Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
CDARS Investment	177,000.00	227,000.00	(50,000.00)
Exchange 7230 Savings	42,940.68	92,296.08	(49,355.40)
Exchange 8610 New Main Checking	90,021.27	56,351.04	33,670.23
Exchange Bank Building Fund	4,818.37	1,960.04	2,858.33
Exchange Bank CD	764.77	764.77	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 315,545.09	\$ 378,371.93	\$ (62,826.84)
Accounts Receivable			
OCCIF Loan 4%...5 years	400,000.00	400,000.00	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -
Other Current Assets			
PrePaid Rental Deposit	2,200.00		2,200.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 717,745.09	\$ 778,371.93	\$ (60,626.84)
Fixed Assets			
Buildings & Property	2,700,000.00	2,700,000.00	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,417,745.09	\$ 3,478,371.93	\$ (60,626.84)
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Total Liabilities			\$ -
Equity			
30000 Opening Bal Equity	2,713,404.27	2,713,404.27	0.00
32000 Retained Earnings	578,569.54	258,458.26	320,111.28
Fund Balance Altar Flowers	1,762.58	0.00	1,762.58
Fund Balance Bell Tower	2,866.43	2,866.43	0.00
Fund Balance Bells	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Fund Balance Building Fund	3,100.00	8,243.93	(5,143.93)
Fund Balance Charity	5,109.05	19,895.37	(14,786.32)

Fund Balance Designated	0.00	2,102.00	(2,102.00)
Gabe Griovski Memorial	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total Fund Balance Designated	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,102.00	\$ (1,602.00)
Fund Balance Funeral	600.00	0.00	600.00
Fund Balance Funeral-E Covey	0.00	10,000.00	(10,000.00)
Fund Balance Icons	89,561.04	132,660.97	(43,099.93)
Fund Balance John Hartman	496,950.87	516,529.82	(19,578.95)
Fund Balance MOM Diaper Bank	7,376.07	4,453.82	2,922.25
Fund Balance Norway Mission Building Fund	7,076.54	2,500.00	4,576.54
Fund Balance Pass-Thru	(7,599.79)	5,035.58	(12,635.37)
Fund Balance School and Youth	14,468.08	468.08	14,000.00
Fund Balance Sisterhood	2,404.52	3,544.47	(1,139.95)
Fund Legacy	(546,902.35)	(546,902.35)	0.00
Net Revenue	23,498.24	320,111.28	(296,613.04)
Total Equity	\$ 3,417,745.09	\$3,478,371.93	\$ (60,626.84)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 3,417,745.09	\$3,478,371.93	\$ (60,626.84)

SAINT SERAPHIM BOOKSTORE
Annual Report to the 2026 Annual Meeting
February 1, 2026

Submitted by: Bonnie Alexander

Mission Statement: To serve the Parish of the Protection of the Holy Virgin and St. Seraphim Cathedral, by offering Orthodox reading material and gifts for sale and donating all profits to charity.

Manager: Bonnie Alexander

Retail Staff: Dana Ames, Karla Van Meter, Bonnie Alexander, Gretchen McPherson and Jesse Pell.

Finances:

2021 Gross Sales:	\$4,054.55
2022 Gross Sales:	\$4,329.94
2023 Gross Sales:	\$5,896.29
2024 Gross Sales:	\$5,607.60
2025 Gross Sales:	\$7,313.12

2025 Year-End Donations:

We will be donating a total of \$4,000. We have decided to split our donation this year between two charities: (1) \$1,500 Scholarship Funds to help those who attend the Young Adult Summit in San Diego; and (2) \$2,500 to Africa Fund administered by St Nicholas (San Anselmo).

General:

Sales once again increased significantly (by about \$1,700) in 2025. We are very grateful to God and to all our customers who made this such a successful year. We have definitely recovered from COVID!

Jesse Pell has agreed to open on the Sundays Gretchen works because she can't be there until Sunday School has finished. We thank him and are hoping he will join us on the regular schedule. Catherine Ostling is still providing us with beautiful needlepoint bookmarks and Pocket Blessings to sell. They make great gifts! Thanks to Catherine!

If anyone is interested in joining our staff, please let one of us know. We would be happy to have more volunteers!

We welcome any suggestions from parishioners. If you have something you would like to see in YOUR Bookstore, please let any staff member know. We are here to serve our parishioners!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of St. Seraphim Bookstore!

Proposed Budget 2026

Income	
Candles Income	\$ 28,000
Duplex Rental	\$ 36,000
Hall Rental	\$ 4,000
OCCIF and CD Interest	\$ 18,000
Plate Offerings/Anon (cash)	\$ 18,000
Prospora	\$ 4,000
Sunday Lunch/Other meals	\$ 20,000
Tithes and Offerings	\$ 420,000
Total Income	\$ 548,000
Expense	
Altar Needs	\$ 18,000
Bank/Credit Card Expenses	\$ 4,500
Candle Expenses	\$ 7,500
Choir Director - Alex Margitich	\$ 8,400
Choir Director - Nicholas Custer (compensation and pension)	\$ 22,925
Diocese of the West	
Diocesan Proportional Giving	\$ 38,000
Diocese of the West - Alaska Support	\$ 12,000
Education	\$ 2,600
Garbage	\$ 8,800
Government Costs	
County Taxes	\$ 9,000
Permits	\$ 2,500
Honorarium	\$ 1,200
Insurance	
Property	\$ 17,000
Worker's Compensation	\$ 3,800
Office expenses	\$ 29,700
Parish Hall Manager	\$ 850
PG&E	\$ 5,000
Phones - Office & Cell	\$ 3,800

Priest - Fr. Lawrence (compensation, pension, car allowance, etc)	\$ 107,998
Priest - Fr. Daniel York (compensation, pension, car allowance, housing allowance, etc)	\$ 86,400
Priest - Fr. Nicholas Carr	\$ 21,517
Property Maintenance	
Facilities maint and repairs	\$ 45,000
Grounds Keeping Services	\$ 13,000
Secretary	\$ 22,000
Sunday Lunch Expense	
Hall and Church Cleaning	\$ 38,000
Kitchen Supplies/Food	\$ 14,000
Travel Expenses (Diocesan Assembly, etc)	\$ 2,500
Total Expense	\$ 545,990
Total Net Income	\$ 2,010

Prospora Baking Report to the 2026 Annual Meeting

Prospora has five ingredients of prayer, flour, yeast, salt and water

—Father Jo Landino, St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

This year we baked over 4,844 prospora, 63 Sunday lambs, and 52 weekday lambs. I say “over” because there were at least 2 bakings that were not logged. Each batch of dough produces between 100 and 120 prospora or 7 Sunday and 5 weekday lambs. We generally use 2 batches of dough each baking and tend to bake about 3 times a month, on Tuesdays. This past year we have also included a couple of Saturday bakings to include those who wish to bake but cannot assist during the week.

We have 4 dough makers: Alandrea Martin, Asya Sarmadzhiev, George Staykow and Lara Anderson. Billy Rogers is also training to make the dough. Our Tuesday bakers are Barbara Owens, Genevieve Richardson, Gretchen McPherson, Lorna Booker, Martin Thong, and Lara Anderson. Our Saturday bakers are Billy Rogers and Emily Hinsley.

Besides the baking, we have Bonnie Alexander and Carol Thong who carefully package and put away the cooled breads into our prospora freezer.

Our Sunday quantities have increased from about 80 prospora used each Liturgy, to 100 due to increased attendance and the additional 8am Liturgy. For weekday liturgies, depending on the day, we use anywhere from 5 to 10 prospora, unless it is a Patronal Feast Day, which can increase the numbers almost to Sunday levels.

The number of Sunday lambs decreased from 74 to 64. Although there are only 52 Sundays a year, some Feast Days fall on days in which attendance can increase (a weekend instead of a weekday) thus, Sunday lambs are used instead of weekday sized lambs or vice versa). Our weekday lambs used increased from 38 to 52 due to their use in the 8am Sunday liturgies.

There is also the baking of the litia, the 5 sweet loaves offered during a Vigil service. This task is lovingly done by the Wilkerson family.

Pascha season requires more baking. The Artos, the decorated sweet bread put out and blessed on Pascha, and sliced on Thomas Sunday, is baked on Holy Thursday by Carmen Anderson. A Kulich is also baked for Pascha night and one for the Holy Monday luncheon.

I want to thank all of our team members. This is a very big task and it takes a team to make this happen. It would be too much for one person to produce so much. I also want to thank Timothy Danford for helping with dough making. He has since stepped aside to focus on his growing family.

Your sister In Christ,

Lara Anderson, Prospora coordinator

Saint Seraphim Sisterhood

Report to the 2026 Annual Meeting

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I share this annual update regarding our Sisterhood with you. We recently celebrated our second anniversary after being dormant since 2020. To date, we have 75 members.

The current Sisterhood Officers are:

President: Natasha Tennyson

Treasurer: Carmen Anderson

A vote to change officers, if necessary, will take place during our meeting in March 2026.

In 2025, we hosted six meetings, two bridal showers and one baby shower with an average attendance of 25 lady participants. Last year we voted to meet every other month rather than monthly which has been a welcomed change. It appears that we have the greatest attendance when the theme of our meetings is educational. And since we have had an influx of converts and catechumens in our parish, we have narrowed the focus of our meetings to be, *Orthodoxy: Bringing it Back to Basics*. This gives our sisters who are knowledgeable and well-versed in Orthodoxy a platform to share their wisdom and personal experience.

Our meetings/ events in 2025 ranged in topics including:

- January: *All about Koliva* led by Lara and Carmen Anderson
- March: Preparing for Great Lent with a focus on improving our prayer lives, led by Sr. Vassa Larin
- May: Our annual meeting and a delicious potluck
- May: A bridal shower for Gabrielle Hanley
- June: A bridal shower for Katrina Danford
- August: An Introduction to Iconography and our Church, led by Matushka Ann
- October: Festal flowers, liturgical colors and the decorating of the church led by Denise Anna Pellizzer and Kathleen Morgan
- November: A baby shower for Miranda Limonczenko
- December: A discussion on Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's book, *For the Life of the World*, led by Monica Flood followed by decorating the Parish Hall for Nativity

Submitted by Natasha Tennyson

Church School Report

Our Parish church-school began this year on September 7, 2025. It is divided into five classes and is held every Sunday, with breaks for holidays or feast days. I am so grateful for the amazing teachers that have dedicated their time and talents to this ministry. In addition, I am very grateful to the parents and families who continue to encourage their students to participate in Church School.

Teachers	Grades
Matushka Marina York	Pre-school
Carmen Anderson/Anastasia Brodeur	K-3
Natasha Tennyson & Billy Justus Rogers	4-5
Vicky Basch	6-8
Father Deacon Jeremiah/Gretchen McPherson	9-12
Father Daniel and Lara Anderson—substitutes as needed	

School Curriculum

This year for grades K-8, we are using the curriculum “*A People Set Apart; A Book of Exodus*” by The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The curriculum takes the children through the entire book of Exodus. In this curriculum, students experience the God who delivers, guides, and dwells among His people. They learn how the Exodus story—full of signs, struggles, and divine faithfulness—points forward to Christ, our true Deliverer. This amazing curriculum offers thoughtful discussion, prayers, and activities that help students make relevant connections to how God is at work in their lives today, leading them on their own journey of faith.

Our school schedule also includes some Sundays where the teachers prepare a lesson on an upcoming feast day rather than the curriculum.

Our Pre-School students enjoy a story-time format. In addition, our high schoolers participate in topics surrounding the Sunday homily, feast days, and saints. Our Middle and High School classes also meet every six weeks or so with Father Lawrence in St. Seraphim after the Liturgy to discuss various topics.

Preschool

Teacher: Matushka Marina York

Class Size/Location: average about eight kids per week. Parent(s) stay with their child during the storytime. When the weather is nice, they meet on a blanket near the rectory. During colder/wetter months, they have been meeting in the Church School Classroom.

Curriculum: This is a story-time for the kids. Usually the kids listen to one or two Christian books. Attendance has been consistent. Many students are eager to answer questions and interact with the story discussion.

Challenge: It is difficult for the little ones to be inside for a story-time after being in church for so long. The outside, blanket location seemed to be a better fit for this age.

Kindergarten ~ 3rd grade

Teacher: Carmen Anderson/Anastasia Brodeur

Support Staff: Arianna Hunter

Class Size/Location: 6–10 students each week which meet in the Church School Classroom

Curriculum: Students have learned the prayers “O Heavenly King” and “It is Truly Meet.” Students enjoy participating in the discussions and activities each class session. Sessions usually last about 20–25 minutes.

Need: A bigger table and more chairs

Grades 4–5

Teachers: Natasha Tennyson and Billy Justus Rogers (each teacher teaches one month at a time on a rotating basis)

Class Size/Location: 9–12 students each week which meet in the Library

Curriculum: Students are engaged and excited about the Exodus curriculum. They enjoy reading and following along with the passages from the Bible for each lesson. The students are asking thought provoking and relevant questions to the lessons presented. So far, there hasn’t been enough time to do all of the activities—but we hope to introduce some of them in the future.

Grades 6–8

Teacher: Vicky Basch

Class Size/Location: 2-5 students each week which meet in Father Lawrence’s office

Curriculum: Students are very engaged in the lesson and discussion of Exodus. They particularly enjoy the application of the lessons to their everyday lives. They enjoy reading passages from the bible that pertain to the lesson being taught. The format of the class is more of discussion rather than lecture. They have excellent questions and are making amazing connections to their own journey in the faith.

Grades 9–12 (High School)

Teachers: Father Deacon Jeremiah and Gretchen McPherson

Class Size/Location: 6–12 students which meet in the upstairs room of the Cathedral

Curriculum: Class is organized around the Sunday gospel readings, extension of the sermon that day, as well as discussion of Saints and Orthodox theology. The structure of the class is a discussion format

relating to the unique position of Orthodox Christians within American society and culture. All teens are encouraged to share their opinions and experiences.

Family Events

In addition to our weekly church school, our parish has had several family activities that have been enjoyed by many:

September: Church School BBQ kickoff

October: Dinner & Movie Night

November: Honoring the Saints Presentation & Dinner

December: Christmas Play

Your Sister in Christ,

Vicky Basch, Church School Director

MASTER PLAN

There were no master planning meetings during 2025

PROJECTS TO BE DONE

GROUNDS & BUILDINGS

- Replace window frames in St SeraphimNeeds pricing
- Finish landscape on south side of St Seraphim.....Needs pricing
- Repair and stripe front/north parking lotNeeds pricing
- ~~Redwood trees trimmed~~
- Design LED lighting plan, parking islands for parking lotsNeeds pricing
- Overhead electrical/internet wires placed in underground conduitsNeeds design and pricing
- Replace/Repair Pergola (walk way to church) and the Bell Courtyard seating
- Build new iconostasis for Protection Church
- Resurface ceiling of Parish Hall
- Make Basketball/Pickleball court behind Hall
- Design and install floor in St Seraphim

ICONOGRAPHY REPORT

REPORT TO THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

A. FRESCOS/WALL PAINTINGS COMPLETED 2025

1. St Mark and St Luke, pendentives
2. Decorative borders on the arches
3. St. Stephanie the Martyr
4. St. Brigid of Kildare
5. Fresco “Not made by hands”
6. Sacrifice of Isaac, in the Altar (No commission, parish covered the cost)
7. Prophet Moses/Burning Bush/Ten Commandments (No commission, parish covered the cost)
8. Decorative borders under south and north transepts
9. The area around the north side door was beautifully painted.

B. COMMISSIONED SAINT & FEAST DAY FRESCOS — not yet painted

1. St. Ignatius Brianchaninov
2. St. James the Brother of the Lord
3. St. Matrona of Moscow
4. St. Lucia of Syracuse
5. St. Joanna the Myrrh-bearer
6. St. Nona
7. St. Tatiana
8. St. Moses the Black
9. Prophet Daniel in the Lion’s Den (Narthex)
10. St. Panteleimon
11. St. Elizabeth, Mother of St John the Baptist
12. St. Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos
13. St Dionysios (in Altar)
14. St. Paisius of Mount Athos
15. St. Porphyrios of Mount Athos and Athens
16. St. Xenia of Petersburg
17. Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
18. Crossing the Red Sea (Narthex)
19. Raising of the Widow’s Son (Narthex)
20. St. Juliana the Merciful

C. ICON PANELS COMMISSIONED — not yet painted

1. St. Sergius of Radonezh
2. St. Olga of Alaska

D. FRESCOS NOT YET COMMISSIONED

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Three Youths in the Furnace (Narthex) | \$6,000 |
| 2. Raising of Jairus' Daughter (Narthex)..... | \$6,000 |
| 3. St. Philothea of Athens | \$1,500 |

ELECTIONS TO PARISH COUNCIL

Requirements: With the blessing of the Archbishop all nominations for parish council must be submitted no later than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. This allows the nominees to prayerfully consider if they are able or qualified to serve, and to avoid any embarrassment to those who may be nominated yet may not be formal Parish Members or simply not in a position to accept. To be nominated or elected to the Parish Council one must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) Shall be a Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christian; Live according to the Gospel and the teachings of the Orthodox Church
- 2) Shall be at least 18 years of age;
- 3) Shall have partaken of the Sacraments of Private Confession and Communion in the Parish *regularly in the 12 months* immediately preceding the Parish Meeting, and shall have regularly been present for celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Parish for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of the Parish Meeting;
- 4) Has fulfilled the financial obligations established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and the Parish. Make a financial commitment to practice proportional giving, and be willing to care for the good order of the church grounds, finances and community in practical ways
- 5) The Parish Council meets at least once a month. **If you cannot attend meetings, do not accept nomination.** If a member misses two consecutive meetings, he or she may be asked to step down, depending on circumstances. Terms are for two years. Any member of the Parish Council who has served for three (3) consecutive terms (six years) automatically becomes ineligible for reelection until at least one (1) year off the Parish Council passes.

Duties:

- 1) Attend all Parish Council Meetings & various Council events (help at work parties, retreats, etc.)
- 2) Strive to participate in worship, attending Vespers on Saturday at least once a month and Divine Liturgy every Sunday
- 3) Take responsibility for one or more projects/areas of parish need during your term.
- 4) His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin has indicated that all newly-elected parish council members are required to read the documents listed below prior to their first council meeting and compliance be annotated in that meeting's minutes:

OCA Statute, DOW By-Laws, Policies, Standards and Procedures of the OCA on Sexual Misconduct, OCA's Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse Guidelines, DOW's Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse. The documents will be provided to the members.

Current auditor: January 2024

Charles Russell

Treasurer:

Martin Thong

The 2015 Annual Meeting adopted and ratified the proposal that the position of Parish Treasurer be filled by a qualified person, appointed by the rector in consultation with the Council, and serve *ex officio*, with full voting rights.

Every three years the position of Treasurer is to be ratified by vote at the Annual meeting (per the Bylaws), and blessed by the Diocesan Hierarch. This motion allows the Council to be comprised of nine full members plus the Treasurer.

Martin Thong was ratified at the Parish Annual Meeting in 2019, and he was re-affirmed at Treasurer at the 2022 Meeting, and again at the 2025 meeting.

CANDIDATES FOR PARISH ELECTIONS ~ 2026

The Parish Council is comprised of NINE members with TWO Alternates and ONE Treasurer.

Members whose terms expire at this meeting:

Andrew Mikrikov, Miranda Limonczenko, James Greene, Timothy Danford
Kristina Daya (alternate)

Members who have reached term limit at this meeting (served three consecutive two year terms):

Timothy Danford

The following five have one more year to serve:

Peter Tennyson, Kathleen Rhodes, Joseph Marino, Franchesca Duval, Yedit Haile

FOUR members and ONE alternate have ended their terms. We need to elect FOUR new Members plus TWO Alternates

Nominations have been submitted no later than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. **Nominations will not be taken at the meeting.**

- 1) Serge Anderson
- 2) Kristina Daya
- 3) Karla van Meter
- 4) Corey James Lee
- 5) Daphne Russell
- 6) Zach Matz

We have a slate of SIX Candidates to be elected to FOUR Council positions and TWO Alternate positions. So, rather than hold a vote, we will accept the six candidates by acclamation and the Council will determine which two area alternates.

If an elected member of the Parish Council steps down, an alternate will serve out the remaining time of that member's term. Our parish practice regarding Alternates is by custom, since the Parish Bylaws do not mention how Alternates are elected or for how long they serve.

Alternates are expected to attend all meetings, and should consider themselves as full Council Members.

Ending Hymns

IT IS TRULY MEET

Sing to the Model Melody “*Joy of the Heavenly Powers*”

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos,
ever-blessed, and most blameless, and the Mother of our God;
more honorable than the Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, //
the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

TROPARION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN

TONE FOUR

Today we Orthodox people joyfully keep festival,
being illumined by thy glorious coming among us, O Mother of God;
and gazing upon thy most pure image,
we say with compunction:
Shelter us with thy most precious Protection,
and deliver us from all evil, //
and pray to thy Son, Christ our God, that He save our souls.