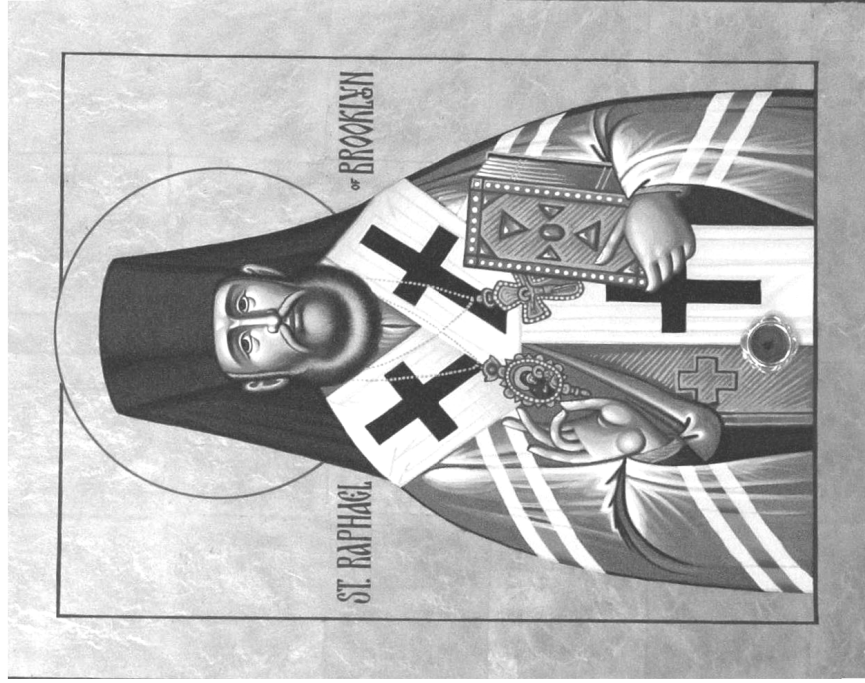


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



FEBRUARY 2009



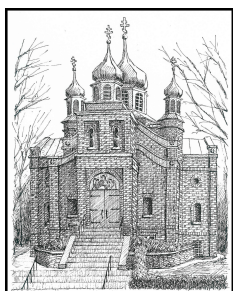
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

305 Washington Street
P. O. Box 2876
New Britain, CT 06050-2876

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Greeters: P & D Steffick		Cleaners: ? ? ?		February Charity: Stremsky Family	
1 33rd after Pentecost ZACHAEUS SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour – L/B/S Sisterhood & Men's Club Annual Meetings	2 MEETING OF THE LORD Festal Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	3	4	5 CT Deanery Mtg. @ Southbury 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Great Vespers 4:00 p.m Confession
8 PUBLICAN & PHARISEE Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour – Fiedler	9 <div>FAST FREE WEEK</div>	10	11	12 IVERON ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS <div>FAST FREE WEEK</div>	13	14 Great Vespers 4:00 p.m Confession
15 PRODIGAL SON Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Installation of Officers Coffee Hour – Eva / Nick	16 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p. m.	17	18 Daily Vespers 6:30 p.m. Diocesan Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.	19	20	21 Great Vespers 4:00 p.m Confession
22 LAST JUDGMENT Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. MEATFARE BRUNCH	23	24	25 (Diocesan Council Snow date)	26	27 ST. RAPHAEL, BISHOP OF BROOKLYN	28 Great Vespers 4:00 p.m General Confession



Monthly Newsletter of
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

305 Washington Street • PO Box 2876 • New Britain, CT 06050-2876

www.htocnb.org

FEBRUARY 2009

HOUSE BLESSINGS: The home blessing this year was a tremendous joy. I had a wonderful time visiting with everyone, some 50+ homes. Next year I will again be making some adjustments to the schedule in order to give enough time to visit with everyone and to fit all our schedules. I also hope the list will grow so that we can get as close to 100% as possible. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness as I journeyed around central Connecticut.

Fr. David

NEWLY ELECTED: The 2009 Parish Council, elected at the annual parish meeting, together with the officers for the Sisterhood and Men's Club will be installed with prayers at the end of Divine Liturgy on February 15th, subject to approval of the elections by His Grace, Bishop NIKON. All elected members are asked to be present for that service. The first meeting of the new council will be held on Monday, February 16th, at 7:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP (Pledge): All parish members should have received their respective 2009 Financial Pledge Forms. You are asked to prayerfully consider your pledge to the parish for 2009, raise your pledge from previous years if you are not tithing yet, and return the form no later than February 15th.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21

FAST-FREE: The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (this year February 8-14) is a fast-free period in the Orthodox Church. This is the final fast free period until Bright Week after Pascha.

MEATFARE SUNDAY: Meatfare Sunday (February 22nd) is the last day on the Orthodox calendar which allows the consumption of meat and meat products. Our Sisterhood is planning once again to hold the annual Meatfare Sunday Breakfast that morning following liturgy. Make plans now to join us for the feast before the fast!

The Orthodox celebration of PASCHA this year is April 19th, which is one week after the western churches celebrate Easter (April 12th). Forgiveness Vespers will be held after Divine Liturgy on March 1st. This liturgical entrance into the Fast, along with the moving Rite of Forgiveness, is essential for every Orthodox Christian. All parishioners are asked to be present for this service.

GENERAL CONFESSION: is normally held on the last Saturday of each month (except for lenten periods), following Great Vespers. All regular communicants should make every effort to attend each General Confession. The next General Confession will be held on February 28th.

The February monthly charity collection is for the **Stremsky Family**. The Stremsky Family includes Archpriest Nikolai Stremsky, Matushka Galina and their 70+ adopted children, many whom suffer from numerous diseases. The family lives in the city of Saraktash on the edge of the Urals, in central Russia. They are a family, not an orphanage. Father Nikolai is the Archpriest of the Holy Trinity Cloister of Mercy. In Russia, where there are no nursing homes as we know them, they run Mercy House - a residence for those

Archpriest David Koles, Rector
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who have no one to care for them and who are too ill or too elderly to care for themselves. The city of Sarak-tash has a high Moslem population including most city officials. The Stremskys established and continue to run a private school that is of such a high standard that most prominent Moslem families enroll their children.

To support themselves, and Mercy House, the Strem-skys operate a farm - both crops and animals. And an-nually, usually in the fall, Father Nikolai and Matushka Galina bring twelve to eighteen children on a fund-raising visit to the U.S. The children sing, dance and play various instruments.

In addition to building a cathedral church for their city, they have helped to establish several churches and new missions in their district (what we would call a county.) Several of the older children are married and with chil-dren of their own. Some have become choir directors, others clergy, others teachers. Still others work to help Mercy House, the cathedral, the family, etc.

CHURCH RENOVATION

UPDATE:

A systematic plan has been developed to address the prob-lems in the following manner:

- ♦ Repair and re-plaster the interior church walls
[summer - fall '09]
- ♦ Paint the interior of the church. [summer - fall '10]

As you can see we are down to the last two items. These will take some research to determine the best course of action. Many have contributed to the Hun-dred Plus Club to honor the hundred plus years since our founding. Individuals may join by making donations to the building fund in de-nominations of \$100. This will be in addition to one's annual pledge. The funds will be used solely for the purpose of renovating our church building.

Thank you to all who have contributed these past two years but we are not finished. Addi-tional expenses are yet to be determined. We have 4 years until we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Consecration of our church on Washington Street.

As of this printing we have collected \$ 300.00

JOIN THE 100 PLUS CLUB



Birthdays & Anniversaries

in FEBRUARY:

4	Isabella Salina	2008
6	Diane Polzun	1947
7	Adam Salina	1975
10	Philip Cook	1986
13	Katherine Petriw	1926
14	Natalie Zaiko	1920
16	Helen Anop	1927
17	Kristina Bouteneff	1993
18	Eva Zagorska	1965
20	Katarina Delaney	2004
25	Nick Dresko	1983
5	Peter & Ann Anop	1994
21	Paul & Janet Culton	1959



“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”

The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones **NEED** to feel connected to their parish family.

Jerome Home, New Britain

Sadie Albino
Ann Laska

Arbor Rose, New Britain

Sophia Johnson
Nona Belomyzy

Walnut Hill, New Britain

Agnes Makula
Olga Skotnicki
Mary Cherpak

Brittany Farms, New Britain

Olga Halajko

St. Lucian Residence, New Britain

Mary Kotrady

Middlewoods, Newington

Jennie Skovich

Newington Care, Newington

Mary Salina



Ledgecrest Nursing Home, Berlin

Natasha Zaiko
Nicholas Zamayduk

Atrium at Rocky Hill

Jean Prusik

At Home: Mary Bogdan, Anne Cherpak, Helen Kovalevich,
Helen Karabin, Susan Labas, Irene Prigodich and Mary
Roman.



PARISH DIPTYCHS

Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Theodore Karpey		February 1 1982
Olga Kotlarz		February 1 1985
Teresa (Parasceva) Walker	84	February 1 1999
John Balkun	70	February 2 1966
Vasilina Koliv	17	February 3 1913
Gregory Stankevich	62	February 3 1949
Trofim Kirichov	62	February 3 1956
John Klotz, Sr.	80	February 3 1968
Katheryna Bondarenko	85	February 3 1980
Eva Hamisevich	28	February 4 1920
Natalie Lestoric	80	February 4 2002
Child John Tarlevsky	1 day	February 5 1918
Walter Panasevich	55	February 5 1964
Marion Dounouk	15	February 5 1965
Irene Turek	74	February 5 2004
Peter Jazkevich		February 7 1989
Child Nina Hulisa	7 mo	February 8 1917
Child Olga Kuharchuk	4 mo	February 8 1917
Joseph Hamilla	84	February 8 1984
Geraldine Karpey	61	February 8 1985
Conrad Filipchuk	56	February 9 1932
Paul Bogdan	65	February 9 1955
Zinada Foster	88	February 9 2007
Peter Hamilla	33	February 10 1916
Child Lydia Hamisevich	7 mo	February 10 1917
Helen Velichko	56	February 11 1930
Alexei Lewczyk	69	February 12 1959
Protodn Nicholas Panteleeff	85	February 12 1961
Michael Molchan	75	February 12 1964
Anna Horbal	84	February 12 1981
Child Nicholas Panasevich	2 mo	February 13 1916
Naum Sobchuk [Sovchuk]	61	February 13 1956
Mary Hamilla	80	February 13 1958
George Cocores	35	February 13 1960

Natalia Karpey	84	February 13 1973
Alexandra Neverovich	86	February 13 1983
Walter Wanik	61	February 13 1995
Alexandra Bichun	57	February 14 1959
Nadezhda Novosett	93	February 16 1990
Sarah Belomyzy	83	February 16 1995
Child Mary Hiov	5 mo	February 17 1911
Pauline Dyranka	82	February 17 1996
John Fedorovich	38	February 19 1926
Stephen Klotz		February 19 1959
Nona Grusha	87	February 19 2000
Basil Pracalo	77	February 20 1968
George Cherpak	96	February 20 1983
Stephen Karpey	66	February 21 1942
Joseph Pich	77	February 21 1996
Mary Paquette	98	February 21 2002
Child Katherine Cherpak	7	February 22 1911
Child Tekla Russin	9 mo	February 23 1903
Mary Semanchik	15	February 23 1910
John Lehman	64	February 23 1950
Anastasia Pelik	62	February 23 1954
Helen Wlasuk	71	February 23 1960
Mary Gasparini	94	February 25 1998
Andrew Lenik	35	February 26 1930
Katherine Smoluk	73	February 26 1971
Alexander Kotrady		February 26 1985
Child (No name) Pruta	4	February 27 1937
Pearl (Paraskeva) Liwen	95	February 27 1987
Justina Sulima	69	February 28 1969
Barbara Steffick	75	February 28 2008
Elia Podubinsky	38	February 29 1916

ВѢЧНАЯ ПАМЯТЬ

On Confession

*FROM THE WRITINGS OF
SAINT JOHN OF KRONSTAD,
WONDER-WORKER OF RUSSIA
(+1908)
PRIEST, HEALER, PREACHER,
MIRACLE-WORKER AND
PROPHET, WHO DID SHINE
FORTH INTO ALL THE
ORTHODOX WORLD*



Consciousness, memory, imagination, feeling, and will are helps to penitence. As we sin with all the powers of our soul, so penitence must be from the whole soul. Penitence in words only, without the intention of amend-

ment and without the feeling of contrition, may be called hypocritical. Should the consciousness of sins be obscured, it must be cleared up; should the feeling be smothered and dulled, it must be roused; should the will become blunt and too weak for amendment, it must be forced: *The kingdom of heaven has suffers violence, and men of violence take it by force. [Matt. 11:12]* Confession must be sincere, deep and full.

I am only a witness, testifying before Him of all things which you will say. [A prayer from The Order of Confession] The priests will witness before the Saving Judge on the terrible Day of Judgment concerning sinners, whether they did or did not repent of these or those sins and they who were penitent will be forgiven. But why is it necessary for God to have witnesses, when he himself knows everything. *He needed not that any should testify of man, for He himself knew what was in man. [John 2:25]* Indeed they are not necessary to God, but they are necessary for us. It will be pleasant for us to see how the priests will bear witness concerning us, before angels and men, that we repented of our sins, condemned ourselves, expressed our loathing for sin, firmly resolved not to sin further.

It is absolutely necessary to confess at least once every year. The longer we go on without confessing, the worse it is for us, the more entangled we become in the bonds of sin, and therefore the more difficult it is to give account.

We ought to confess our sins more frequently, in order to strike and scourge the sins by the open avowal of them, and in order to feel a greater loathing of them.

He who is accustomed to give account of his life at confession will not fear to give an answer at the terrible judgment-seat of Christ. For this purpose was the mild tribunal of penitence here instituted, that we may give an answer without shame, having been cleansed and healed through penitence here below. This is the first motive for sincere confession.

A second motive is inner calm. The more sincerely we confess our sins, the more calm will the soul be afterwards. For sins are secret serpents, gnawing at the heart of a man, and never letting him rest; they are prickly thorns, constantly goring the soul, they are spiritual darkness.

A priest is a spiritual physician. Show your wounds to him without shame, sincerely, openly, trusting and confiding in him as his child; for the confessor is your spiritual father, who should love you more than your own father and mother; for Christ's love is higher than any natural love. He must give an answer to God for you.

Why is our life so impure, so full of sinful habits? Because a great many conceal the spiritual wounds and sores which are the root of the trouble, and therefore it is impossible to apply any remedy to them.

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. [2Cor. 5:21] Will you be ashamed after this to acknowledge any of your sins, whatever they may be, or to take upon yourself the blame for sin which you have not committed? If the Son of God himself was made sin for us, though he was sinless, then you, too, must accept blame for all sins with meekness and love and accept blame humbly and submissively, even for those sins which you have not committed, for in truth you are guilty of all.

In this life we sin continually, and at the same time we are so self-loving that we cannot endure to be reproved for our sins and faults, above all before others; but in the future life we shall be reproved for them before the whole world. Bearing in mind this terrible judgment-seat, let us bear reproof here humbly and gently, and let us correct ourselves of all our sins, all our faults; above all, let us bear reproof from those in authority over us, and may the Lord teach them to reprove our faults not with malice, but with love and in the spirit of meekness.

As soon as you have told the Lord your sins with a contrite heart they melt away; as soon as you have sighed and sorrowed for them, they are no more. *Tell me your iniquities, that you may be justified. [see Is. 43:24b-26]* As they came, so they go away. They are an illusion. As soon as you have recognized that they are an illusion, an absurdity, madness; as soon as you have resolved to do aright in the future, God cleanses you of them, through his minister and the holy sacraments.

Bear in mind that for cleansing your heart from sin, you will get an infinite reward - you will see God. The work of cleansing the heart is difficult, for in the course of it we are greatly afflicted; and therefore the reward is great. *Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. [Matt. 5:8]*



Pledging to Give in Stewardship

The phrase “Pledging to Give in Stewardship,”—rightly and fully understood from the Orthodox Christian perspective—contains a message that is critical to our faith. *[continued from May 2008]*

With Tithing as the Goal

One of the most clear biblical teachings about tithing comes with a promise. It is Malachi 3:8-10, written about 400 years before Christ.

Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you said "In what way shall we return? Will a man rob God?" Yet, you have robbed Me! But you say, "In what way have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse [today's parish general fund], that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Prayer, Fasting, and Giving

"Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving," the triad of spiritual disciplines has been our tradition since the beginning. We are taught that we should not fast without also praying, lest it become a weight-loss exercise and not a sacrificial act that will allow us to draw closer to God. We fast, sacrificing food, so that our prayers come from a hunger for God, and His wisdom.

Many of us were taught to put "alms" in the coin boxes, especially during Lent. Our dime or quarter was a sacrifice years ago, like the widow who put in all she had (Luke 21:1-4). When we talk about giving today, as adults, are we still talking sacrifice?

Giving. Giving is as much a spiritual discipline as prayer and fasting. In our society, those who have money have choices. They can give money to gain power, both in and outside of church circles. They can choose to give with great publicity, so they command respect. Or, they can give with prayer and fasting. In this manner, they offer a sacrifice of money, humbly and with discernment. Thus, they honor the Lord who has made them a steward over all He has provided. Giving is to be the fruit of our spiritual efforts, yet we dare not give without prayer and fasting.

Tithing is Our Tradition. Our understanding of giving comes from the first few pages of the Bible. Abraham, in thanksgiving for his victory in battle, offers a tithe to the priest, Melchizedek (Genesis 14:14-20). Giving is tithing and offering—accompanied by prayer, and fasting. Tithing is sacrificial giving, and requires trust, since we are to give a tithe first, from our paycheck. We should never

think of that 10% as available for us to spend. It is the Lord's take--money returned to the Lord for the purposes of His kingdom--offered with prayer and fasting.

If you have ever drawn closer to the Lord in prayer, or in fasting, you will draw even closer when you tithe. The three walk hand-in-hand.

Give and Grow Closer to Him

Pledging is a great opportunity to act "for real" for Christ and His Church, and this year each of us and each household among us has this opportunity by pledging to give in stewardship to support the parish budget.

What is "pledging?" Pledging is an act of solemn or formal promise to Christ and His Church (that's all of us, by God's grace) that you will, with God's help, give the money you have pledged. This is, of course, depending on stable economic circumstances in your life. If they change for the good, say you strike oil in your backyard, you increase your pledge. If they change for the worse, say you lose your job, you decrease your pledge. There are two points to remember, individually, and together as a community living in Christ's love and discipline.

No one is going to "hold your feet to the flames" if disaster strikes and you honestly cannot make good on your pledge because you do not even have the wherewithal to feed yourself and your family. So, relax! The basic promise here is to God Almighty Who knows the "real deal" and Who still loves us all. Pledging is no elaborate scheme to "trap you." Lord, have mercy!

So, pray about your pledges as: "You have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God, what you have promised" (Deuteronomy 23:23); and thank God for each opportunity to give and grow closer to Him!

Pledging to Give in Stewardship

*We continue to consider **pledging** (promising) **to give** (to transfer in love for free) **in stewardship** (as those who manage value in trust for the true owner).*

Excerpts take from the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese web-site: <http://www.antiochian.org/node/16515>



The January 2009 Parish Council meeting was held in the church hall on Monday, January 12, 2009. Warden Paul

Salina called the meeting to order at 7pm. A quorum was noted and the meeting began with "O Heavenly King". Warden Paul Salina welcomed everyone to the final parish council meeting for 2008 council members.

Pastor's Report Father David said that house blessings are underway and going well considering the weather conditions and a few people have been added to the list. Father reminded us that Great Lent begins the first week of March. Father received thank you letters from Father Chad from St. Vlad's for our Ed Day contribution and from the Friendship Center for the food and monetary donation. The Sunday Lenten Vesper schedule has been set. We will not be hosting a service this year. They will be trying to get a speaker for each service to encourage participation other than clergy. The schedules and speakers will be posted.

Secretary's Report Motion to accept the November 2008 minutes as submitted Nelson Potter/Peter Steffick. Motion carried.

Financial Report

November income	\$16,025.15	(large expenses - with holding & SS, fair share, utilities, All American Council, lawn maint., Oct. charity)
November expense	\$12,393.22	
Inc/exp	\$ 3,631.93	
December income	\$26,189.00	(large expenses - prop maint., utilities, bishop visit, AAC exp, fair share, withholding & SS, Nov. charity)
December expense	\$15,513.42	
Inc/exp	\$10,675.58	(large income - endowment donation \$10,500)

George Ludko reported that the \$10,500 endowment donation will be moved to a CD endowment fund this week. He also noted that a large expense in the property maintenance was for Weber Construction for cleaning and re-building the drain in the parking area. Though the work was completed several months ago, the invoice was just recently received. Dan Bradanini has audited November and December reports. Motion to accept the November and December 2008 reports Ellen Santoro/Diane Dounouk. Motion carried.

George also reported that the budget summary indicates that cash donations are down but the rental income is up. There was a discussion to put monies donated for the memorial and endowment funds in accounts other than the operating fund check book. George will be opening up 2 passbook accounts this week for that purpose, as holding accounts. Accurate records of donations to the endowment and memorial funds have been kept, and we have in existence, CD's to keep the funds in separate investments. But we cannot move small amounts of money into the CD's any time we wish, having to wait for maturity dates. These "holding accounts" will keep the funds out of the general checking account, until they can be moved to the appropriate CD's. It was suggested that when the house sells that we go back 3-4 years and reconcile what was donated from the memorial/endowment funds into the proper accounts. We were reminded that memorial funds could be used for capital projects

with a vote from the parish.

OLD BUSINESS

***Caretaker's house** Paul Salina informed us that the realty company is still pushing it. There have been many visitors but no bites. The current selling price is \$94,500. Some repairs had to be made and a hole in the chimney was repaired by Dan Bradanini. There is also a crack in the foundation on the back corner of the garage - iron brackets will be installed to prevent further separation when the weather permits. Paul also informed us that Mayor Stewart is trying to reduce homeless in New Britain. The city has a few different projects underway, ie: either buying the property or investing and repairing and becoming the property manager. Mayor Stewart met with Paul Salina and Mike Wanik. Paul will continue to work with the city to see if this is a viable solution to sell or gain funds from the Beaver Street house by leasing to the city.

***Project Management Review** The water fountain is still in progress. Marion Bichum did speak to Bill Kapura last week regarding the stove hood and that is still in progress. Mike Wanik and George Matyczyk have been scraping and painting patches in the church interior. The big peel over the iconostas is canvas. There is still a concern over why the paint is still peeling-perhaps the plaster is just too old. We must start thinking of how we should correct the inside paint peeling so we can be ready in 2013 for the 100th anniversary of our building. This may require sand-blasting or removal of all of the old plaster and new plaster applied before painting. A piece of the former rectory soffit fell off and is need of repair. Paul Salina has received a bid from John Dorsey. This will need to be discussed at the annual meeting.

***From the Floor** - Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

***Charity for March** Motion to have "Ancient Faith Radio" for March 2009 charity Paul Culton/Marion Bichun. Motion carried.

***Nominating Committee** Jenny Everson has agreed to come back on the council. We still have other vacancies - see Paul Salina.

***Budget Recommendations for 2009** The budget committee presented a 2009 budget and the council reviewed it. The Diocesan council mandated a COLA increase for clergy of 6.3% and this is reflected in Father's salary, SS, etc. Peter Steffick will look at the 2008 pledges and see if people actually met their pledges. Motion to present this budget draft for 2009 at the annual meeting Diane Dounouk/Diane Polzun. Motion carried.

***From the floor** Paul Salina thanked Paul Culton, Marion Bichun, and Diane Polzun who have completed 4-year terms for their years of service.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 16, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment Motion to adjourn by Paul Culton at 8:09 p.m. The meeting concluded with "It is Truly Meet".

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Bartos