

Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church  
8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410

Annual Reports  
Meeting to be held February 9, 2025



Fr. Jacob Van Sickle, Rector

# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

## Annual Meeting 2025 - Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Credentials Report
- III. Revise/Accept 2024 meeting minutes
- IV. Reports
  - A. Rector
  - B. President
  - C. Treasurer
  - D. Cemetery
  - E. Fundraising Committees
  - F. Ministries & Clubs
  - G. Financial Reviewers
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
  - A. Parking Lot Replacement
- VII. Elections
  - A. Parish Council
  - B. Reviewers
  - C. Cemetery Leadership
  - D. All American and Diocesan Council lay delegate(s)
- VIII. Budget Approval
- IX. Adjournment/Closing Prayer

## **Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

8600 Grand Blvd., Merrillville, IN 46410

### **Annual Meeting – February 11, 2024**

#### **Opening Prayer**

The meeting began with an opening prayer at 1:20 PM in the hall following the Divine Liturgy.

#### **Quorum**

A quorum was established with 42 members signed in the Book of Life.

#### **Approval of 2023 Minutes**

The 2023 Annual Meeting minutes were accepted as stated. Jerry Christoff made a motion to accept, and Adam Erpelding seconded. All approved.

#### **Elections**

##### **Parish Council**

- Elizabeth Wysocki will continue to serve as Secretary.
- Doug Bercich, Lesley Erpelding, Sergei Ely, Lara Richards, and Daniel O'Day will serve as at-large board members.
- Rich Svihra will serve as an alternate.
- Mike Gruszyk will return as Treasurer, Melody Rozdelsky as President, and Elizabeth Pedersen will continue as Vice President.

Jerry Christoff motioned to accept all council appointments, and Terry Bercich seconded. All approved. All previous officers no longer have the authority to make decisions for the church.

##### **Reviewers/Auditors**

The reports submitted and audited by Rich Svihra, Adam Erpelding, and Brenda Wenner were accepted.

- Adam Erpelding stated that everything audited was well managed and the books were in good order.
- The auditors have agreed to serve again next year: Rich Svihra, Adam Erpelding, and Brenda Wenner.

Sherry Mizimakoski motioned to accept the reviewers, Melody Rozdelsky seconded, and none opposed. The motion passed.

##### **Lay Delegate**

Elizabeth Pedersen nominated Mike Gruszyk to represent PTVM as Lay Delegate. Nick Revak seconded, and all approved.

## **PTVM Cemetery Council**

### **Nominations:**

- Cemetery Council: Hellen Campbell, Mike Gruszyk, Mickey Schendrick, and Bill Romanchek.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Nick Revak.
- Superintendent:
  - Bill Romanchek nominated himself.
  - Melody Rozdelsky nominated Frank Morsovillo.

### **Election Results:**

- 26 votes for Frank Morsovillo as Superintendent.

Carl Pavleski motioned to accept the council as stated, the Secretary/Treasurer as stated, and Frank Morsovillo as Superintendent. Terry Bercich seconded. The motion passed with one opposed (Nick Rozdelsky).

### **Budget Approval**

#### **Treasurer Nick Revak's Report:**

- Hellen Campbell asked about the Diocesan assessment, which is 13% of total stewardship (\$1,700 per month).
- It was noted that the church exceeded its budget expectations. Nick expressed gratitude for serving the church over the last year.

Father Jacob highlighted increases in church school/youth group expenses, landscaping, and diocesan assessments.

Melody Rozdelsky motioned to accept the budget as presented, and Lara Richards seconded. All approved, and the budget passed.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

- All reports were submitted with no questions raised.

### **Notable Comments:**

- Hellen Campbell questioned changing the cemetery's name by removing "Russian." She believed it would be disrespectful to the immigrants who founded it.
- Bill Romanchek raised concerns about removing "Russian" due to political issues and anti-Russian sentiment.
- Adam Erpelding noted that the O-Club is delivering groceries to shut-ins through Catholic Charities. Volunteers are encouraged to join.

- Mary Ann shared that Lady's Sodality donated over 100 coats, including new items for children, to local organizations such as the Salvation Army and a domestic violence shelter. She noted that funds earned are used to purchase items for the church, including altar boy robes and flowers.

### **New Business**

#### **Cemetery Governance Resolution**

Father Jacob proposed a resolution:

- A formal cemetery committee will be appointed to govern St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Cemetery, chaired by the elected Cemetery Superintendent and including the Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer and other elected members.
- The committee will draft and propose updated bylaws for adoption at next year's meeting.

Bill Romanchek motioned to accept the resolution, and Adam Erpelding seconded. A vote ensued, and the motion passed with no opposition.

#### **Cemetery Name Change**

A proposal was made to rename the cemetery to align with the church name: "Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church."

- Some members, including Hellen Campbell, Bill Romanchek, and Olga Atzhorn, expressed concerns about removing "Russian."
- Others, such as Melody Rozdelsky and Nada B., supported aligning the cemetery name with the church.

#### **Vote:**

- 20 in favor, 5 opposed, and 15/16 abstentions.
- Motion passed to rename the cemetery.

### **Adjournment**

Elizabeth Wysocki motioned to adjourn, and Nick Rozdelsky seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Father Jacob at 2:39 PM.

**Respectfully submitted in Christ,**

February 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Elizabeth Wysocki

PTVM Secretary

## Rector's Report – 2025 Annual Meeting

Dear Faithful,

2024 was a year of many additions. Since our last annual meeting, we have added eleven new members to our parish through baptisms and chrismations, and thirteen more who were already Orthodox but moved to us. Our membership, and the number of our catechumens, continues to climb. This has been for us both a blessing and a challenge, as we have had to expand our ministries to include and serve more brothers and sisters. I have in mind, for example, our Church School, which is bursting at the seams of its current space and could always use more reliable help in the classroom. I am also thinking especially of Coffee Hour, a ministry vital to cultivating and maintaining our parish's community life. In about the last two years, I am told, the average number of people who stay after Liturgy for coffee hour has almost doubled. This is a beautiful thing! But it means that there is a lot more food to prepare and a greater mess to clean up. Our coffee hour coordinator and teams have been trying to adapt and to bring more people on to help, but it is hard to grow so quickly, and we are feeling the pains of it. We will find a way.

This year we added a Young Adult group and a monthly class for catechumens and inquirers. Meanwhile we continue to offer Bible Study, Faith Enrichment, the Men's, Women's, and Youth groups with their various activities, as well as O-Club and Sodality with their activities. And none of this includes our rich Liturgical schedule with its seasonal and feast-day services. The parish calendar is very full these days. This is a sign of life, but one that our parish has not been used to. We are to the point that not even the priest can reasonably manage to attend every event on the schedule. It is too much for any one person. But that is as it should be. It is good for the Church to minister in different ways to as many different people as possible. My advice to everyone: try out everything which might pertain to you, and see what draws you to Christ. Then focus your participation in those places.

Very recently, we launched a redesigned website and replaced our roadside sign. We also welcomed Elizabeth Wysocki as our new part-time Office Assistant. Our latest important addition happened just a few weeks ago with the ordination of Dn Nicholas to the priesthood. As already announced, he remains a full time professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, and is simply "attached" to our parish as he was as a deacon. However, he will be taking on a few new responsibilities at PTVM. He will hold choir rehearsals once a month on Saturdays before Vespers. He will begin teaching on occasion at our various classes (Bible Study, Catechism, etc.). He will also be available to hear confessions and to visit our sick and shut-ins with communion. Finally, he will be able to serve Liturgy when I am sick or traveling without us having to call in a substitute as before.

All of these new additions to parish life fill me with both excitement and trepidation. It is a lot of growth for us to manage. For that reason, with the council's approval, we have formed a small Growth Committee to help us think more strategically about how to meet this challenge. I pray that the Lord our God will make us sufficient for it.

In Christ,

Fr. Jacob Van Sickle

## **2024 PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**2024 was one of the most positive years that I can remember for our parish. I would like to point out that this takes leadership to make this happen, but it ONLY happens with the love and support, financially and physically, of our wonderful community. It takes each and everyone of us praying, studying, faith and toiling in and for our faith. May we continue to be temperate in our interaction with visitors, inquirers, catechumens and all who visit our parish.**

**I would like to thank Sergei and Connie Ely, Janet Korzow, Elizabeth Pedersen and her team, as well as Nada Buczek, Nick Revak and anyone else who I might have forgotten for always being there when needed. You are appreciated.**

**I point out the following positives which occurred during 2024 - not in any specific order!**

**1) The increase in sheer numbers of visitors, inquirers, catechumens and cradle Orthodox "coming to see" the beauty of the Orthodox faith - may it continue for Many Years!**

**2) Reinstitution of the All Night Vigil reading of Psalms from Good Friday evening into Holy Saturday morning - it has been quite some time since this has been done. The time spent in a darkened church at the Tomb of Our Lord is breathtaking.**

**3) Increased participation and concelebration with the Descent of the Holy Ghost parish. When we go to them for services or a dinner - they do likewise and come to our parish as well. This benefits the wonderful relationship between our two parishes.**

**4) Our Annual Golf Outing saw an increase in profits - many thanks to Coach Rich & family and to Lara Richards for co-chairing for many years. Even with a torrential downpour - we made more income for our parish than in several recent years. Again - talking it up, getting golfers, hole sponsors, and prizes - every little bit counts.**

**5) Many thanks to Janet Korzow for once again hosting Pysanki making classes for our kids to learn an ancient tradition and helping to keep it alive for future generations!**

6) Our brand new website - it looks and even feels wonderful - if you haven't already done so - check it out! The project took time - but it was well worth the time - many thanks to Doug Bercich and Dan O'Day for all of their efforts. Many people inquire by looking at the website prior to ever stepping into the Church.

7) Our Deacon Nicholas was elevated from Deacon to Protodeacon and we look forward with love, joy, and anticipation to his upcoming ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

#### **Melody's Wish List**

- 1) Getting the parish to be more active at the Deanery, Diocesan, and National Church level.
- 2) There are several camps for Kids in our Diocese - our parish has funds set aside to assist families financially to send their young ones. These camps help them to develop friendships, and relationships which can last for years. Increased participation is the goal.

#### **Projects to be done in 2025**

- 1) Replace the parking lot and the roadway to the shed.
- 2) Maintain and repaint the bell and fence.

Respectfully submitted,



**Melody Rozdelsky**



**Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

**Income and Expense Statement**

Yearend 2024

	Year to Date	Annual Budget	YTD Budget Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>			
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>			
<b>Contribution Income</b>			
Stewardship-Weekly	154,118.81	191,939.00	37,820.19
Other Donations	90,093.12	18,000.00	-72,093.12
<b>Subtotal Contribution Income</b>	<b>244,211.93</b>	<b>209,939.00</b>	<b>-34,272.93</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Anniversary Dinner	1,919.00	800.00	-1,119.00
Bake Sale	5,157.00	5,500.00	343.00
Candles & Vigils	5,438.00	5,700.00	262.00
Golf Outing	9,600.00	8,000.00	-1,600.00
Scrip Program Donation	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Bookstore Proceeds	600.00	200.00	-400.00
<b>Subtotal Other Income</b>	<b>23,714.00</b>	<b>21,200.00</b>	<b>-2,514.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Unrestricted</b>	<b>267,925.93</b>	<b>231,139.00</b>	<b>-36,786.93</b>
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>			
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
Icon Fund Income	2,500.00	0.00	-2,500.00
Father's Wish List Income	1,819.94	0.00	-1,819.94
Building Projects Income	8,655.00	0.00	-8,655.00
Youth Activities Income	61.00	0.00	-61.00
Flowers Income	738.84	700.00	-38.84
Landscaping Income	2,570.00	0.00	-2,570.00
Choir Income	3,791.55	0.00	-3,791.55
<b>Subtotal Temporarily Restrict</b>	<b>20,136.33</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>-19,436.33</b>
<b>Subtotal Donor Restricted</b>	<b>20,136.33</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>-19,436.33</b>
<b>Subtotal Contribution Income</b>	<b>288,062.26</b>	<b>231,839.00</b>	<b>-56,223.26</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>			
Banking Interest	199.82	0.00	-199.82
Investment Interest	10,564.87	0.00	-10,564.87
Investment Gain/Loss	123.21	0.00	-123.21
<b>Subtotal Interest Income</b>	<b>10,887.90</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-10,887.90</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>298,950.16</b>	<b>231,839.00</b>	<b>-67,111.16</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>CLERGY EXPENSES</b>			
Salary	36,761.01	39,537.00	2,775.99
Housing	35,799.99	33,024.00	-2,775.99
Church Paid Pension	10,158.60	10,159.00	0.40
Health Insurance	1,771.68	1,772.00	0.32
Supply Priest	520.52	1,000.00	479.48
Father's Travel Expenses	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Life Insurance	598.80	600.00	1.20
<b>Subtotal Clergy Expenses</b>	<b>86,810.60</b>	<b>87,292.00</b>	<b>481.40</b>
<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>			
Stipend	6,000.00	7,200.00	1,200.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE</b>			
Advertising and Promotion	601.95	500.00	-101.95
Office Supplies	1,801.35	2,000.00	198.65
Postage	483.75	400.00	-83.75
Printing	2,196.33	1,500.00	-696.33
Background Checks	0.00	50.00	50.00
Accountant	2,091.35	2,200.00	108.65
Phones/Internet Service	1,545.30	1,620.00	74.70
Computer Software	455.00	455.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Administrative Expense</b>	<b>9,175.03</b>	<b>8,725.00</b>	<b>-450.03</b>

**Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

**Income and Expense Statement**

Yearend 2024

	Year to Date	Annual Budget	YTD Budget Difference
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
Church/Cemetery Insurance	10,192.50	11,500.00	1,307.50
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
NIPSCO-gas/electric	18,142.12	18,500.00	357.88
Septic: Beebe	3,030.00	2,820.00	-210.00
Garbage: Homewood	2,408.29	2,600.00	191.71
Well Maintenance-Sheehy	685.00	700.00	15.00
Alarm System	2,209.25	825.00	-1,384.25
Pest Control	660.00	970.00	310.00
<b>Subtotal Utilities</b>	<b>27,134.66</b>	<b>26,415.00</b>	<b>-719.66</b>
<b>BUILDING MAINTENANCE</b>			
Mechan. Concepts Contract	2,425.00	2,400.00	-25.00
Janitorial Supplies	1,485.96	1,000.00	-485.96
Cleaning Service	8,945.00	8,890.00	-55.00
Repairs/Maintenance	10,948.61	12,000.00	1,051.39
Merrillville Storm Water	1,024.00	100.00	-924.00
<b>Subtotal Building Maintenance</b>	<b>24,828.57</b>	<b>24,390.00</b>	<b>-438.57</b>
<b>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</b>			
Landscaping	18,171.44	18,000.00	-171.44
Lawn Service	3,488.72	2,200.00	-1,288.72
Snow Removal	2,565.00	9,000.00	6,435.00
<b>Subtotal Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>24,225.16</b>	<b>29,200.00</b>	<b>4,974.84</b>
<b>YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>			
Supplies	5,068.69	4,000.00	-1,068.69
Young Adult Ministry	558.00	1,000.00	442.00
<b>Subtotal Youth Sunday School</b>	<b>5,626.69</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>-626.69</b>
<b>CHOIR</b>			
Choir Lessons	1,275.00	0.00	-1,275.00
AV and Lighting Equipment	197.83	0.00	-197.83
<b>Subtotal Choir</b>	<b>1,472.83</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1,472.83</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>			
Fellowship Meals	2,288.23	1,000.00	-1,288.23
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE</b>			
Candles and Vigils	4,221.77	4,000.00	-221.77
Flowers/Gifts	1,459.18	1,000.00	-459.18
Father's Wish List	363.36	0.00	-363.36
Cannonical Visits	0.00	500.00	500.00
Liturgical Supplies	2,321.90	1,000.00	-1,321.90
Electronic Eqpt / Repairs	383.02	0.00	-383.02
Iconography	7,600.00	0.00	-7,600.00
<b>Subtotal Ministry Expense</b>	<b>16,349.23</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>-9,849.23</b>
<b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b>	<b>214,103.50</b>	<b>207,222.00</b>	<b>-6,881.50</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Diocesan Assessments</b>			
Assessments- monthly	25,437.00	23,317.00	-2,120.00
Chicago Deanery - annual	100.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Conventions &amp; Seminars</b>			
Assembly Expenses	1,433.34	1,200.00	-233.34
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>			
Miscellaneous Expenses	263.56	0.00	-263.56
<b>Subtotal Other Expenses</b>	<b>27,233.90</b>	<b>24,617.00</b>	<b>-2,616.90</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>241,337.40</b>	<b>231,839.00</b>	<b>-9,498.40</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<b>57,612.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-57,612.76</b>

## Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

## Balance Sheet

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Consolidated - December 2024

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	Current Year
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	
Checking General 4684	\$102,422.03
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
Savings - Building Fund	116,077.30
Subtotal Bank Accounts	<u>218,499.33</u>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Stifel Brokerage	195,833.96
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
BUILDINGS	
Land and Buildings	1,801,326.72
EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and Equipment	44,314.00
Subtotal Fixed Assets	<u>1,845,640.72</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$2,259,974.01</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS</b>	
<b>TAXES PAYABLE</b>	
Federal Taxes Payable	\$762.00
State Taxes Payable	758.16
Local Taxes Payable	291.12
Subtotal Taxes Payable	<u>1,811.28</u>
Subtotal Payroll Deductions	<u>1,811.28</u>
<b>OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Alms and Outreach	515.00
New Church Sign Payables	1,841.00
Payroll Liabilities	321.88
Patio Pavers Project	1,420.00
Library	16.36
Subtotal Other Current Liabilities	<u>4,114.24</u>
Subtotal Current Liabilities	<u>5,925.52</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>5,925.52</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,059,624.33
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>	
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</b>	
Icon Fund	3,985.86
Father's Wish List	1,456.58
Special Building Projects	186,451.71
Youth Activities	61.00

Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

**Balance Sheet**

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Consolidated - December 2024

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	Current Year
Flowers	150.29
Choir	<u>2,318.72</u>
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	<u>194,424.16</u>
Subtotal Donor Restricted	<u>194,424.16</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>2,254,048.49</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$2,259,974.01</u></u>

# 2024 Yearend Member Stewardship Giving by Dollar Amount

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

• Under \$500	25%
• \$501 - \$1000	27%
• \$1001 - \$2000	16%
• \$2001 - \$3000	10%
• \$3001 - \$5000	9%
• \$5000 - \$7000	3%
• Over \$7000	4%

- 68% of stewardship contribution dollars came from 27% of members.
- **84% of stewardship contribution dollars came from 38% of members.**

## **2024 ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CENTER REPORT**

**Our Hall Committee is composed of: Melody Rozdelsky, Nada Buczek, and Sergei Ely. They make up an experienced and dedicated team. However, they would be more than happy to have additional support and new ideas! Plan to join them!**

**Due to our inability to find an Orthodox Center Manager, it was decided NOT to advertise our facility. However, we did have 13 events in 2025 from previous clients and parishioners who called asking to hold their event at our Hall. Once they called, we tried our best to accommodate them.**

**Additionally, we hosted two events at no charge: Ancient Faith Radios 20th Anniversary Celebration and the Annual Cops Ride in July!**

**Many thanks to the members of our parish who came together and painstakingly removed, cleaned, and reinstalled all of the ceiling tiles in the kitchen. Do you make house calls?**

### **NEEDS IN 2025**

- 1) An Orthodox Center Manager to run the facility.**
- 2) We need to purchase a few new white plastic banquet tables as there are several which desperately need replacing.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
**Melody Rozdelsky**

## 2024 St Mary's Orthodox Center Financial Report

**Beginning Balance** **\$20,536.23**

**Income:**

**Funeral luncheon** **\$345.00**

**13 Events \$3940 + (3 for 2025 \$1875)** **\$5815.00**

**Festive Foods Kitchen Rental(1st Q)** **\$924.00**

**(4th Q 2023)** **\$1760.00**

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**Total Income** **\$8844.00**

**Expense:**

**Hall Cleaning** **\$1200.00**

**Funeral luncheon** **\$250.40**

**Liquor License** **\$53.94**

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**Expense Total** **\$1504.34**

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**Ending Balance** **\$27,875.89**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Melody J Rozdelsky*

**Melody J Rozdelsky**

# 2024 Cemetery Report

In 2024, we had the burial of Nadia Konowalik, Alexandra Newman and Bill Romanchek. “Memory Eternal”

- Current pricing for cemetery plots:
  - \$1,000 for parishioners
  - \$1,300 for non-parishioners
  - Fee for opening and closing a grave is \$1,500
- No plots were sold in 2024.
- \$10,000 from the estate of Bill Romanchek was added to the cemetery fund.
- Segei Ely is assisting with updating and organizing cemetery records.
- The new deeds for cemetery plots, as well as the sign at the cemetery entrance will soon say, “Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Cemetery”
- The name of the cemetery is in the process of being formally renamed “Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Cemetery” with the Lake County Recorder of Deeds.
- In the spring, we’re always looking for volunteers to help with cleanup and maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Morsovillo



# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church Cemetery Treasurer's Report

## 2024

**Beginning Balance:**

\$46,037.16

**Ending Balance:**

\$45,032.16

**Income:**

· **Funerals:**

- Nadia Konowalik: \$1,400
- Alexandra Newman: \$1,500
- Bill Romancheck: \$1,500

· **Donations:**

\$195

**Total Income:**

\$4,595

**Expenses:**

- Opening and Closing of Plots: \$2,100
- Lawn Maintenance: \$3,500

**Total Expenses:**

\$5,600

**Net Change for the Period:**

(\$1,005)

**Ending Balance (as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024):**

\$45,032.16

**Submitted by:**

Nick Revak, Cemetery Treasurer

# *Protection of the Virgin Mary Sunday School*

January 5, 2024

## Dearest Congregation,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Our Sunday School classes continue to thrive, welcoming new families and helpers! We've introduced a new curriculum focused on the *Acts of the Apostles* and the formation of the Orthodox Church. This includes lessons on special holidays, Saints, Feasts, and Fasts, all adapted for different reading levels to suit our classrooms.

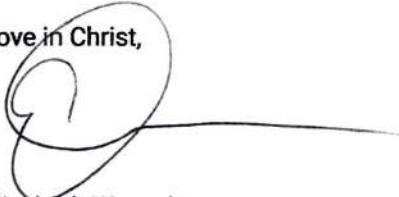
This year, we've worked hard to create the best possible learning environments for our children and teachers. Here's a glimpse of what we've accomplished:

- **Library Expansion:** We've added several new books and materials to our children's library. You can explore our collection by clicking on the Church School tab on the PTVM website and Tiffany has included a spreadsheet of saints for each day of the year and Orthodox Children's books/resources for those saints/feasts
- **Classroom Updates:**
  - New tables and adaptive seating for our youngest class.
  - A whiteboard for the Elementary class.
  - Portable seat cushions (Lily pad) for our Middle School class.
- **Events and Activities:** We've hosted numerous events, including:
  - Fall Bonfire / Family game nights
  - St. Nicholas Day service event
  - Bowling, Lego Party, Lazarus Saturday, Egg Hunt
  - Inflatable water slide and games at our annual picnic
  - Back-to-School Bash/ End-of-year celebrations
- **Yolka Performance:** Our annual Yolka featured a sing-along with Christmas carols and stunning costumes designed by Janet Corzo. This year, our kids showcased their musical talents, playing instruments as part of the performance. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed!

We currently have about 25 students on our roster, with an average Sunday attendance of 20. The growth of our program is exciting, and we are deeply grateful for the help and support of Erin Gray, Abigail Lear, Vicki Van Sickle, Courtney Evers, Vallerie McMullen, Faith Seelig, and Adam Erpelding. Truly, it takes a village! If you're interested in volunteering or subbing for Sunday School, please reach out to me. Your involvement makes a tremendous difference!

Thank you for your continued love and support of our children.

Love in Christ,



Elizabeth Wysocki  
Sunday School Director

**St. Clement's Report  
January – December 2024**

21 January 2025

Glory to God for All Things!

Dear Council / Parishioners,

We were able to host two bake sales in 2024:

- Pascha = \$2,407 deposited to PTVM General Fund
- Thanksgiving = \$2,750 deposited to PTVM General Fund

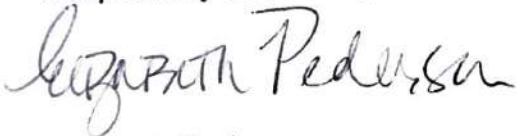
We had a successful day at hosting the "church's picnic" in July as part of St. Clement's Patron Day.

Balances at Centier Bank:

- Checking = \$6,568.47
- CD = \$234,426.83

We look forward to a healthy and productive 2025 growing spiritually in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Pedersen

219.365.6360

January 2025

## **2024 PTVM Bookstore Report**

### **PTVM Bookstore:**

In 2024, we continued to expand the parish bookstore and offer a variety of books, icons, and resources for personal spiritual development. Each purchase helps to support both the parish and the Orthodox wholesalers that we work with.

During 2024, we sold 911 items from our bookstore (a 24% increase from 2023). The items sold averaged \$13 per unit. In addition to books sold, other popular items that sold were seasonal items (Lent/Pascha/Nativity), prayer books, incense, greeting cards, prayer ropes/bracelets, and icons.

This past summer we offered a tour of our bookstore and the lending library to our new members, inquirers, and catechumens. We had 12 people participate. We hope to offer this again in 2025 so that everyone knows the resources that are available.

This year, Father Jacob and Matushka Jenna repurposed the prayer candles that they had melted down. First, they sifted out the sand from the burnt down prayer candles and added all-natural ingredients for homemade lip balms and hand lotions. Then, they donated these wonderful items to the parish bookstore.

### **Free shelf:**

The FREE shelf allows some items from the parish/parishioners to get recirculated. If you have any spiritual/Orthodox items that you would like to pass along, please consider donating them to the bookstore's Free shelf. Many of the inquirers, catechumens, and converts have been blessed by the recirculating of shared items in the past year.

### **Book Clubs/Reading Groups:**

The bookstore has subsidized the cost of the Women's Book Club and Men's Patristic Reading books. Each book that is purchased in the bookstore for the book clubs was discounted to \$5 to allow affordability for each parish member that wanted to participate. In 2024, the PTVM Bookstore supplied 94 books for our parish's reading groups; this is a 154% increase from the previous year (this is mainly due to the brand-new Men's Patristic Reading Group that started in January 2024).

### **Fr. Peter Rozdelsky Memorial Lending Library:**

The PTVM Bookstore continues to facilitate purchases for the Lending Library. This past year, we met our goal to expand our children's section in the Lending Library.

We ask that anyone that has any books/DVDs that have been checked out from the Lending Library longer than two months to please return these items at your earliest convenience.

### **Electronic payment:**

In the first quarter of 2025 we are hoping to accept electronic payments for our parish bookstore, in addition to cash and check.

**Pamphlets/Brochures:**

The bookstore helps to procure items for various ministries throughout the church at cost. One of the ministries has been the pamphlets and brochures that are available in the Narthex. The bookstore assists in procuring these items to the parish with our wholesale partners to keep costs as low as possible for the parish. These brochures and pamphlets provide spiritual development for newcomers, as well as seasoned Orthodox believers.

**Donations:**

- The bookstore made an \$800 donation to the parish’s general fund (a 300% increase from the previous year).
- The bookstore donated charcoal to the parish = \$31.50 donated.
- Subsidized books = \$203.11 donated.

**Financials:**

Donations	\$1,034.61
Gross Income	\$12,131.49
Approx. Net Income (Cleared)	\$2,774.91
Expenses	\$12,588.72
Beginning Balance: January 1, 2024	\$992.38
Ending Balance: December 31, 2024	\$535.15

Please consider supporting our bookstore the next time you are looking for a gift for an Orthodox loved one in 2025. A portion of the proceeds go back in to supporting our parish, as well as supporting the Orthodox Wholesalers that we contract with.

If you have any questions or feedback, please don’t hesitate to reach out. I am delighted to participate in the activity of the parish’s bookstore and lending library. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful ministry in 2024!

Submitted by:

Tiffany O’Day, PTVM Bookstore Manager

[PTVMBookstore@gmail.com](mailto:PTVMBookstore@gmail.com)

## 2024 O'Club President's Report

Fellow Parishioners,

2024 was a fulfilling year of outreach activities as well as the continued development of relationships with two local organizations in order to expand our O'Club's activities beyond financial charity.

### Northwest Indiana Catholic Charities

- During the year, members of the O'Club began volunteering to deliver food to local shut-ins on behalf of Catholic Charities food pantry. To date, we are covering 2 routes every month.
- Since December of 2023, the club has sponsored a Diaper Drive on a quarterly basis. The diapers and other baby-care items are donated to Catholic Charities maternity center.

### Mommy's Haven

- The proceeds of the Church's fifth annual Trivia Night again went to Mommy's Haven, a local maternity home that takes in and helps single mother's develop necessary life skills to be successful. The event raised \$1602, which was donated to Mommy's Haven.
- The club also donated hundreds of dollars of grocery gift cards to support the young mothers.

### Other Outreach

- The club oversaw three meals on different Saturdays throughout the year through the Feed the Flock program, providing lunch meals to the less fortunate and the Merrillville community as a whole.
- The club led the Church's initiative to financially support our own parishioners in specific cases and generally throughout the year.
- Clothing and toys were donated to ten local Ross Township children for Christmas.
- The club sponsors the regular blood drives generally hosted in the church hall on Friday's throughout the year.
- The club provides Father with gift cards for alms giving to the community.
- Finally, the O'Club continued sponsoring the weekly coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy. We gratefully thank those parishioners who volunteer their time to serve during our Church's Sunday fellowship gatherings.

Over the last year, the O'Club continued seeking opportunities to support our local communities beyond providing financial support. The giving of our time and talent as well as alms to the glory of God. If you are interested in knowing more or being involved, please talk to Adam Erpelding or any member of the O'Club. We look forward to another successful year in 2025.

In Christ,

Adam Erpelding  
President

# O Club Treasurer's Report 2024

**January 1st, 2024 Beginning Balance: \$6470.95**

**Income:**

Alms	\$23522.09
Coffee Hour	\$1584.00
Dues	\$10.00
Trivia Night	\$1602.00

**Total: \$26718.09**  
**\$33189.04**

**Disbursements:**

Coffee Hour Supplies	\$2462.61
Benevolence ( Priest Discretion)	\$500.00
Feed the Flock	\$367.88
Funeral Dinner	\$77.37
- Mommy's Haven (Benevolence)	\$2100.00
Pink Hard Hatz (Benevolence)	\$18199.81
St. Nicholas Gifts for Poor	\$938.28

**Total: \$24645.95**

**December 31st, 2024-Ending Balance \$8543.09**

Two outstanding checks have not been cashed. Check #490 for 16.92 and Check #493 for 47.96. They are included in the expenditures.

Bank Statement says 8607.97-outstanding checks.

Submitted by Julianne Grankowski

St. Mary's Sodality  
Annual Report  
January – December 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

2024 was a year of growth for our St. Mary's Sodality. By the grace of God, we have strengthened our membership numbers this past year and have happily welcomed a handful of dedicated ladies from the parish. The mission and focus of St. Mary's Sodality is to assist with the needs of our parish by not only fundraising to provide small funds where necessary, but to encourage activities and services aimed at increasing our parish health. I believe that with God's assistance and guidance, we were successful in accomplishing those goals in 2024.

With it being a year of growth, there were some changes made to the usual activities and fundraisers held over the course of the year as well as some happy additions.

In 2024:

- Our ladies organized a handful of fundraisers and events which included:
  - Spring Soup Sale Fundraiser
  - Fall Chili Cook-Off
  - Winter Coat Drive
  - Meal Train Organization
  - Sponsored Coffee Hours

In 2025 we anticipate another successful year. We pray that our membership continues to grow in the coming year, not only to allow us more opportunities to serve our parish with stronger numbers, but to increase the fellowship and love shared between us sisters in Christ. I would like to thank each of the members for their hard work and dedication to making this a fruitful year for our sodality and encourage any woman interested to join us for another wonderful year serving our beautiful parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Gray

Sodality President



ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX SODALITY  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FYE 12-31-2024

1-1-2024 BEGINNING BALANCE

\$ 2,489.91

INCOME:

SOUP SALES

\$ 565.00

MEMBER DUES

100.00

SALAD COFFEE HOUR

34.00

CHILI COOKOFF

143.00

864.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

ALTAR BOY ROBES

2045.00

BRIGHT TUES. LUNCHEON

243.94

GOLF DUTING SPONSOR

125.00

POSTAGE

170.86

BAKE SALE DONATION

100.00

FUNERAL CANDLES

8.00

< 2712.80

12-31-2024 ENDING BALANCE

\$ 641.11

Respectfully submitted,

Jinda M Bloomfield  
Treasurer

**PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2024 GOLF OUTING**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**INCOME**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 556.17</b>
<b>48 Golfers @ \$90</b>	<b>4,320.00</b>
<b>33 Sponsors @ \$125</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>
<b>Donors</b>	<b>2,945.00</b>
<b>50/50 Raffle</b>	<b>189.00</b>
<b>Beverage Cart</b>	<b>248.00</b>
<b>Circle Game</b>	<b>215.00</b>
<b>Bar Proceeds</b>	<b>244.00</b>
<b>Banquet Tickets</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Raffle Tickets</b>	<b>190.00</b>
<b>YMCA Raffle</b>	<b><u>200.00</u></b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b><u>13,272.17</u></b>

**EXPENSES**

<b>Indian Ridge Golf Club</b>	
<b>48 Golfers @ \$40</b>	<b>\$1,920.00</b>
<b>Beef Mart (Lamb)</b>	<b>382.53</b>
<b>Strack and Van Til(Chicken</b>	<b>116.63</b>
<b>Quality Impressions (Signage)</b>	<b>235.00</b>
<b>Beverages</b>	<b>165.93</b>
<b>Postage</b>	<b>68.00</b>
<b>Golf Balls</b>	<b>165.85</b>
<b>Cake, Ice</b>	<b>45.48</b>
<b>Table cloths,misc.</b>	<b>101.74</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$3,201.16</u></b>

**NET PROFIT** **\$10,0710\***

**\*\$9,600.00 of this amount transferred to the Building Fund**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Rich Svihra, Financial Chairman**

**Golf Committee**

2024 SCRIP PROGRAM REPORT

INCOME FROM SALE OF CERTIFICATES:

JANUARY	\$3,471.75	JULY	\$4,682.05
FEBRUARY	\$4,520.00	AUGUST	\$3,266.40
MARCH	\$2,505.85	SEPTEMBER	\$4,206.90
APRIL	\$1,653.50	OCTOBER	\$4,745.00
MAY	\$4,721.40	NOVEMBER	\$3,233.40
JUNE	\$1,790.00	DECEMBER	\$10,523.00

EXPENDITURES: PURCHASE OF CERTIFICATES:

JANUARY	\$2,313.64	JULY	\$3,205.84
FEBRUARY	\$3,802.03	AUGUST	\$4,189.80
MARCH	\$4,125.73	SEPTEMBER	\$3,301.19
APRIL	\$2,519.64	OCTOBER	\$4,752.53
MAY	\$3,998.46	NOVEMBER	\$3,807.17
JUNE	\$2,594.53	DECEMBER	\$8,693.83

TOTAL SALES: \$49,319.25

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$47,304.39

\$1,000 DONATED TO CHURCH ON 12/29/24

ENDING ACCOUNT BALANCE ON 12/31/24: \$5,076.88

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



LARA RICHARDS

Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church  
2025 Operational Budget

GENERAL FUND	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>	
Weekly Stewardship	\$160,000.00
Other Donations	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Subtotal Contribution Income	\$210,000.00
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	
Anniversary Dinner	\$3,500.00
Bake Sale	\$5,200.00
Candles & Vigils	\$5,600.00
Bookstore Proceeds	\$600.00
Golf Outing	\$9,000.00
Flowers	\$750.00
Scrip Program Donation	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Subtotal Other Income	\$25,650.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$235,650.00</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>	
<b>CLERGY EXPENSES</b>	
Salary	\$41,351.00
Housing	\$33,024.00
Church Paid Pension	\$10,412.00
Health Insurance	\$1,967.00
Auto Expenses	\$1,800.00
Life Insurance	\$599.00
Assigned Priest Stipend	<u>\$4,400.00</u>
Subtotal Clergy Expenses	\$93,553.00
<b>CHOIR EXPENSES</b>	
Director Stipend	\$6,000.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	
Church Secretary	\$7,200.00
Advertising and Promotion	\$800.00
Office Supplies	\$1,800.00
Postage	\$610.00
Printing	\$2,000.00
Background Checks	\$50.00
Accountant	\$2,400.00
Church Phones/Internet Services	\$1,600.00
Computer Software	\$455.00
Computer Hardware	<u>\$139.00</u>
Subtotal Administrative Expenses	\$17,054.00
<b>INSURANCE</b>	
Church/Cemetery Insurance	\$11,000.00

	<b>2024 Budget</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>	
NIPSCO	\$18,200.00
Septic: Beebe	\$3,100.00
Garbage: Star	\$2,450.00
Well-Maintenance: Sheehy	\$700.00
Alarm System	\$825.00
Pest Control	\$660.00
Subtotal Utilities	<u>\$25,935.00</u>
<b>BUILDING MAINTENANCE</b>	
Mechanical Concepts Maint. Contract	\$2,400.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$1,300.00
Cleaning Services	\$9,000.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$10,500.00
Merrillville Storm Water	\$424.00
Subtotal Building Maintenance	<u>\$23,624.00</u>
<b>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</b>	
Lawn Service	\$3,000.00
Landscaping	\$1,400.00
Snow Removal	\$5,500.00
Subtotal Grounds Maintenance	<u>\$9,900.00</u>
<b>YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	
Supplies and Activities	\$6,000.00
Young Adult Ministry	\$1,500.00
	<u>\$7,500.00</u>
<b>RECREATION</b>	
Fellowship Meals	\$4,814.00
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE</b>	
Candles and Vigils	\$4,200.00
Flowers/Gifts	\$1,450.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$1,500.00
Subtotal Ministry Expense	<u>\$7,150.00</u>
<b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b>	<u><b>\$206,530.00</b></u>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	
<b>DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS</b>	
Assessments- Monthly	\$25,770.00
Chicago Deanery - Annual	\$100.00
Subtotal Diocesan Assessments	<u>\$25,870.00</u>
<b>CONVENTIONS &amp; SEMINARS</b>	
Assembly Expenses	\$3,000.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES</b>	
	\$250.00
<b>Subtotal Other Expenses</b>	<u><b>\$29,120.00</b></u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$235,650.00</u></b>

	<b>2024 Officeholder</b>	<b>2025 Nominee</b>	<b>Years of eligibility left after 2025</b>
<b>President</b>	Melody Rozdelsky	Melody Rozdelsky	4
<b>Vice President</b>	Elizabeth Pedersen	Daniel O'Day	4
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Gruszyk	Michael Gruszyk	4
<b>Secretary</b>	Elizabeth Wysocki	Elizabeth Wysocki	1
<b>Ast. Treasurer</b>	Nicholas Revak	Nicholas Revak	3
<b>At Large (5)</b>	Doug Bercich	Milena Peyovich	5
	Lesley Erpelding	Lesley Erpelding	2
	Sergei Ely	Sergei Ely	2
	Lara Richards	Lara Richards	0
	Daniel O'Day	Richard Svihra	5
<b>Alternate</b>	Richard Svihra	Brad Evers	no limit
<b>Reviewers (3)</b>	Adam Erpelding	Adam Erpelding	0
	Brenda Wenner	Brenda Wenner	1
	Richard Svihra	Valerie McMullan	5