

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

Annual Reports  
Meeting to be held February 11, 2024



Fr. Jacob Van Sickle, Rector

# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

## Annual Meeting 2024 - Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Credentials Report
- III. Revise/Accept 2023 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. Cemetery Governance Proposal
  - B. New Sign/Name for Cemetery
- VII. Elections
  - A. Parish Council
  - B. Reviewers
  - C. Cemetery Leadership
  - D. Diocesan Council lay delegate
- VIII. Budget Approval
- IX. Adjournment/Closing Prayer

Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

8600 Grand Blvd., Merrillville, IN 46410

### **Annual Meeting – February 12, 2023**

Opening Prayer at 12:50PM in the hall following Divine Liturgy.

Quorum was established with 39 signatures in the book of life per Nick Korzow.

The 2022 Annual Meeting minutes were accepted as stated. MaryAnn Bertram made the motion to accept the minutes and James Barcinski seconded the motion. All accepted.

The reports as submitted to and audited by Nick Korzow, Rich Svihra and Adam Erpelding were accepted. There was a special thanks to Mike for elevating the position of treasurer and making execution easier for the review committee.

Clubs and Organizations: All reports stand as submitted. No questions, general comments:

- Cemetery Report - Bill Romanchek is the Superintendent of the cemetery and we need to find a new person to fill it. Melody has been keeping the records for him. The position would entail making arrangements for burial and requires record keeping skills. The plot record needs to be found, the grave needs to be marked, payment received from the Funeral Director and then records updated. Same process for buying/selling plots. Father Jacob is involved with some of this if burial is at PTVM and our cemetery.
- Hall Report – These are not funds we depend on. Anyone interested in becoming Hall Superintendent? We are not actively looking to rent the hall out. Those renting are repeat customers/families. There are currently 4 rentals scheduled for 2023.
- The Lending Library is completed and Gospels are available on DVD.
- Sodality officers are Mary Ann Bertram/President, Linda Svihra/Vice President, Janet Andrus/Secretary, Helen Campbell/Treasurer
- Think about purchasing Script to help support the church.
- Choir Director Matt Wells noted that he didn't have a formal report submitted. They have had 4 to 5 additional choir members over the last 6 months which has been a blessing. The choir had a workshop in January. The choir's checking account was closed due to inactivity. They plan on continuing practice twice a month after Liturgy on Sundays.

Elections:

- Parish Council
  - Nicholas Rozdelsky as new President. Nicholas Revak as new Treasurer. (Nick and Nick to replace Mike Gruszyk and Melody Rozdelsky on signatures as needed)
  - Elizabeth Pedersen as Vice President, Elizabeth Wysocki as Secretary.
  - At Large: Sherry Mizimakoski, Lesley Erpelding, Sergei Ely, Lara Richards.
  - Mira Lukas remains alternate and Adam Erpelding, Nick Korzow and Rich Svihra remain as reviewers.

- The Parish council made motion to approve members as noted, Jerry Christoff seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.
- Father Jacob nominated Nicholas Revak as our Lay Delegate at the Diocesan meetings on October 2, 3, 4 in Lansing, IL. The motion was seconded by Dan O'Day. All accepted.

#### Budget Approval:

- Notes/Comments on Budget:
  - Budget committee begins with our expenses and tries to be conservative, then they look at contributions and stewardship and allocate accordingly. No overall questions.
  - A stewardship increase was planned and exceeded in 2022.
  - Phone/Internet was changed to Comcast Business for savings.
  - There are no increases to budget lines and 2022 was a balanced budget as previous year.
  - Fr. Jacob's salary was increased due to COLA (8.7%) and OCA guidelines (+5% every 5 years).
  - There is \$97,000 saved in "Building Fund Allocation"
    - This is for roof replacement was budgeted at \$90-100,000.
  - Are the Icons Completed?
    - All iconography has been paid by donors
    - A plan for the church was approved by Archbishop Paul when the project began
    - It is up to the congregation / donors as to when the icons will be completed in the church
  - Matt Wells moved to approve 2023 budget and it was seconded by Terri Bercich. All were in favor.

Old Business: none

New Business: How do we handle stewardship? Eliminate dues and the stigma of putting a price of being a member of the church. It is better to be in communion / receiving sacraments with no dollar minimum. It sends the wrong message. We do need to bring offerings as Christians, it is an expectation. Giving should be based on each personal situation and your general desire to give in proportion to your earnings. It is difficult to formalize a general rule of giving. Parishoners are to give on a regular basis. The standard is to do your part. We will work to an open pledge system to balance the budget.

Helen Campbell moved that we eliminate the wording of dues and a specified dollar amount to some sort of monetary donation based on your personal situation. Steve Wenner seconded the motion and all approved.

Matt Wells moved that we adjourn at 1:51 PM and it was seconded by Melody Rozdelsky.

Closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Pedersen



## Rector's Report – 2024 Annual Meeting

Dear Faithful,

It is my privilege once again to report to you on the spiritual condition of our parish. 2023 was a year of many difficult losses. Since our last annual meeting, I have served more funerals for active members of the parish than in any other year of my pastorate. We remember with love David May, Walter Korotky, Joe Bloomfield, Nadia Konowalik, and Katherine Harbison. In addition to these long-time parishioners, we mourned as Janice Scherer and Linda Benka lost their husbands Paul and Michael. May their souls dwell with the blessed. Yet while several of our brothers and sisters have left us for their deserved rest, we are welcoming many newcomers into our Church. This year we had three baptisms, and we currently have eight catechumens—the most we have had at one time in recent memory. Please remember them in your daily prayers. God willing, we will see many of them Chrismated in the coming year.

The current membership of our parish is 87 adults and 34 children. This does not include our catechumens, inquirers, or those who attend (and often give) regularly but have not joined. When I prepared my last report to the Diocese a little over a year ago, we had 92 adult members but only 26 children. So, our parish continues to get younger. This is a good sign for our future, and it calls us to start turning more of our parish's resources toward our youth. In the budget being proposed this year, we are seeking a 400% increase in spending on Church School curriculum and activities, in addition to funding for a new Young Adult program, which I am excited to see get up and running this spring. Other ministries that are flourishing, largely on account of lay initiative and leadership, are the Women's and Men's groups. They do a good job striking the balance between edification and fellowship and are an excellent way to become more connected with your fellow brothers or sisters in Christ. Come to what you can.

Parish stewardship has also continued to grow. We saw an astonishing 23% increase in giving from 2022 to 2023. This was the year, remember, when we repealed the dues requirement and left it up to each member to give in proportion to what God has provided them in accordance with their desire to support His work in the Church. Our members believe in the ministry of this Church. A considerable portion of the increase this year was also due to an unusually large number of contributions from non-members of our Church, most in memory of those who passed away this year. This is not income that we can continue to depend upon year after year; however, it is a positive sign that the ministry of our Church is felt and appreciated not only by you, our members, but also by those whose lives you touch. In any case, the parish finds itself in secure financial footing really for the first time in a quarter century. Recognizing this fact, the parish council felt convicted to begin using some of what God has given us to assist the Church beyond the walls of our parish. We made over \$10,000 in charitable contributions this year. This is apart from the excellent work of the O-Club, which you will read in their report.

As always, I want to thank our excellent parish council for their diligence and patience with me. Thank you to our Church School teachers and choir directors, and to everyone else whose reports will follow below. Your hard work is appreciated, and it is bearing fruit. And thank you all—the members of this parish—for taking such good care of me and my family.

In Christ,

Fr. Jacob Van Sickle

## 2023 PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023 was a tough year emotionally for our parish. We lost a number of very devoted parishioners who also were long time close friends. Isn't that "loss" exactly what a family goes through at some point - hence the term - our parish family. The love and support that our parish family offers to those who have lost loved ones is **VERY CHRIST LIKE**. Thank you for being that type of parish.

His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel helped us celebrate our Patron Saint Day and Parish Anniversary in early October. It was an awesome weekend. I believe His Eminence left with a very positive feeling about our parish. First impressions really do mean a lot!

In early November we hosted Sister Vassa Larin. What a joy it was to have her in our midst. Her presentation and the reception afterward were top notch. I drove her to her hotel by O'hare, and she is a joy to converse with on a one on one basis. However, the fog made the ride home less than enjoyable.

Many thanks to our parish for your generosity. I have a cousin, Deacon David Homyk, who is assigned to a growing Mission parish in South Carolina. He inquired if we had a Chalice that was not being used, that we would donate to his parish in South Carolina. After consulting Father Jacob and with the Parish Council's acceptance, a chalice which my Father used when he was here was sent to my cousin. It had been in a drawer for many years previously. Deacon David was overwhelmed that he now gives Holy Communion to the faithful from a chalice which his Uncle Peter used many years before!

As far as maintenance issues - we replaced the roof for the first time at this location. We also had the front side walk mudjacked to prevent people from falling on an uneven walkway.

To all of our parish, I encourage attendance at the numerous services of the Church. There are many beautiful services offered - all of which are learning tools for those who attend. Much is offered through readings and prayers etc. which can't be offered at the Divine Liturgy alone.

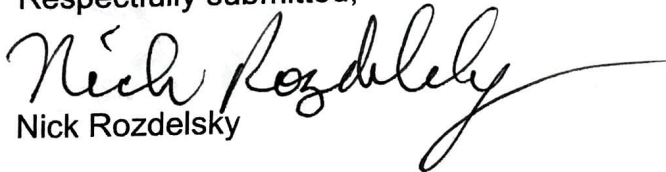
By far the **BEST NEWS** of the year came during a conversation with Liz Wysocki. She came to me with an updated list of our children who had registered for Sunday School. Her concern was space - we have a problem. The problem IS - we are now utilizing ALL THREE rooms plus the High School class now meets in the Bookstore. What a GREAT problem we are blessed to have. We all need to thank God for it!

We still have the ORTHODOX CENTER MANAGER position open. This offers an opportunity for service to the Church, while interacting with our greater NWI community. For more information about this position, please see Melody or myself.

At this time, I feel we need to find an Office Associate for our Parish. I envision it to be a 3 day a week position at 15 hours a week. This would be a paid position. Father Jacob needs someone who can assist him with his ministry by alleviating some of "his" workload. He goes above and beyond the call of duty each and every week, very often handling responsibilities which are NOT his.

It was an honor and privilege to be your Parish Council President this year. Thanks to Father Jacob and the Parish Council for bearing with me - it is appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nick Rozdelsky

**Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

**Income and Expense Statement**

December 31, 2023

	Year to Date	Annual Budget	YTD Budget Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>			
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>			
<b>Contribution Income</b>			
Stewardship-Weekly	204,875.60	170,725.00	-34,150.60
Bequest	15,000.00	0.00	-15,000.00
Other Donations	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Subtotal Contribution Income</b>	<b>219,875.60</b>	<b>180,725.00</b>	<b>-39,150.60</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Anniversary Dinner	1,206.00	700.00	-506.00
Bake Sale	5,777.00	5,000.00	-777.00
Candles & Vigils	5,687.00	5,200.00	-487.00
Hall Proceeds	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Golf Outing	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Baskets and Bunco	7,905.00	0.00	-7,905.00
St Nicholas Contribution	1,034.93	0.00	-1,034.93
Scrip Program Donation	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Landscape: Choir Transfer	1,436.54	1,400.00	-36.54
Amazon Smile	94.56	0.00	-94.56
Bookstore Donation	200.00	0.00	-200.00
<b>Subtotal Other Income</b>	<b>32,841.03</b>	<b>24,800.00</b>	<b>-8,041.03</b>
<b>Subtotal Unrestricted</b>	<b>252,716.63</b>	<b>205,525.00</b>	<b>-47,191.63</b>
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>			
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
Icon Fund Income	39,000.00	0.00	-39,000.00
Father's Wish List Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building Projects Income	206,650.00	0.00	-206,650.00
<b>Subtotal Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>245,650.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-245,650.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Donor Restricted</b>	<b>245,650.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-245,650.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Contribution Income</b>	<b>498,366.63</b>	<b>205,525.00</b>	<b>-292,841.63</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>			
Banking Interest	62.33	0.00	-62.33
Investment Interest	602.91	0.00	-602.91
Investment Gain/Loss	16,133.85	0.00	-16,133.85
<b>Subtotal Interest Income</b>	<b>16,799.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-16,799.09</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>515,165.72</b>	<b>205,525.00</b>	<b>-309,640.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>CLERGY EXPENSES</b>			
Salary	37,010.96	38,311.00	1,300.04
Housing	33,300.04	32,000.00	-1,300.04
Church Paid Pension	8,588.80	8,437.00	-151.80
Health Insurance	1,771.68	1,772.00	0.32
Supply Priest	1,030.00	800.00	-230.00
Father's Travel Expenses	1,926.95	1,200.00	-726.95
Life Insurance	598.80	600.00	1.20
<b>Subtotal Clergy Expenses</b>	<b>84,227.23</b>	<b>83,120.00</b>	<b>-1,107.23</b>
<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>			
Stipend	6,380.75	7,200.00	819.25
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE</b>			
Advertising and Promotion	1,295.75	3,150.00	1,854.25
Office Supplies	2,052.05	2,000.00	-52.05
Postage	360.60	300.00	-60.60
Printing	1,253.33	1,500.00	246.67
Background Checks	0.00	200.00	200.00
Accountant	2,120.00	2,000.00	-120.00
Phones/Internet Service	1,662.54	1,450.00	-212.54
Computer Hardware	664.97	0.00	-664.97
Computer Software	455.00	455.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Administrative Expense</b>	<b>9,864.24</b>	<b>11,055.00</b>	<b>1,190.76</b>

**Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church**

**Income and Expense Statement**

December 31, 2023

	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>YTD Budget Difference</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
Church/Cemetery Insurance	10,416.00	11,000.00	584.00
<b>Subtotal Insurance</b>	<b>10,416.00</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>584.00</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
NIPSCO-gas/electric	18,130.24	18,000.00	-130.24
Septic: Beebe	2,720.00	2,620.00	-100.00
Garbage: Homewood	2,628.23	1,900.00	-728.23
Well Maintenance-Sheehy	655.00	420.00	-235.00
Alarm System	673.00	1,000.00	327.00
Pest Control	970.00	970.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Utilities</b>	<b>25,776.47</b>	<b>24,910.00</b>	<b>-866.47</b>
<b>BUILDING MAINTENANCE</b>			
Mechan. Concepts Contract	2,375.00	2,350.00	-25.00
Janitorial Supplies	971.11	800.00	-171.11
Cleaning Service	8,070.00	7,100.00	-970.00
Repairs/Maintenance	9,240.77	15,000.00	5,759.23
Capital Improvements	94,350.00	0.00	-94,350.00
Merrillville Storm Water	100.00	500.00	400.00
<b>Subtotal Building Maintenance</b>	<b>115,106.88</b>	<b>25,750.00</b>	<b>-89,356.88</b>
<b>GROUPS MAINTENANCE</b>			
Landscaping	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
Lawn Service	2,600.00	2,200.00	-400.00
Snow Removal	5,875.00	9,000.00	3,125.00
<b>Subtotal Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>8,475.00</b>	<b>12,600.00</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>
<b>SPECIAL BUILDING PROJECTS</b>			
Other Repairs/Maintenance	1,855.48	0.00	-1,855.48
<b>Subtotal Special Building Projects</b>	<b>1,855.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1,855.48</b>
<b>YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>			
Supplies	1,358.59	1,300.00	-58.59
<b>Subtotal Youth Sunday School</b>	<b>1,358.59</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>	<b>-58.59</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>			
Fellowship Meals	2,128.40	1,000.00	-1,128.40
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE</b>			
Candles and Vigils	3,835.74	2,500.00	-1,335.74
Flowers/Gifts	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cannonical Visits	0.00	500.00	500.00
Liturgical Supplies	1,112.76	700.00	-412.76
Iconography	40,500.00	0.00	-40,500.00
<b>Subtotal Ministry Expense</b>	<b>45,448.50</b>	<b>4,700.00</b>	<b>-40,748.50</b>
<b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b>	<b>311,037.54</b>	<b>182,635.00</b>	<b>-128,402.54</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Diocesan Assessments</b>			
Assessments- monthly	20,707.06	22,590.00	1,882.94
Chicago Deanery - annual	100.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Conventions &amp; Seminars</b>			
Assembly Expenses	1,015.40	700.00	-315.40
Seminars & Training	500.00	0.00	-500.00
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>			
Miscellaneous Expense	3,150.00	0.00	-3,150.00
Charitable Contributions	10,920.20	0.00	-10,920.20
St Nicholas Gifts	2,034.93	0.00	-2,034.93
Cemetery	10,000.00	0.00	-10,000.00
<b>Subtotal Other Expenses</b>	<b>48,427.59</b>	<b>23,390.00</b>	<b>-25,037.59</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>359,465.13</b>	<b>206,025.00</b>	<b>-153,440.13</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<b>155,700.59</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>-156,200.59</b>

**Balance Sheet**

01/15/2024 01:27 PM

Consolidated - December 2023

Page: 1

	Current Year
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	
Checking General 4684	\$62,933.19
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
Savings - Building Fund	107,511.91
Subtotal Bank Accounts	170,445.10
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Stifel Brokerage	189,316.63
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
BUILDINGS	
Land and Buildings	1,801,326.72
EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and Equipment	44,314.00
Subtotal Fixed Assets	1,845,640.72
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,205,402.45</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	
TAXES PAYABLE	
Federal Taxes Payable	\$729.00
State Taxes Payable	681.24
Local Taxes Payable	316.44
Subtotal Taxes Payable	1,726.68
Subtotal Payroll Deductions	1,726.68
<b>OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Patio Pavers Project	1,420.00
Flowers	53.84
Library	52.41
Landscaping	425.00
Father's Wish List	1,039.94
St Nicholas Gifts	104.07
Subtotal Other Current Liabilities	3,095.26
Subtotal Current Liabilities	4,821.94
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,821.94</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,013,697.94
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED</b>	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	
Icon Fund	9,085.86
Special Building Projects	177,796.71

**Balance Sheet**

01/15/2024 01:27 PM

Consolidated - December 2023

Page: 2

	Current Year
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	186,882.57
Subtotal Donor Restricted	186,882.57
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,200,580.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$2,205,402.45</u></u>



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PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
8600 GRAND BLVD  
MERRILLVILLE IN 46410-7421



Your Financial Advisor (SL51):  
JAMES VELLUTINI  
Telephone: (219) 756-0100

Office Serving Your Account:  
10500 BROADWAY  
CROWN POINT, IN 46307

PRIMARY INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE: Income

RISK TOLERANCE: Moderate

For a full definition of this objective and risk tolerance, including the use of margin, please see [www.stifel.com](http://www.stifel.com). IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES, or contact your Financial Advisor. If you have any questions concerning your investment objective or risk tolerance, or wish to make a change, please contact your Financial Advisor or the Branch Manager for this office.

TRADING TAX LOT RELIEF METHOD : First In, First Out  
INVESTOR UPDATE

This issue of Investment Strategist contains a wealth of useful information, including retirement plan and Social Security changes for 2024, how to understand your credit score, and more. Contact your Financial Advisor to learn more.

ACCOUNT PROTECTION

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated provides up to \$150 million of coverage for securities held in client accounts, of which \$1.15 million may be in cash deposits. Ask your Financial Advisor for more details.

Thank you for allowing Stifel to serve you. In order to protect your rights, including rights under the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA), please promptly report, in writing, any inaccuracies or discrepancies in this account or statement to the Compliance Department of Stifel at the address below. If you have any questions regarding your account or this statement, please contact your Financial Advisor or the Branch Manager for this office. For additional information regarding your Stifel account, please refer to the current Stifel Account Agreement and Disclosure Booklet, which is available at [www.stifel.com/disclosures/account-agreement](http://www.stifel.com/disclosures/account-agreement).

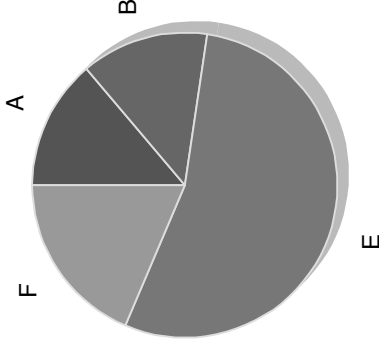
STIFEL ACCOUNT STATEMENT

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY	December 31	November 30
Net Cash Equivalents **	25,570.58	25,567.33
Net Portfolio Assets held at Stifel	159,430.87	155,118.94
Net Portfolio Assets not held at Stifel		
Net Portfolio Value	\$185,001.45	\$180,686.27
YOUR CHANGE IN PORTFOLIO VALUE	December 31	November 30
Net Cash Flow (Inflows/Outflows) <sup>2</sup>		
Securities Transferred In/Out		
Income and Distributions	3.25	140.46
Change in Securities Value	4,311.93	4,953.27
Net Change in Portfolio Value	\$4,315.18	\$5,093.73

\*\* See the Stifel Insured Bank Deposit Program Disclosure Statements for additional information.  
<sup>2</sup> Does not include cost or proceeds for buy or sell transactions.

YOUR ASSET SUMMARY

	Value on Percentage of	
	December 31, 2023 (\$)	your account
A Net Cash Equivalents**	25,570.58	13.82%
B Equities	25,039.86	13.53%
E Fixed Income-Other	100,000.00	54.05%
F Mutual Funds	34,391.01	18.59%
Total Assets	\$185,001.45	100.00%





# STIFEL

PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

December 1 -  
December 31, 2023  
Account Number:

Page 2 of 10  
8573-9398

## ASSET SUMMARY

Value as of **December 31, 2023**

Gains/(-)Losses

	At Stifel	Not at Stifel	Total	% of assets *	Realized	
					Unrealized	This Period
Cash						
Cash Sweep**	25,570.58		25,570.58	13.82%		
Margin Balance						
<b>A. Net Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$25,570.58</b>		<b>\$25,570.58</b>	<b>13.82%</b>		
B. Equities	25,039.86		25,039.86	13.53%	5,996.41	12.48
C. Preferreds						
D. Fixed Income-Muni						
E. Fixed Income-Other	100,000.00		100,000.00	54.05%		
F. Mutual Funds	34,391.01		34,391.01	18.59%	4,178.36	
G. Unit Investment Trusts						
H. Insurance Products						
I. Alternative Investments						
J. Other Investments						
K. Stifel Smart Rate Program **						
<b>Net Portfolio Assets</b>	<b>\$159,430.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$159,430.87</b>	<b>86.18%</b>	<b>\$10,174.77</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Portfolio Value</b>	<b>\$185,001.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$185,001.45</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$10,174.77</b>	<b>\$12.48</b>

## INCOME & DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

	Security Type	Year-to-date	This period
Dividends	Tax-Exempt		
	Taxable	574.06	
Interest	Tax-Exempt		
	Taxable	41.12	3.25
Capital Gain Distributions			
Return of Principal			
Other			
<b>Total Income &amp; Distributions</b>		<b>\$615.18</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

	Security Type	Year-to-date	This period
Accrued Interest Paid	Tax-Exempt		
	Taxable		
Accrued Interest Received	Tax-Exempt		
	Taxable		
Gross Proceeds		39.21	
Federal Withholding			
Foreign Taxes Paid			
Margin Interest Charged			

\* Please note "% of assets" figures are shown gross of any amounts owed to Stifel and/or net short positions.

\*\* Include balances which are FDIC insured bank deposits, not cash held in your Securities Account and not covered by SIPC.

# **Saint Mary's Russian Orthodox Cemetery**

## **2023 Report**

In 2023, we had the burial of Joe Bloomfield (12/21/23). Seven plots were sold in 2023.

Of the \$12,200 donated to the cemetery maintenance fund, \$10,000 was from the estate of Fr. Theodore Panchak.

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"

In the spring, additional maintenance may have to be done to repair previous damage. The extent of the work / expenses are yet to be determined.

Help with maintenance is always appreciated.

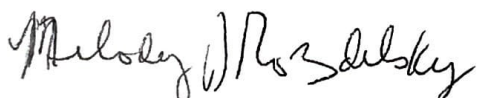
Respectfully submitted,

Frank Morsovillo

## 2023 Cemetery Financial Report

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$26,198.72</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
5 plots sold: Krochta family	5,000.00
Thomas Martin Plot 12/19/22	1,200.00
Thomas Martin opening/closing 12/19/22	2,100.00
2 plots sold:Bloomfield	\$2,000.00
Joe Bloomfield opening/closing 12/21/23.	\$2,128.00
Donations	12,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,628.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Lawn Care	3,370.00
Open/Close	1375.00
Misc supplies	44.56
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>4789.56</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$46,037.16</b>

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Melody J Rozdelsky**

## **2023 St Mary's Orthodox Center Report**

**Well, we have had another good year without any advertising. The rentals we have had are all from Parishioners, past renters or people attending those events. 2024 already has a few events booked.**

**Sadly, Champion Force tumblers booked the hall but due to lack of sign ups on their part, they had to cancel.**

**We are in the process of updating the Orthodox Center with needed carts, some serving utensils and other items. We are also taking bids to get the drop ceiling in the kitchen fixed or replaced. Thanks to everyone who are helping with this project.**

**Many thanks for the donation from the Baskets and Bunco fundraiser. That money will be pulled from the main account as needed.**

**In Christ,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Rozdelsky".

**Melody Rozdelsky**

## 2023 St Mary's Orthodox Center Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$12,086.86
Income:	
10 Events + 1 for 2024	5545.00
Festive Foods Kitchen Rental(1-3rd Q)	6287.00
Total Income	<u>11,832.00</u>
Expense:	
Hall Cleaning	1000.00
Misc Kitchen supplies	1307.63
Open/close for rentals	300.00
Refund (Champion Force)	500.00
Liquor License	50.00
Cash for Cop/Bartender	225.00
Expense Total	<u>3382.63</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$20,536.23</u>

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Melody J Rozdelsky*

**Melody J Rozdelsky**

January 19, 2024

## **2023 PTVM Bookstore and Lending Library Report**

### **PTVM Bookstore:**

In 2023, I have incorporated new Orthodox vendors and supplies. Some of these new vendors have given us the opportunity to expand our selections to procure unique, requested items for our parishioners. We have added a variety of incense, which has been very popular for our parishioner's home prayer corners. Some other new items that we carry include baptismal candles, crosses, synaxarions, head scarves, decals, snuggly saints, a burial shroud, and icons of various sizes.

During 2023, we sold 733 items from our bookstore (an almost 44% increase from 2022). 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, bookmarks, and icons.

### **Free shelf:**

The FREE shelf allows some items from the parish/parishioners to get recirculated and has continued to be popular.

### **Book club:**

The bookstore has subsidized the cost of the Women's Book Club books. Each book that is purchased in the bookstore for the book club was discounted to \$5 to allow affordability for each parish member that wants to participate. In 2023, the PTVM Bookstore supplemented the cost of 37 books (a 44% increase from 2022).

In 2024, we hope to continue to provide a reduced rate for the Men's Reading Group, as well.

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

Through generous donors, the Lending Library has grown. The PTVM Bookstore has facilitated purchases for the Lending Library, and we met our 2023 goal of expanding the fiction section. In fact, the newly added fiction section continues to be one of the most popular. In 2023, the Lending Library donated some of its items back to parishioners for their home libraries to make room for requested resources that have benefited new members, catechumens, inquirers, as well as our long-standing parish family. We added a DVD section of Orthodox feature films and Bible stories. In 2024, we hope 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:**

We were unable to move forward with an electronic payment processing system for our bookstore in 2023 but will endeavor to investigate and implement a system in 2024 to accommodate those that do not carry cash or a checkbook.

### **Donations:**

- The bookstore made a \$200 donation to the parish's general fund.
- The bookstore donated seven festal icons (totaling \$324.87) to the parish.
- Subsidized books = \$185 donated.

**Financials:**

Gross Income	\$9,969.16
Approx. Net Income (Cleared)	\$2,390.08
Expenses	\$9,961.82
Beginning Balance: January 1, 2023	\$985.04
Ending Balance: December 31, 2023	\$992.38

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 2023!

In Christ,

Tiffany O'Day, PTVM Bookstore Manager

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

Revised: 1/26/2024

## 2023 O'Club President's Report

Fellow Parishioners,

2023 proved to be a fulfilling year of outreach activities as well as the beginning of ongoing relationships with two local organizations in order to expand our O'Club's activities beyond financial charity.

- Throughout the year, members of the O'Club met with representatives from Northwest Indiana Catholic Charities to explore ways we can best support their existing programs.
  - In December we coordinated the first planned semi-annual Diaper Drive in support of their maternity center outreach.
  - In early 2024, we will begin picking up delivery routes to provide groceries directly to elderly and shut-ins to support their food pantry programs.
- In April, the club held the church's fourth Trivia Night, this time to support Mommy's Haven, a local maternity home that takes in and helps single mother's develop necessary life skills to be successful. Approximately 50 people enjoyed the evening of food, drink, and trivia challenges emceed by our very own Father Jacob. The event raised over \$1,500. The club donated \$1600 to Mommy's Haven.
  - Through ongoing communication and a resulting site visit, the O'Club has decided to continue to support Mommy's Haven and their mission to support single mothers in 2024.
- The club continued to support the Feed the Flock program, providing lunch meals to the less fortunate and the Merrillville community as a whole. The club provided meals on three different Saturdays throughout the year.
- Clothing and toys were donated to three local Ross Township families for Christmas.
- The club donated \$150 in support of a local Alzheimer's Walk.
- Finally, the O'Club continued sponsoring the weekly coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy. We gratefully thank those parishioners who purchase food and serve during our church's Sunday fellowship gatherings.

Over the last year, the O'Club has sought opportunities to support our local communities through involvement 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 2024.

In Christ,

Adam Erpelding  
President



**O Club  
Treasurer's Report  
2023**

**January 1st, 2023 Beginning Balance:** **\$4521.84**

**Income:**

Alms	\$3335.00
Coffee Hour	\$1745.00
Dues	\$190.00
Trivia Night	\$1520.00

**Total: \$6790.00**

**Disbursements:**

Coffee Hour Supplies	\$1920.26
Benevolence	\$400.00
Feed the Flock	\$312.58
Alzheimers	\$150.00
MAKS	\$500.00
Mommy's Haven	\$1600.00

**Total: \$4882.84**

**December 29th, 2023-Ending Balance** **\$6429.00**

# St. Clement's Report

## January – December 2023

19 January 2024

Glory to God for All Things!

We were able to host two bake sales in 2023:

- Pascha = \$3,150 deposited to PTVM General Fund
- Thanksgiving = \$2,627 deposited to PTVM General Fund

We were able to purchase new church cloths in gold.

We were able to pay for the iconography on the south wall with stained glass.

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 = \$6,723
- CD = \$235,945

We look forward to a healthy and productive 2024 growing spiritually in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Pedersen

219.365.6360

# ST. MARY'S SODALITY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

As usual, our group was busy with several fund-raising events this year. Some were repeat events, some were new.

The first was our annual Rummage Sale. It has always been the most successful from a profit point of view. Again, I have to thank all of you who helped with your donations, and those who helped set up and take down the tables in the hall for us. It's greatly appreciated!

This year, we also sponsored a Chili Cook-Off. All parishioners were invited to join us in this event. We had many tasty varieties to try. But the "King's Crown" of this event went to Ken Buchek who brought in the most votes for the best-tasting chili! Congratulations to Ken and thanks to all who participated in this event. To coin an old phrase: A fun time was had by all!

Another new event this year was the sale of beautiful decorative hand-made bows which could be used as a lovely addition to any gift box. Many thanks to those who made the bows and also to those who bought them!

With the leadership of Janet Andrus, we again made our "famous canned peppers". Thanks, again, to the helpers with this project. Because of you, the work didn't seem so tedious! Sadly, when the talk of peppers comes around, we will always be reminded of the passing of our dear Nadia Konowalik, whose recipe we use. Nadia was a very faithful member of our Sodality for many years, and she will be sorely missed. Memory eternal, dear Nadia.

Linda Bloomfield again spear-headed our annual winter coat drive. This year she shared a heart-warming story. Shortly after she dropped off the coats, she noticed that a group of men came out from the store wearing the coats we had just donated. One of them recognized her, went up to her, and thanked her. He entered the store with nothing warm to wear, but left with a nice warm coat. So, again, I must thank *everyone who donated* to this worthy cause. You truly are appreciated!

A final note: Our Sodality has been blessed with faithful members who have served for many years. This year, we were very pleased to have two new members *volunteer* to accept the positions of President and Secretary. So, my thanks go out to them along with our other two very faithful officers, Linda Svihra and Helen Campbell. May God bless us and our efforts in this new year!

2024 officers:

President: Erin Grey, Vice-President: Linda Svihra,  
Secretary: Abby Lear, Treasurer: Linda Bloomfield

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bertram

## St. Mary's Sodality Report of 2023 Financials

Balance Brought Forward: \$2,121.88

Income:

Bow Sales and bank	\$311	
Donations	\$105	
Pepper Sales	\$345	
Rummage Sale	\$585	
Chili Cook-Off	+ <u>\$298</u>	
	\$1,644	+ <u>\$1,644</u>
		\$3,765.88

Disbursements:

Stamps	\$344.10	
Pascha Donation	\$100	
IOCC Donation	\$100	
Bright Tuesday Luncheon	\$244.84	
Golf Outing	\$125	
Flowers	\$59.40	
Canning Supplies	\$102.63	
Baking Supplies	+ <u>\$200</u>	
	\$1,275.97	- <u>\$1,275.97</u>

Final Balance: \$2,489.91

Respectfully Submitted:

Helen Campbell  
Treasurer

## *Protection of the Virgin Mary Sunday School*

January 17, 2024

# Dearest Congregation,

## **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

Our classes have been growing exponentially with new families and helpers! We have still been focused on the Old Testament exploring the Judges and Prophets that help pave the way for the birth of Christ, celebration of special holidays, Saints, Feasts, and Fasts in both of our classrooms with more of an emphasis of learning about the Saints in our second-level room which is taught by Erin Gray.

This year we have continued to organize and cultivate the best learning environments for our children and our teachers. Take a look at what we have been up to:

- We have added several books and materials to our children's library, which is now part of our parish lending library. Check out what's available by clicking on the **Church School** tab on our PTVM website (Many thanks for the donations of these books from members of our congregation)!
- We hosted several fun events including our Back to School Pool Party, Fall Bonfire and visit with the Bishop, St. Nicholas Day, Bowling, Lazarus Saturday, Lenten Recipe Exchange/ Potluck, Egg Hunt, and End of the Year events. This year we hope to plan more events for youth and families.
- We performed the yearly Yolka with sing-along Christmas Carols with beautiful costumes designed by Janet Korzow. Thank you to all who helped!
- We currently have approximately 25 students on the roster and many more visiting each week with an average attendance of 20 students each Sunday. Our youngest class has grown so much we have expanded into the adjoining classroom, moved the middle classroom into the library and the teen issues class is currently being held in the Library.

We are so excited about our growing classes and have received help from Abigail Lear and the dad crew of Dan O'Day and Adam Erpelding. If you would be interested in subbing or helping with Sunday School please let Elizabeth or Erin know. We look forward to a happy and healthy New (School) Year and would like to thank you all for your continued love and support of our children.

Love in Christ,



**Elizabeth Wysocki -Sunday School Director**

## 2024 Choir Director Report

Glory to Jesus Christ!

In 2023, the PTVM choir experienced significant growth and improvement. With an average attendance of roughly 10 singers each Sunday (an increase from the previous year), the choir played a central role in enhancing the worship and prayer of our church during regular weekly services, feast days, baptisms, and funerals. The commitment extended beyond the scheduled services as the choir increased our number of rehearsals over last year and held our annual choir retreat to strengthen our musical contributions to the church. Notably, the repertoire expanded with the addition of new hymn settings, and we will continue to diversify our musical offerings this year. A special highlight in 2023 was the vocal technique workshop conducted by Marie Sokolova, providing valuable insights to further improve the choir's skills.

Overall, the choir's activities in 2023 demonstrate a commitment to elevating our worship, spiritual and musical growth, and enriching the vibrancy of our community within the parish through musical service, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to glorify Our Risen Lord through song.

In Christ,

Matt

PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
2023 GOLF OUTING  
FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

BEGINNING BALANCE	466.67
56 GOLFERS @ \$90	5040.00
30 SPONSORS @ 125	3750.00
DONORS	1545.00
50/50 RAFFLE	275.00
BEVERAGE CART TIPS	301.00
CIRCLE GAME	288.00
BAR PROCEEDS	200.00
BANQUET TICKETS	130.00
MISCELLANEOUS	142.66
INCOME	<u>12,138.33</u>

EXPENSES

INDIAN RIDGE GOLF CLUB	2240.00
56 GOLFER @ \$40	
BEEF MART (LAMB)	375.00
ELI'S GOLDEN APPLE (CHICKEN)	224.70
QUALITY IMPRESSIONS (SIGNAGE)	235.00
BEVERAGES	87.66
POSTAGE	63.00
GOLF BALLS	256.80
SCRIP	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$3582.16</u>

NET PROFIT

\$8556.17 \*

\* \$8000.00 OF THIS TRANSFERRED TO BUILDING FUND

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RICH SMITH, FINANCIAL CHAIRMAN

GOLF COMMITTEE

## 2023 SCRIP PROGRAM REPORT

### INCOME FROM SALE OF CERTIFICATES:

JANUARY	\$4,250.00	JULY	\$2,871.40
FEBRUARY	\$1,923.75	AUGUST	\$6,014.40
MARCH	\$7,645.25	SEPTEMBER	\$3,748.55
APRIL	\$3,410.00	OCTOBER	\$3,878.00
MAY	\$5,589.10	NOVEMBER	\$4,426.60
JUNE	\$4,844.10	DECEMBER	\$7,074.80

### EXPENDITURES: PURCHASE OF CERTIFICATES:

JANUARY	\$3,291.51	JULY	\$3,019.56
FEBRUARY	\$3,595.44	AUGUST	\$4,906.51
MARCH	\$7,376.17	SEPTEMBER	\$3,677.60
APRIL	\$3,651.14	OCTOBER	\$3,993.37
MAY	\$4,677.90	NOVEMBER	\$3,417.58
JUNE	\$4,515.56	DECEMBER	\$8,183.62

TOTAL SALES: \$55,675.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$54,305.96

\$1,500 DONATED TO CHURCH ON 12/24/23

ENDING ACCOUNT BALANCE ON 12/29/23: \$4,062.02

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

LARA RICHARDS



Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church  
2024 Operational Budget

GENERAL FUND	2024 Budget
INCOME	
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	
Stewardship	\$191,939.00
Other Donations	<u>\$18,000.00</u>
Subtotal Contribution Income	\$209,939.00
OTHER INCOME	
Anniversary Dinner	\$800.00
Bake Sale	\$5,500.00
Candles & Vigils	\$5,700.00
Bookstore Proceeds	\$200.00
Golf Outing	\$8,000.00
Flowers	\$700.00
Scrip Program Donation	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Subtotal Other Income	\$21,900.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$231,839.00</u></b>
EXPENSES	
FIXED EXPENSES	
CLERGY EXPENSES	
Salary	\$39,537.00
Housing	\$33,024.00
Church Paid Pension	\$10,159.00
Health Insurance	\$1,772.00
Supply Priest	\$1,000.00
Auto Expenses	\$1,200.00
Life Insurance	<u>\$600.00</u>
Subtotal Clergy Expenses	\$87,292.00
CHOIR DIRECTOR	
Stipend	\$7,200.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Advertising and Promotion	\$500.00
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00
Postage	\$400.00
Printing	\$1,500.00
Background Checks	\$50.00
Accountant	\$2,200.00
Church Phones/Internet Services	\$1,620.00
Computer Software	<u>\$455.00</u>
Subtotal Administrative Expenses	\$8,725.00
INSURANCE	
Church/Cemetery Insurance	\$11,500.00

	<b>2024 Budget</b>
UTILITIES	
NIPSCO	\$18,500.00
Septic: Beebe	\$2,820.00
Garbage: Star	\$2,600.00
Well-Maintenance: Sheehy	\$700.00
Alarm System	\$825.00
Pest Control	\$970.00
Subtotal Utilities	<u>\$26,415.00</u>
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
Mechanical Concepts Maint. Contract	\$2,400.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$1,000.00
Cleaning Services	\$8,890.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$12,000.00
Merrillville Storm Water	\$100.00
Subtotal Building Maintenance	<u>\$24,390.00</u>
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	
Lawn Service	\$2,200.00
Landscaping	\$18,000.00
Snow Removal	\$9,000.00
Subtotal Grounds Maintenance	<u>\$29,200.00</u>
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Supplies and Activities	\$4,000.00
Young Adult Ministry	\$1,000.00
	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
RECREATION	
Fellowship Meals	\$1,000.00
MINISTRY EXPENSE	
Candles and Vigils	\$4,000.00
Flowers/Gifts	\$1,000.00
Canonical Visits	\$500.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$1,000.00
Subtotal Ministry Expense	<u>\$6,500.00</u>
<b>Subtotal Fixed Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$207,222.00</u></b>
OTHER EXPENSES	
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS	
Assessments- Monthly	\$23,317.00
Chicago Deanery - Annual	\$100.00
Subtotal Diocesan Assessments	<u>\$23,417.00</u>
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	
Assembly Expenses	\$1,200.00
<b>Subtotal Other Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$24,617.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$231,839.00</u></b>

	<b>2023 Officeholder</b>	<b>2024 Nominee</b>	<b>Years of eligibility left <i>after</i> 2023</b>
<b>President</b>	Nicholas Rozdelsky	Melody Rozdelsky	5
<b>Vice President</b>	Elizabeth Pedersen	Elizabeth Pedersen	1
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nicholas Revak	Michael Gruszyk	5
<b>Secretary</b>	Elizabeth Wysocki	Elizabeth Wysocki	2
<b>Ast. Treasurer</b>		Nicholas Revak	4
<b>At Large (5)</b>	Sherry Mizimakoski	Doug Bercich	5
	Lesley Erpelding	Lesley Erpelding	3
	Sergei Ely	Sergei Ely	3
	Lara Richards	Lara Richards	1
	Nada Buczek	Daniel O'Day	5
<b>Alternate</b>	Mira Lukas	Richard Svihra	no limit
<b>Reviewers (3)</b>	Adam Erpelding	Adam Erpelding	1
	Brenda Wenner	Brenda Wenner	2
	Richard Svihra	Richard Svihra	0