

St. Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Mission Carlsbad, California

Annual Meeting Reports and Agenda January 31, 2016



Reports

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Strategic Plan – separate file

Financial and Budget Report – separate file

**St. Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Mission
Carlsbad, California**

Agenda

**Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
January 31, 2016**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Credentials (census, roll call)
3. Approval of minutes from last year's meeting
4. Rector's Report Fr. Andrew 10 min.
5. Treasurer's Report and Budget Approval Jayson 10 min
6. Ministry Summary Reports Simona 10 min
7. Strategic Plan Presentation and New Ministries Jeff and ministry team
leaders 40 min
8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

St Katherine of Alexandria Orthodox Mission
4th Annual General Meeting - Minutes
Sunday, January 18, 2015

1. Meeting opened with “We give thanks to Thee” at 1227.
2. Roll Call/Quorum
3. Priest Andrew, Matushka Elizabeth, Alex Lukianov, Katya Lukianov, Simona Hellinger, Vladimir Morrison, Helen Leventez, Kevin Wang, Irina Kotek, Serena Bingle, Chad Bingle, Slava Bagat, Garret Bagat, Galean Gilbert, Megan Gilbert, Donnie Carmichael, Adrianna Baci, Nikolai Baci, Sasha Coelho, Chris Hetrick, Sophia Hetrick, John Day, Jon Tarcon, Terri Tarcon, Alex Marshall, Garret Miller, Jayson Trierweiler, Emily Trierweiler, Eileen Byrnes, Nadia Scott, Chuck Scott, Lyudmila Rockett, Ekaterina Tschida, Josh Moore, Brandon Davie, Elizaveta Zubchenok,
4. Parish Slide Show: Year in Review
5. Rector’s Report – attached and read in full.
6. Treasurer’s Report – attached.
Review of 2014 and projection of 2015. Year ended “in the black.” We have been sticking to the budget. Note that Mission Planting Grant started in June, as well as full-time Priest Salary, and rent for current Lease. Continue fundraising – CUP will eat up most of the budget. Goals – 100% tithe community & growth.
7. Vice-President’s Report
 - a. Getting here, serious money, monastery parish, training grounds.
8. Church School
 - a. Successful 5 week “Jesse Tree.” Need for a space, need for age groups, need for teachers. Plans to keep going.
9. Q & A
 - a. Governance – How do we involve other people in the community and how do we interact (frame work for parish structure)? What do we have in place to let others know what we have? Training – e.g., how do we give alms?
 - b. “Opening the doors” – months in advance announcement, inviting the Orthodox community and the communities. We belong here. Community Awareness.
10. Adjournment/Closing Prayer at 1352 with “It is Truly Meet.”

RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

By: Fr. Andrew Cuneo, Rector
January 31, 2016

My Brothers and Sisters: Christ is in our midst!

It is a mark of an Orthodox community that it gathers together, in worship and fellowship, to understand and consider what the Holy Spirit has done, is doing, and can do for us – a band of families and individuals who have taken on the joyous task of establishing a permanent Orthodox Church in North County, San Diego. It takes vision, work, and reflection – and that is what an Annual General Meeting is for.

We began 2015 on January 1st with the Divine Liturgy: a perfect way to start. From there, this year has been a year of external beautification and internal organization. The externals were abundant: the completion of our iconostas, a kiot to the Royal Martyrs, 9 beautiful candlestands from Ukraine (replated), a new chandelier - and no more fluorescents!, an altar table & proskomedes cabinets, hand-made choir stands, analoi, 5 Persian rugs, a baptismal font, processional banners, our own plaschanitsa, hand-written icons, large wall icons, and many beautiful liturgical items from Russia. This has simply transformed our worship space.

Internally, the organization has started to knit together many separate programs in place and propose new ones; our Strategic Plan will be the focus of our meeting later today, but this itself has been underway since last August with professional consultants. Independent of the Strategic Plan, we saw the emergence of a proper Sisterhood, regular choir rehearsals, children's choir, regular church school, musicianship classes, a bookstore, a new website and superb execution of agape meals and temple cleaning. Perhaps a single high point would be the tonsuring of one of our own members to the office of Reader (Reader Peter Carmichael).

We also need to mark the chief blessings of the past year: a final and official approval of our Conditional Use Permit in April, a final renewal of our OCA Planting Grant, a bookstore grant from St Tikhon's Bookstore, and a festive visit by our diocesan hierarch, Archbishop BENJAMIN. We were saddened by the moves of three wonderful families away from California (silver-lined by a moving sale – remember all the agape meals in the park?) and yet see a constant stream of births, baptisms, new families, and visitors. Thank God. All of this reminds us that unceasing outreach is the key simply to staying where we are, much less growing.

As 2015 was the first year of my being a full-time priest, there was a marked up-tick in daily services, particularly after July when the CUP was in hand. This meant a constant cycle of serving the Hours, Akathists, Daily Matins, and other Divine services during most weeks. This translates into the following:

- Our Mission has served roughly 225 Divine Services week of this past year, inclusive of weekend and Festal services.
- Our Divine Liturgies averaged 80 attendees in early 2014, and around 82 at present.

Around this core of services, the Rector continues nearly year-round catechism classes, house blessings, serving on the Diocesan Council, C.S. Lewis retreats & talks, teaching for the Sts Cyril & Athanasius institute, teaching for the Diaconal Vocations program, oversight of ministries, secretarial duties, e.g. PSP requirements, and pastoral work. Maybe this is the year to begin praying & looking for a Deacon and an on-site Secretary in earnest?

Looking ahead, we anticipate growth in both the areas mentioned above. For external beautification, I hope to obtain true Russian bells, vestment storage & cabinets, have the trapeza painted, finalize office space, and look into effective HVAC for the church. For internal organization, the Strategic Plan will mobilize and empower many parishioners to lead where it is both appropriate and needed – there are so many talents in our Mission to build up the Body of Christ. Surely the largest consideration will be fundraising for a new property & building, and I anticipate a capital campaign where each of us will need to call upon resources beyond our relatively small community. And we will need to do this each year until we are prepared to buy.

Lastly, I appeal to our community not to lose a monastic ethos, for lack of a simpler phrase. This implies a community which is zealous to embrace the Orthodox spiritual life, acquainted with the spiritual atmosphere of the holy monasteries through regular visits, and drawing from them in reasonable appropriation for life in a parish. If our worship can remain inspiring, our community remain intimate, and our love for each other spill out into life outside the parish and into the county, then we will know we are on God's good path.

Christian Education AGM Report 2016

By Gaelan Gilbert
January 31, 2016

The educational efforts at St. Katherine Orthodox Church continue with steadily increasing dynamism, in both the child and adult realms. There are several educational activities that have emerged from the Strategic Planning process which will only be touched upon here; the main focus below is on the Education efforts in 2015, with gestures toward future plans.

Taking the former first, Megan Gilbert and Heather Hetrick have teamed up to co-lead Sunday School at 9am before Divine Liturgy. This involves engaging with the Scripture readings for the day, which is ideally meant to prepare the kids to re-hear the passages in Church with a deeper understanding. One of the lives of the saints commemorated that day is also read, which usually keeps the children in rapt attention especially when the details of a brave, martyric death are recounted! The spiritual heroism of the saints definitely seems to excite the 6-10 year old boys most of all. Then, if time remains after the discussion of Scriptural and hagiographical readings, the group is lead in a craft or related activity. The Sunday School program is currently functioning in a 'one-size-fits-all' fashion, with children from 3 to 14 all participating to varying extents. At times this broad span is beneficial, and it is clear that the older children enjoy sharing their knowledge and effectively co-teaching the younger ones; however, the material is clearly at times not challenging or engaging enough for the children 10 and older, and this has driven discussion about the need to partition the group into two, and have a more advanced curriculum put in place for the older group. No definitive steps have been taken yet, mainly for lack of space. However, the recent news about a possible extra room available in a neighboring suite could change this by providing an additional space for the younger Sunday School group to meet (and enhance the curriculum with additional materials), and then the older group (8-14?) could remain in the Commons for more text- and concept-based lessons and conversation.

Given the majority of female-to-male teenagers at the parish, the teen ministry has partly passed from Gaelan Gilbert's hands into Seraphima Karbo's. Her plans for a Young Ladies group - to include Lucy Cuneo, Paige Hellinger, Olga Baciou, and Kayla Tarcon - are being organized and should begin soon.

There is much exciting potential for Adult education at SKM. The parish enjoyed talks or presentations from Peter Sarandinaki on the relics of the Royal Martyrs, our Dean Fr. Matthew Tate on "growing a Mission," Fr. Sergei Kotar on St. John of San Francisco, and Fr. John Parker on the religious self-identification (or lack thereof) in the American populace, "the Nones and the Dones." Vladyka Benjamin's informal Q&A was also enlightening and encouraging, as expected! A February film series of Georgian and Russian films with Orthodox Christian themes is also planned for four consecutive Wednesday evenings next month, culminating with a showing of *The Island* at the Carlsbad Village theatre on Sunday afternoon, Feb 28th (thanks to Chris Hetrick).

Liturgical Music Ministry Report for 2015

**By Rdr. Vladimir Morosan
January 31, 2016**

The choir at St. Katherine Mission is a volunteer ministry staffed by a group of gifted and committed individuals, who give of their time and talent to sing liturgical services to the glory of God. The choir is responsible for singing Vespers and Divine Liturgies on the weekends, festal Vigils and Liturgies, the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesdays of Great Lent, the services of Holy Week and Pascha, and other services as appointed by the rector—approximately 135-140 services a year.

As of the end of 2015, the choir comprised 13 voices: 4 sopranos, 3 altos, 2 tenors, and 4 basses. All members of the choir are well versed in music fundamentals and commit to attending as many rehearsals and services as possible. Choir rehearsals are held ½ hour before every major service and for an hour-and-a-half twice a month after the agape meal.

The leadership of the choir underwent a smooth transition in July of this year, as founding choir director Katya Lukianov moved away, and the position of choir director was taken over by Reader Dr. Vladimir Morosan.

The parish choir library was enhanced this year with newly compiled books for Vespers and Divine Liturgy. Music for the Vigils and Liturgies of all major feast days throughout the year has been assembled. Through the resources offered on the OCA website and elsewhere, the changeable hymns sung every week at Vespers and Liturgy are now being archived, instead of being recycled, with the goal of eventually compiling a complete cycle of daily services for the entire year.

Besides liturgical services, the Music Ministry at St. Katherine Mission has offered various enrichment and educational opportunities. On each of the five Saturdays in August, informal men's singing sessions were held in the parish hall, open to all men who were interested in exploring their vocal and musical abilities. Led by Vladimir Morosan, the men learned about breathing technique, good vocal habits, and had a good time of fellowship, singing church hymns, spirituals, and folk songs. Overall, 15 men attended the sessions at various times.

From September through December, those who were interested to further their vocal and musical education had an opportunity to take a class entitled "Basic Musicianship for Church Singers," taught by Vladimir Morosan. The class met on Saturday afternoons for an hour and a half in the course of 12 sessions. The instruction included vocal technique, solfège, ear training, and the fundamentals of music notation. The tuition fee for the class was \$150, and there were nine students—eight men and one woman. Four of the men have expressed an interest to continue as "choir apprentices," meeting before Saturday night Vespers for special instruction in the Eight Tones and other church repertoire.

In September, a Children's Choir was begun, taught by Ludmilla Rockett,—a professional music teacher and member of the church choir, assisted by Emily Trierweiler, who is also an experienced classroom and music teacher. The children meet twice a month for an hour of instruction in music theory and solfège. They have learned a few versions of "Receive the Body of Christ" and have sung on several occasions at the Divine Liturgy, alternating with the adult choir. They have also learned hymns and carols for feasts of St. Nicholas, the Nativity, and feasts of the Holy Theotokos, and have sung for and with the entire parish after the agape meal.

God has blessed St. Katherine Mission with an abundance of musical talent. With His help, we aim to continue growing and learning in the course of the coming year. We thank you for your support and ask for your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Reader Vladimir Morosan

Sisterhood Report

By: Yulia Klimova, Sisterhood President

January 31, 2016

Our Sisterhood bears the name of Sts. Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus, from the Gospels. Sts. Martha and Mary exemplify two ways of serving God, one is contemplative listening and another is caring labor, however none of these ways has priority over the other. This is how we approach our life in Church – we strive to serve our parish community, and to deepen our commitment to faith through spiritual development. Those are not mutually exclusive activities, instead they are mutually constitutive. One cannot exist without another; they are two branches of the same tree, feeding from each other.

The **spiritual growth** aspect involves not only regular participation in the Divine services and sacraments, but regular spiritual readings and discussions. We started a reading group, and had seven meetings since May, it is meeting once a month. We finished reading and discussing “*Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica,*” and we have selected two books for our next meetings – on lives of Mother Maria Skobtsova (St. Mary of Paris) and Mother Alexandra (Princess Ileana of Romania), both are examples of monastic life and service in the 20th century.

The **service** aspect includes hospitality (welcoming parishioners and guests), and care for sisters and their families. Below is the list of activities that Stt. Martha and Mary Sisterhood was involved in during the past year:

- Sunday Agape meals (*trapeza*) – all sisters (M. Elizabeth), we are grateful to spouses and Brandon & Garrett for participating in cooking, serving, and cleaning
- Mid-week Holidays, after Liturgy meals – all sisters (Vicki)
- Parish Holiday, St. Katherine day, celebratory meal – all sisters (Heather)
- Archbishop’s visit, reception – with Brotherhood
- Baby showers – all sisters
- Meals delivery to new mothers – all sisters
- Organizing post-Baptism receptions – all sisters
- Church adornment (flowers, vestment change) – with Brotherhood (Irina)
- Church cleaning – with Brotherhood (Slava & Alla, more volunteers are needed!)

These are the main areas of sisterhood activities. There is also a cross-over with other ministries, like Brotherhood – the already established one, and with the new emerging ministries – children education (Megan and Heather, Sunday school), adult education and Evangelism (with Gaelan and Chris, film nights), estate sale (Heather), *Maslennitsa* meal (discussed having it as a part of education ministry – religious and cultural traditions), started ordering of books for reading group through our Church bookstore (Helen).

Brotherhood AGM 2016 Report

By: Rdr. Peter (Donnie) Carmichael and Gaelan Gilbert
January 31, 2016

The St. Katherine Brotherhood continues, with the grace of God, to seek out ways of growing together in Christ. Currently its energies are primarily centripetal. Activities in 2015 included a men's singing class, a sailing excursion, and, *de facto*, the Carlsbad league Softball team. The latter - which has received much attention - may perhaps be understood best as existing in the important zone between a parish Brotherhood activity and a combination of recreational fellowship and "incidental evangelism," insofar as those on the team have expressed that some of the non-Orthodox team-mates and friends on the field know that "they all go to church together." This provides considerable potential for Christian witness in a characteristically non-confrontational, Orthodox way. In this sense the Softball team might even be seen as the first instance of a more centrifugal energy in the Brotherhood, which may find future manifestations in Outreach for those in need or more targeted types of evangelism. This has been discussed at recent Outreach ministry meetings, for instance.

The sailing trip was good fun - Subdeacon Mark's splendid photos are floating around somewhere. And of course the singing group led by Reading Vladimir was also a success, and continues still with a core group of dedicated, emerging vocalists: glory to God!

In 2016 there are a couple new Brotherhood activities planned. The first is a reading group, which will take place on two Saturday evenings in Lent. The inaugural book will be *An Extraordinary Peace: St. Seraphim, Flame of Sarov*, by Archimandrite Lazarus Moore. The second is a beer home-brewing co-operative, which will begin sometime in February. Some talk of a mid-summer camping trip has also been happening in hallways and courtyards, but nothing definite has emerged.

The St. Katherine Brotherhood, under Reader Peter's steady leadership, hopes to continue its contributions to the life of the larger parish as well; in this respect and others, the Sisterhood is an exemplary model. As child-developmental psychologists will confirm, girls do mature faster than boys, after all. ;)