

## **Serving as a Member of the Parish Council**

This December, our parish will be electing 4 Parish Council members (for a total of 9). We plan to announce the names of those who will be on the ballot at our Fall Parish Assembly in November. In preparation for this, our current council is asking all parish members to prayerfully consider council qualifications and responsibilities, and if you are interested in serving to please contact the Election Committee by October for vetting (contact details below). You can go to [THIS LINK](#) to learn about specific qualifications. Here are some basics that we all should know:

**What is a Parish Council?** A Parish Council is the administrative body of a Church community elected by its stewards for the purpose of working together with the Parish Priest in fulfilling the mission and goals of our parish community.

**The Parish Council must keep a healthy perspective.** Serving on the Parish Council is a sacred trust. It carries with it responsibility not only for the mounting demands being made upon our Parishes, but also for the unending stream of challenges being faced by the Church Universal. The leadership team that directs each Parish is the Priest and the Parish Council. We could go further and say that just as the Parish is a team, so is the entire Church a team working toward the goals set forth by our Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) and eternal leader, Jesus Christ. Finally, at an even deeper level, we are all interconnected as members of Christ's own Body, His Church. St. Paul writes: *"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body.' As it is, God arranged (all) the organs in the body, each one of them, as He chose. If all were a simple organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body".* (1 Cor 12)

It is the same with our Holy Orthodox Church. We are one body, the Body of Christ, working toward unity of purpose and action... as individuals, as Parishes, as Metropolises, and as an Archdiocese, always under the divine leadership of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

**As a member of the Parish Council, you must "do everything for the glory of God."** (1 Corinthians 10:31) You are called to continue the work of Christ in service to others. Above all, this must be kept in mind when undertaking your responsibilities and making decisions that affect the life of the Parish and the Archdiocese. In following the work of those who came before us, the Parish Council member must lead by example and embody the virtues of humility and temperance. He/she must have a sense of peace, love, and understanding for his/her brethren. This is the responsibility of a Parish Council member: to act faithfully as a steward of Christ's Church for His glory, for the betterment of the Church and the salvation of the world.

**If you are interested in serving our parish in this way,** please contact the Election Committee by the end of October for vetting.

### **Election Committee Members:**

Lola Fitterer – lolafitterer@gmail.com

Eileen Phillips – eileenphillipsreno@yahoo.com

Ivy Valory – ivyvalory@gmail.com

**Important Dates:**

- October 31<sup>st</sup> – Last day to contact Election Committee or Father to initiate candidate vetting process
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Seminar, time TBD - *mandatory for all PC candidates*
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – PC Candidates Announced at Fall Parish Assembly Meeting (& via Email)
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – PC Elections, after Divine Liturgy

***Note:*** All Parish Council members are required to be certified under the Archdiocese Youth Protection Program. This involves a background check and 2 online training courses, which can be completed after elections and prior to the Parish Council Oath (January).