

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church Monthly Meeting

March 15, 2026

Call to order / Opening Prayer: 12:04 pm

Fr. Stephen opened with prayer. Dan called to order.

Approval of January 2026 and Annual Parish Meeting minutes

Council approved the minutes – Dan moved to accept, Susane seconded.

Rector's Report

Fr. Stephen reported that the number of catechumens has reached 60. On Palm Sunday, 16 of them will be baptized, and 2 more – on Thomas' Sunday.

He is still working on launching a Bible Study at GSU.

Equipment has been ordered for the upcoming podcast. Next step is to start the planning process.

Fr. John's visit was impactful. Tithing has been up, and Susanne mentioned that our young parishioners have been generously offering their service in the hall. The recording of Fr. John's presentation does not have the best audio quality, Fr. Stephen will try to reupload.

Fr. Stephen noted there was a great attendance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy vespers in Beaufort by our parishioners.

He reported that our website has reached 1000 clicks this month. The upward trend was noticed after the local news broadcast for our Theophany service on River Street.

Warden's report:

There is no formal warden's report since Dan has just assumed the position. On 3/16 we will have the septic tank inspected to see if it needs a yeast treatment for bacterial imbalance or might potentially have another issue. Proactively, it was suggested that we do not use any cleaning products containing harsh chemicals, which lead to bacterial imbalance.

Treasurer's report:

Ron informed that our budget year-to-date is 2-3% over our goal, even though we came in a bit shy in January and had to miss one Sunday liturgy due to weather. So far

we are meeting our +20% financial goal. Susanne moved to accept the report, Garret seconded, all voted in favor.

Parish activities:

- Valentine's day firepit went well. It was a good turnout and a fun meatfare event.
- Fr. Stephen started thinking about the Nativity retreat. He has two speakers in mind.
- Prospora baking class and prayer rope making class are coming up at the end of the month. Fr. Stephen encouraged to bring friends to these events and foster stewardship this way.

New business:

- Fr. Stephen advised that we need to establish an Auditing Committee. There is a plan to elect 3 people after Thomas' Sunday liturgy. Fr. Stephen will include a call out for volunteers in the bulletin, preferably with accounting background. This is needed to make sure all receipts are audited at the end of the year.
- There is a need to add Fr. Stephen, Dan and Deacon Vassily as extra signers on our bank account, and also to add Fr. Stephen as an account holder. Ron will get in touch with the bank this week to coordinate the additional signers procedure, all additional signers will need to go to their closest Queensboro bank branch to complete the paperwork in person. Adding Fr. Stephen as a signer will take a little time but Ron will get started on that as well.

Old business:

- We are planning to have the Lenten Fish Fry event next year. We will start the planning process right after Thanksgiving.
- Susanne suggested all green dishes for coffee hour for Palm Sunday to coordinate with the green theme of the holiday.
- We will table the discussion regarding the new hall until Fr. Stephen and Dan have a chance to sit down and look at the options after Pascha.
- The new altar boy robes are finally here - 3 sets of blue, red and gold. Gold can be used for any feast, red also covers a number of holidays, and blue works for

all feasts of the Theotokos. The old ones will be donated, Tom and Kristen have volunteered to wash them.

- Ron will call his candle vendors to sort out the larger candles. 3 boxes of regular sized beeswax candles have arrived, 1 has to go to St Pauls.
- Josh will be working on the new play area, which needs to be ready for St. Thomas' Sunday for the easter egg hunt. Fr. Stephen confirmed Josh has all the materials he needs.
- Fr. Stephen suggested to work with the new catechumen, Courtney, to explore the options for fixing the driveway drop-off. As Deacon Vassily noted, it is getting worse from all the rains, we are starting to see potholes. Ron mentioned that he has a tractor which can come in handy, but needs a truck to transport it. This work will start after Pascha.
- Susanne provided an update on kitchen inventory. She will be working with Garret to explore the most effective way to track inventory, and partner with him to source supplies from Sam's club. Dan recommended that we encourage parishioners to bring their own coffee cups instead of wasting a large number of styrofoam cups.
- We will table the discussion about the land for sale until after Lent.
- Fr. Stephen will call a meeting with the new security team, as the level of threats has gone up with the recent events. Dan recommended planning an active shooter drill for the parish, and that the parish is informed who the members of the security team are.

Call for Adjournment / Closing Prayer - Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm. Dan moved and Ron seconded.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2026