

St.Xenia Annual Meeting 2025

St. Xenia Sisterhood annual report – 2025

St. Vladimir's church, Ann Arbor, MI

- Maintenance of the church building –

Maintaining candle stands:

Lena Alvarez leading this effort and doing a good job! Thank you! We have some ladies who are owning stands and helping Lena to keep them clean. We have a couple of more ladies signed up to help with them. We need more sisters to help, we had ups and downs. Anything new we need for this?

We need to get better at cleaning the church, and now we have more to clean with the Hall added events. Any suggestions would be great!

- Adornment of the church –

Gardens: We need to have solid help with this. We have about 6 sisters who are working on them, but we could use more. Thank God we have Lori (Helen) Oesch who was keeping an eye on the outside appearance. But the work is not organised.

Indoor holiday beautification: We have our wonderful Kathrine Miller who knows what she is doing for church beautification, and has extensive experience. We could help her more and learn from her. Maybe we could try to split the work. We are willing to teach you! It's expensive to split only for 2 people. We got some more ladies interested to help with this. It is important to come and help with Nativity, Palm Sunday, Pascha and Pentecost, because we have a lot to do in a short time.

-Visiting sick -

Marina Edwards and Helen Tkach-Gable are more involved in this, but usually it falls just on Fr. Gregory. What can we do better in this regard?

-Education-

- We have some parishioners helping in AAOCA. Thank you! We need more help to keep the school building clean. We will start having weekly lunches, not only big feasts in that space. The Brotherhood will build us a table storage and cabinets for supplies. We bought 150 lightweight chairs for the events.

We need to think of the fundraising ideas for this project. We had 3 concerts, Pentecost BBQ competition fundraiser. Now we started to have Movie Nights as well.

- We should have more sisters taking classes in Theology School online! It helps us to know more about our Faith and will help to catechize other women. I would love to organize the Catechism classes, but didn't have an ability last year. If anybody would like to help with this, please let me know.

-Church School-

Thank you to Alexandra Pirozhenko for heading it so well. The curriculum is amazing!

We need to involve kids more in the cleaning of the candle stands, icons and teach them church specific maintenance as well. They are the ones who will take care of the church after us.

Matushka Lisa Joyce is hosting groups in her house.

Matushka Katie Bower started to have the Craft Nights.

Had a wonderful Yolka (Kids Nativity Celebration) with many kids from the outside of the parish! Thank you Zhanna S. for the organisation! It would be great if our church school participated more in it.

-Fundraisers-

Annual Festival

We had the most profitable festival this year! We will need everybody to be on board. Consider vacation planning not around the dates of the festival. We need all hands on deck, because we lost some ladies who helped a lot.

Maslenitsa Ball

Matushka Katie B. is doing a great job! We would like more participation in this, we need a stable group to do this every year.

Bake Sale

It was the first time we had it in the school. What do you think? We need to do it a little earlier. Thank you everyone! Any improvements we should talk about?

Now Brotherhood doing the third dinner a year, it's the Sunday after Bake Sale.

-Charity-

IOCC try to participate as much as possible. Leading this effort in our parish Euphemia Marsh, please assist her as much as you can.

A2OCA needs our support. We need to work with them to have more fundraising events.

Quarter Mania is a good way to advertise our Bake Sale, but most important that we are raising money for the St. Louis Center for adults with special needs. I always need help with this event.

We need to have more participation in the Alpha House project that Addy Lanterman leads.

Should we participate more in the Detroit Project?

-Prosphora Baking-

We needed to unite in our process of making the prosphoras. Thank you to everyone who participated and hopefully we will start to have more people to bake them. We already have a commercial mixer, just waiting for the space to start getting together to bake together big batches.

-Having FUN- NO CHANGE!!!

How can we do it? It was hard to get together. We need to have more gatherings together. I want to start having cooking classes as well. We will ask Fr. Vladimir to do the Bible Study with ladies, Xenia and Lori will help.

We want to have a Retreat. What should we do?

Gloria will ask Serbian monastery in IN for our pilgrimage and Matushka Alexandra will ask the Dormition monastery.

Election of Sisterhood Officers

Positions:

1. Head Sister - Leta (Xenia) Nikulshina
2. Assistant Head Sister - Zhanna Skalitzky
3. Assistant Head Sister - Natalia Veniaminova
4. Assistant Head Sister - Diana Paterno
5. Treasurer - Shannon Harmon
6. Accountant - Lena Alvarez
6. Secretary - Snezhana Knysh
7. Kitchen supplier - Oksana (Xenia) Balayeva
8. Matushka Katie Bower - Youth Sisterhood Group Head