

All Saints Parish Council Candidates 2026

Jordan Cruse

My name is Jordan Cruse and I first stepped foot into All Saints on the Sunday of Orthodoxy in 2024. I walked in as a very uncertain seeker of 'the truth' before I was even certain if I even believed in Christ. After experiencing the Divine Liturgy and the open arms of our loving community, I felt the strong pull in my heart that I had found what I was looking for. Since then, I have been blessed to be baptized into the church and have my wife and children join me here at All Saints. All Saints and our community mean so much to me, and my love and gratitude is what has led me to do all that I can to help. Whether that be on the Communications and Technology Committee running the website, or with my new role as Chair of the Library Committee, or any of the small things in between. It all brings me great joy to be able to contribute to our growing parish. I now humbly ask that you consider granting me the great honor of becoming a member of our Parish Council, so that I may continue to help contribute to the growth and care for the amazing people that Christ has put into my life. You. Thank you.

Lisa Gerontes-Bowe

I want to serve on the Parish Council because I feel called to offer my time, talents, and heart in support of our Greek Orthodox Church. Our parish has been a spiritual home for me, and I hope to give back by strengthening its ministries, upholding its traditions, and nurturing the faith of our community. I am committed to living the Orthodox faith through worship, service, and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, and I view Parish Council work as an extension of that commitment. I believe leadership in the Church is a form of diakonia, carried out with humility, respect for our clergy and canonical order, and a spirit of collaboration. I hope to use my skills and prayerful judgment to support our priest, build unity, and steward our resources so our parish can continue to grow spiritually. I have served our church for many years, including more than 20 years teaching Sunday School and working with youth, and over 20 years in the Holy Cross Philoptochos, with more than a decade as an officer. My three years on the church board has provided valuable insight into parish leadership. I hold a B.S. and M.S. in Special Education and retired after 40 years in Peoria County schools. I currently teach at ICC and Bradley University. I also founded and led an Autism Support Group for 15 years, served on the board that established the Peoria Autism Society, and was president of its local chapter for 10 years.

Jacob Holton

My family and I moved to Peoria in 2020 and joined All Saints. From our very first visit, we knew we had found our parish home. I have been Orthodox since 2009 and continue to be grateful for the ways our faith shapes our family life. Outside of All Saints, I am an emergency room doctor and also teach medical students, roles that allow me to care for others in practical ways. Serving on the parish council was not something I originally planned, but it now feels like a great opportunity to give back to the community that has become so important to us. If elected, I will serve thoughtfully and humbly, doing whatever I can to support our parish.

Steven Tsoraides

I am running for the All Saints Parish Council because this parish has become a true home to my family. Although I grew up in the Chicago area, I came to Peoria for medical school and chose to build my life here. As a child, working in my family's auto repair shop taught me how to work hard, respect people, and value community. These lessons guided me toward a career in medicine, first studying biology and history at Loyola University Chicago, and later earning my MD and MPH at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. I completed my general surgery residency here and continued training in colorectal surgery at Southern Illinois University. Today, as a board certified general and colorectal surgeon, I care for patients with colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, and benign anorectal conditions. In my practice, I strive to provide compassionate care and mentor young surgeons who are just starting their careers. My wife and I are raising two sons who proudly serve as altar boys, deepening our family's connection to the parish and strengthening our Greek Orthodox faith. All Saints has given us meaningful friendships and a sense of belonging, and now I want to help our parish continue to grow. If elected to Parish Council, I will prioritize keeping our church a warm, welcoming, and supportive community where families can thrive, faith can deepen, and everyone who enters feels truly at home.