



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting –April 10, 2023

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Tom Fobert, Beth Schick, Rosa Gonzalez, Hector Hernandez, Gale Britto, Kate Gallaher-Carson and Anne Savastano

Elected Members Absent: Michael McGovern

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Deacon Carl Locatelli, Deacon Michael McCabe and Mark Carson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Peg Hoblin

Recording Secretary: Julie Laurenzi in Deborah Botti's absence

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 6:45 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2023, were approved and seconded, with the agreed-upon Arts & Environment update wherein Anne Savastano will spearhead the Christmas decorating while Jessica Carpino and Kim Porpora continue to decorate for Easter.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

- The Finance Council's increased giving campaign included a raffle of \$300 gift certificates if a monthly goal of \$32,366 was reached by March. The March total of \$28,880 was 11 percent short of goal (or \$872 per week). The Finance Council agreed to extend the campaign for another month.
- There were 138 distinct WeShare users in January and 151 in March, a slightly-less-than 10 percent increase.
- The quote to repair the air-conditioning unit on top of the roof – which also controls the air purification system is about \$6,682.69 – much higher than anticipated.
- The Cardinal's Appeal goal has not been met yet, either, and contributions are off from last year..

Education and Faith Formation

Religious Education highlights:

- Once again, the Children's Mass, this one on March 19, was inspiring. Positive feedback was received even from attendees who do not have children in the Religious Education program. The plan is to coordinate the next Children's Mass with the start of the new school year and the blessing of the backpacks.
- About 100 people witnessed the emotion and reverence with which the Children's Live Stations of the Cross was performed. Even the young siblings were quiet and attentive. Students who participated had to complete an assignment that asked what station touched them the most and why. The answers were heartfelt.
- Lenten Family Movie Night has been rescheduled for 6:45 p.m. on April 14.
- Seventeen students will be confirmed on April 29 by Bishop Dominick Lagonegro..

There was nothing to report from Adult Faith Formation.

Christian Services

- There will be a repast Saturday after the Memorial Mass for Marie Carotenuto, Tony Mazzeo's mother. Tony arranged to have it catered by Pasta D'oro. The Christian Services team will set up, serve, clean up and provide desserts.
- Discussion ensued about the Food Pantry, which is nearing capacity in terms of the number of families it can comfortably serve. People, particularly those who have recently reached out, have been provided with a booklet of other local food pantries, which might better serve them.
- The Helping Hearts Call Ministry has not received any referrals of isolated parishioners who could use an occasional how-are-you-doing phone call. It was suggested a blurb be put in the bulletin to make people aware that this ministry exists.

Social Activities

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner was a huge success. About 110 people enjoyed a traditional corned beef dinner – or mac & cheese and hot dogs, if preferred. The courtesy and professionalism of the youth who attended to the revelers was the icing on the cake!

Worship and Spiritual Life

- An animated discussion took place regarding the fact that the livestream went off after the lights were turned back on at the Vigil Mass, and there was no livestream on Easter Sunday. The problem was tracked to the outlet; however, the outlet is fine. In turning off the lights for the Vigil, power was accidentally turned off to the outlet.

To turn off the lights, ONLY the first three rows of breaker switches need to be flipped. Also critical is that a permanent home for the streaming equipment be found as soon as possible.

- The Youth Ministry has reached out to the Southern Catskills Anglers and is planning a fishing derby – and the infamous Ice Cream Truck Lady is scheduled to return to the St. Paul's Parking Lot on Friday, June 9. SPYM members will participate again this year in the Town of Crawford's Fourth of July Parade.

Art and Environment

It was agreed that the altar looked incredible for Easter. The concept of the empty tomb is Jessica and Kim's brainchild, which is why they want to continue to decorate for Easter. It also works with the Religious Education schedule, and they are grateful that Anne Savastano has taken the lead on Christmas decorations.

Archangels

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- There is no doubt that there is a need for ushers – and that need was particularly apparent on Easter Sunday with a packed church and no one to take up a collection. Only one or two people have expressed interest. Four would be needed at each Mass – with enough volunteers so that the same people wouldn't be serving weekly. At the very least, perhaps some parishioners could be recruited to serve as ushers for holidays.
- A permanent home still has not been decided upon for the streaming equipment. If there is still a concern about access to the choir loft, then the current location could be used with the camera mounted on the post.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing to report.

Christ Life Program

Four people went to Dunwoodie for training, but more volunteers are needed to facilitate the seven weeks of the program, plus a daylong retreat. Debbe Garry is a worship leader and Rick and Julie Dzurilla are committed to preparing the meal before each session. Mark and Kate Carson have just begun the recruitment process.

Some discussion ensued about whether Sunday, often considered a family day, is the best choice for this program. Also, it was brought up that a seven-week commitment is going to be difficult for many people.

Mark reiterated how well-received and successful Christ Life was at St. Mary's in

Washingtonville and St. Stephen's in Warwick.

The program – which includes the meal, prayer, a video and discussion - is available to those 18 and older. Should that be changed to include anyone who has made their confirmation and older.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti