



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – December 12, 2023

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

Elected Members Absent: Beth Schick, Rosa Gonzalez and Michael McGovern

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Mark Carson and Peg Hoblin

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Carl Locatelli and Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Jim Lancellotti

The meeting began with prayer at 7:02 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2023, were approved and seconded with the correction of a typo: The next phase of ChristLife series is Following Christ.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

- The refrigerator had to be replaced. There also have been problems with the furnaces, but that seems to be resolved.
- Since the ushers have returned, there has been an increase in the collection – and a lot more singles to deposit.

Education and Faith Formation

- Nothing to report with regard to Religious Education; however, there is still no coordinator on the horizon. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of sharing resources, i.e., a coordinator, as Our Lady of the Assumption will be without a coordinator next year, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel has a part-time coordinator. One coordinator for all three sites is a possibility – but one that would be very difficult for the coordinator,

Council members have been reaching out to anyone who might be looking for a new job, but to no avail. Peg Hoblin, through her regional role with the Archdiocese, has been on the lookout as well but has not had any success.

- Five people have signed up to participate in the faith-sharing group that Pat Davies will lead based on the book “Love: A Guide for Prayer.” A bulletin announcement will begin this weekend.

Christian Services

- Seventy-three Thanksgiving Baskets were distributed.
- Charles Schwope’s Repast was October 27 and well-attended.
- Sonia Del Pilar’s Repast is tomorrow and could have upward of 75 guests.
- All the gifts for 100 “Angels” have been returned and are ready to be picked up.
- The food pantry continues to be steady, although numbers are down slightly because of the Holiday Baskets.
- Between 20 and 30 visits are made monthly by the Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound.

Social Activities

- More than 80 people attended the beautiful Senior Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18. By all accounts, the food was fabulous and folks were impressed with the attentive Youth Ministry volunteers, who even offered a choice of white or dark meat. A good time was truly had by all.
- The Pine Bush Community Band Concert took place on November 27. Mike McGovern was there to help with set up in the morning and then break down in the evening. The 90 or so concert-goers were greeted by Youth Ministry volunteers who also handed out programs. Reaction was favorable, although some commented that they would have liked to hear more traditional holiday music.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- A handful of complaints were heard regarding the decision not to have an 8 o’clock Mass on Christmas Eve this year. Scheduling was complicated because the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fell on the same day.
- The Youth Ministry is planning to assemble bags for the homeless in January and is looking forward to a bowling night just for fun as well.

Art and Environment

- The wreath, banners and shelf pieces are in place for Advent.
- Christmas decorating will begin at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 21 and then

finished after the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday, Christmas Eve – and before Mass begins. There has been good volunteer response.

Archangels

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- The question has arisen as to whether we should resume receiving Communion in two species.

A lively discussion ensued. A primary concern is the consumption of what remains in the chalice. And while there doesn't seem to be any pressure from parishioners to bring the cup back, Peg Hoblin will get the directive from the Archdiocese. We would also need more volunteers and a coordinator.

- It has come to our attention that we might need to revisit our handicapped parking situation.

The blue lines are fading, and there are no signs, which has resulted in some people parking in a spot that they shouldn't be and others parking in the fire lane to be closer to the doors, which is a violation. The Archangels will keep a closer eye on the parking situation during Mass. It was anticipated that the parking lot would have to be sealed and re-stripped after this winter. The handicapped-parking guidelines will be researched, and we may have to revisit the number of spaces allocated.

Vicar's Report

- The Advent Service is scheduled for 7 p.m. this Friday. It's a nice opportunity during this hectic time for people to step back and become reflective. Everyone is invited.
- A reminder that the next Parish Council meeting will take place at St. Paul's. Elections are so much easier in person, and there could very well be one required to elect the new chair. Thereafter, it will be more of a social meeting to greet the new folks and say goodbye to those whose terms are up.

The meeting closed at 7:49 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti