



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – December 10, 2024

Elected Members Present: Gale Britto, Julie Laurenzi, Joan Miller, Beth Schick, Anne Savastano, Jim Lancellotti, Kate Galleher-Carson and Hector Hernandez

Elected Members Absent: Marisa Block

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Mark Carson and Rosa Gonzalez

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Chris Murphy and Tony Mazzeo

The meeting began with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

- Third and eighth grades are sacrament classes, and those catechists have agreed to accept the additional responsibility of acting as coordinators for their classes. Morag Cuff has been assisting Peg Hoblin, but she leaves for Florida on December 17 – although she's bringing her laptop.
- First Reconciliation is 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

- SharingChrist ends with the retreat on November 23.
- The Adult Faith Formation Committee will hold a brainstorming session after the 10 o'clock Mass on December 29.
- The Youth Ministry's Festive Christmas Challenge is Friday, and the group will be assembling bags for the homeless at the end of January. The bags will be distributed through the Middletown Warming Station. Chris and Deb are also working on some weekly ideas.

Art and Environment

The Advent Wreath is up, and decorating help will be sought to transform the church for Christmas – and to water the poinsettias so they stay alive until the season ends.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Once again, despite being a “Ministry Spotlight,” no one expressed interest in being on the schedule to set up the livestreaming equipment - although there may be one new person to be a backup.

Social Activities

By all accounts, the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner was again a resounding success.

Christian Services

- There were two funeral Masses this past month (November).
- The last session of the Bereavement Program is Saturday, although participants are talking about some ongoing meetings in 2025.
- All 175 angels on the Giving Tree were taken, and the pile of returned gifts is growing larger and larger.
- Another 75 baskets, this time for Christmas, will be assembled Sunday and distributed Monday.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

- Hector Hernandez's Parish Council term ends this month, and Chris Murphy steps in in January.

- The Listening Session subcommittee will meet one more time before the next step, which is examining the main points from the Listening Session in greater detail so as to come up with an action plan.
- The possibility of changing the day of the Parish Council meeting will be postponed until next year.
- The suggestion was raised that adult altar servers could be used when youth are not available. Who will train the adults? Schedule? How will that blend with youth altar servers? This will also be discussed at the upcoming AFF meeting.

Other Business

Discussion ensued about whether there should once again be an 8 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve in addition to the 5 o'clock Mass with the pageant. Mass attendance numbers have dwindled, and the Sunday Mass is not full. Will that mean that there will be two Christmas Masses with dishearteningly light participation? Will the choir be available? Ushers? A Lector? Eucharistic Minister? Altar Servers? It was decided to give it a try and hope for the best.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

The Financial Report for the parish will probably be available for the bulletin in mid-January. A meeting will then be scheduled the following weekend with the Finance Committee present should any parishioners wish to discuss the report in greater detail.

The meeting closed at 7:25 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti