



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – February 14, 2022*

**Elected Members Present:** Christine Forbes, Julie Laurenzi, Beth Schick, Michael McGovern, Rosa Gonzalez, Pam Vogt, Peter Adams and Hector Hernandez

**Elected Members Absent:** None

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm. and Deacon Carl Locatelli

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Deacon Michael McCabe

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:47 p.m.**

**The minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2022, were accepted.**

### **Old Business**

Parish Council members took time last month outside of the January meeting to review the Constitution. There were no comments or suggested revisions. However, if a Constitutional question arises during the year, it can be addressed then.

### **Administration & Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

### **Education and Faith Formation**

- Neither Religious Education or Adult Faith Formation had anything to report.

### **Christian Services**

Pam Vogt, the coordinator of Christian Services, reviewed the ministry pamphlet that was prepared before COVID-19. It will need to be updated.

She then commented on the current ministries:

- The **Prayer Chain** is a well-oiled machine.
- The **Prayer Blanket Ministry**, in which Rosa Gonzalez is a participant, met Friday to restock the dwindling supply. There were a number of volunteers who did not show up. However, there is a date in March for the Confirmation candidates to make blankets with the core group of volunteers, and a bake sale is also scheduled in March to generate funds for supplies.

- **Repasts** after funerals have continued. But rather than using the kitchen and serving the family in Deacon John Hall after Mass, volunteers have been dropping off food to be delivered to the family.
- **Helping Hearts** has not received any names of parishioners in need of a check-in call. Pam asked volunteers to reach out to people that they knew personally whom they haven't seen in a while.
- **Consolation Ministry** organized the Memorial Mass in November and continues to connect with parishioners who have suffered a loss
- **Food Pantry** has been lively. Thanks to the Food Bank and recent food drives, it has not only been able to meet the growing need but supply a greater variety of foods.
- **Holiday Baskets** and the **Giving Tree** are seasonal.
- **Arimatheans**, who serve as greeters at funeral Masses, fortunately have not been called upon in months.
- **Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound**: It was decided that this group should fall under the auspices of Christian Services.

Discussion ensued about how to get the word out as to what is offered at St. Paul's. Some parishioners might find themselves in need of some of these services; others might be interested in volunteering. It was decided that the updated brochure would be included with a mailing about "Back to Church Weekend."

### Social Activities

There are many potentials:

- A Fish Fry on a Friday in Lent.
- A picnic in the Town of Crawford Park in June.
- Something for St. Patrick's Day – although it's getting a little late to plan.
- Rick Dzurilla will be baking cookies with the Confirmation candidates for the bake sale.

### Worship and Spiritual Life

- About 10 kids have been participating in the Youth Ministry's virtual meeting on Thursday evenings, which include a discussion topic, games and Scripture sharing. They are planning in-person meetings, including the return of Friday Night Live. Also being tossed around are potential community outreach opportunities, and participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program, the Circleville Fourth of July parade, the Fall Harvest Festival, a talent show, caroling and hiking when the weather is cooperative.
- It was requested that Youth Ministry contact info appear on the cover of the bulletin.
- Discussion ensued about the potential need for Eucharistic Ministers again at Mass, particularly if a deacon isn't present or if attendance grows.

### Art and Environment

The Christmas volunteers have stepped back. The Religious Education duo – Jessica Carpino and Kim Porpora – will take over for Easter.

### **Chairperson's Report - Christine Forbes**

- The mask mandate has ended, although people shouldn't hesitate to wear them if they wish. However, it was decided that masks will continue to be **required** to watch Mass in Deacon John Hall, and a sign stating that will be posted again.
- What about streamers? While there's usually no one in the hall on Saturdays, 10 people watched Mass from home last Saturday, and a total of 55 for the weekend. Is this encouraging people not to come to Mass? Some parishes are moving toward one streamed Mass, typically on Sunday. This can be revisited when we return to three Masses. For now, it will remain as it's been.

### **Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean**

- Bill and Tricia Sullivan have joined the Finance Council, so it is now up to speed in terms of the number of members.
- Help might be needed with Synod meetings, which are supposed to take place on Saturdays. The Synod process started in October, and other dioceses have had lots of meetings. Our Archdiocese seems to be behind the eight ball, and the documents it supplied regarding the process are confusing. It's even unclear as to how many meetings will be scheduled or in what format. The Parish Council pledged its support.
- Now that the mask mandate is lifted, beginning the first Sunday in Lent, there will be three Masses once again at St. Paul's to give people every opportunity to return to church to prepare for Easter. This is experimental. If there is no significant increase in numbers of those in attendance as well as volunteers (particularly greeters and streamers), not only will the liturgy suffer, but there will be no choice but to return to two Masses after Easter. For the time being, all three Masses will be streamed – presuming we have the volunteers.
- There will be more singing during Mass, and on Easter, the “Gloria” will be sung as well. A full celebration of Holy Week is planned, with some modifications such as bowing at the cross on Good Friday rather than kissing it. Sharing a sign of peace, receiving communion in two species and filling the holy water fonts are still on hold as per the Archdiocese.

**The meeting closed at 8:09 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**