



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – May 14, 2024

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

Elected Members Absent: Marisa Block and Joan Miller

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow and Deacon Carl Locatelli

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe and Mark Carson

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

- The quote from Val Bruni Plumbing & Heating to move the gas lines for the stoves is \$2,100. New pipes cannot be run straight up from the existing location of the valves because not everyone could reach across the griddle to access the knob. Instead, piping would have to be installed along the back wall behind the stoves and griddle and then up the wall adjacent to the door that opens into the East Wing. Given how infrequently the stoves are used, this expenditure is not warranted at this time – although it could be revisited sometime down the road.
- Parishioner Ray Andidero, a carpenter with more than 40 years' experience, will look at the front doors. If he is unable to repair them, then replacement will have to be considered, which could be in the neighborhood of \$7,000. Funds could be earmarked in the next budget for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.
- Although seemingly an easy request by the repast crew to have a wireless speaker installed in the kitchen so they can hear a funeral Mass while the food is prepared, it has baffled the security company that installed all our cameras and WiFi, as well as our in-house livestream experts. Their best suggestion was to have someone use

their phone and livestream the funeral as one would any Mass.

Education and Faith Formation

- Ten children made their First Holy Communion last Saturday.
- Religious Education Reregistration is next Monday and Wednesday evenings. New registrations will be done by appointment throughout the summer. The fees are the same as last year. Some changes/updates:
 - Classes for Grades 1-3 will take place Sunday mornings. Jessica Carpino will serve as a third-grade catechist and continue to oversee the sacramental retreats as she did when she was coordinator.
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word will also continue on Sundays. A short explanation of something about the Mass or something seen on the altar will be included in the session and be repeated on the Keynotes that the children take home to their families. The Keynotes have always had questions for first- and second-graders to answer and return the following Sunday. Third-graders will now be included. There are alternatives for families who can only attend Mass on Saturdays.
 - Classes for fourth through eighth grades will continue on Wednesday evenings. With just those five grades, there will be no need to use the kitchen, and there will be an extra classroom for parent meetings.
 - A number of parents have stepped forward to teach and assist in other tasks. Parents will also be more involved in the formation of their child.
- The next Following Christ is this Saturday, the retreat. There is no meeting Memorial Day Weekend, and the series concludes on June 9.
- The Sunday Scripture Study will continue through the summer.
- Youth Ministry updates:
 - Five kids attended the basketball night on May 10, and then headed inside for more games
 - A highway cleanup is planned for June
 - SPYM will once again participate in Circleville's Fourth of July parade
 - An Acrylic Paint Pour with Anne Savastano is planned for July 27. Tarps are put down. There are two canvas-size options (\$5 or \$7) that would be supplied. And the kids take home some really cool artwork.
 - An evening of fun with water balloons is envisioned for sometime in August.

Christian Services

- The Food Pantry continues to serve an average of 25 families a month, including several parishioner families who remain anonymous. That translates to about 100 people – with an increase in senior females needing food – and not every family uses the pantry consistently. Our pantry is made known through a combination of word of mouth and the Food Bank listing. Although it is a ministry funded through parishioners' earmarked donations and free food through the Food Bank, we keep an eye on its growth as storage and resources are not unlimited.
- There will be more angels, perhaps as many as 160, available on the Giving Tree next season.
- There were two funerals last month, as well as another new parishioner who lost her husband, although he was not buried from St. Paul's. The Consolation Ministry has reached out to all three grieving families.

Social Activities

Nothing to report.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

As encouraged by Pope Francis' Synod, a small committee (Deacon Carl, Gale Britto, Julie Laurenzi and Pat Davies) met with Fr. Sean to design Listening Sessions to take place at St. Paul's.

- The first meeting will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 9 (after the 10 o'clock Mass).
- The Listening Session will be announced, as well as appear in the bulletin next Sunday. For planning purposes, there will be signup sheets with a tear-off portion in the pews. Those interested in participating should return the form, on which there will also be a spot to indicate interest in acting as a facilitator or notetaker.
- Participants will be broken into small groups, with a facilitator and notetaker at each table.
- There will be questions published beforehand for people to ponder, i.e., "What does it mean to be heard?" "How would you like to be heard in the parish."
- There will be guidelines for the facilitators to follow to keep things moving, such as no cross-talking and no more than five or six minutes for each person to speak so that one person does not dominate a table.

- Nametags and light refreshments will be provided.
- There will be a follow-up Listening Session, perhaps in August.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

We might need to do some repairs to the front entrance sidewalk, and should we be considering the installation of a ramp?

Right now, the East Wing entrance is accessible for those with mobility issues. Would a sign be helpful?

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 7 p.m. via Zoom because the church parking lot will be seal coated that week.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti