



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – October 11, 2021

Elected Members Present: Christine Forbes, Deborah Harrison, Pam Vogt and Peter Adams

Elected Members Absent: Ross Terranova, Kevin Green, Rosa Gonzalez and Patricia Davies

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Jessica Carpino, Religious Education coordinator

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

The minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2021, were accepted.

Jessica Carpino then addressed the Parish Council:

- Can the Advent Family Wreath-Making event take place this year? Twenty-five families could be accommodated in two sessions. Immediate families would sit together at tables that were spaced three feet apart. The cost would be minimal, but the boost to morale would be priceless. The Parish Council agreed. Advent wreaths will be made at noon and 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 28, the First Sunday of Advent.
- Shannan Hilario has been recruited to head the Art & Environment ministry.
- Fire drills for the Religious Education students took place on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. All went well.

Administration & Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education & Faith Formation

Nothing further to report.

Christian Services

- Holiday Basket preparations are in full swing. There will be a bulletin insert this weekend to remind parishioners of the items needed, which can be brought to the store as they shop. There are also large posters in the church vestibules delineating those items. Managers at Hannaford and ShopRite have been approached for donations again this year, verbally and in writing. Turkeys won't go on sale until mid-November and will probably be accompanied by a limit of two per customer. This is where the "turkey run," which made its debut last year, will become valuable once again. Friends and family will be dispersed to stores during the course of several days to acquire as many sale-priced birds as possible.
- There is a notable change in Food Bank offerings. During the summer, the inventory seemed almost limitless – especially in terms of the more expensive options that were free, such as cheeses and meats. Lately, the more popular items have not been available. The free items are always our first choice because the for-purchase goods are not always less expensive than at a grocery store.

Social Activities

The Dzurillas are looking at the logistics of a take-away Thanksgiving dinner. While some would probably prefer to stay and eat, between social distancing and the number of volunteers required (especially if there was more than one seating), take-out is the way to go this year should some sort of meal be offered.

Worship & Spiritual Life

The inaugural snack-and-chat strictly for high-schoolers went well, with 10 in attendance and another four who had wanted to attend but weren't able to at the last minute. The second annual Family Harvest Festival featuring a trunk-or-treat will take place Friday, October 29, and will be advertised in the bulletin. Finally, with Chris Worthington and Deb Harrison, who are at the helm of the Youth Ministry, teaching sixth-grade Religious Education, the ministry is picking up speed because sixth-graders are eligible to participate.

Art & Environment

A liaison will be assigned next month.

Chairperson's Report – Christine Forbes

- Between online and paper nominations, we had 13. Parish Council expectations were made clear to the nominees at the time they were contacted regarding their nomination. There were three declines and several from whom a final decision is awaited. Given the number – and there hasn't been this many candidates in a long time – there definitely will be an election (with one seat for a single year). Photos and bios will be posted as soon as possible.
- Along with in-person voting, an online option should be made available – and what

about mail-in? That might be more convenient for shut-ins who aren't computer savvy. Parishioners will be advised through the bulletin and website to contact the office if online or in person isn't convenient.

- Elections are the weekend of November 6-7. The online link will be opened that week.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

- We need a special meeting of the Reopening Committee to discuss the Celebration of the Eucharist – and the possible return to two Masses – as well as church activities. Available Parish Council members are welcome to join.
- The Pine Bush Community Band reached out regarding its annual holiday concert, but it's not the right time yet for that many people to be crowded into the church. And while an outdoor concert has potential – not in late November. The band does look forward to us continuing to host its performances, and they'll reach out again in the spring. I pray we're in a much better place then.

The meeting closed at 7:34 p.m. with prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti