



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting –November 14, 2022

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

Elected Members Absent: Rosa Gonzalez

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: Rick Dzurilla

The meeting began with prayer at 6:50 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2022, were accepted.

Follow up on Coffee Socials based on last month's meeting:

There was some ambiguity regarding Coffee Socials during the holidays. If convenient with Rick Dzurilla, the weekend of December 3-4 is good, and the first weekend in January will be considered as January 7-8, not December 31-January 1.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

This is a busy time of year for Religious Education:

- On October 21, the Family Movie Night featured the Disney film "Coco," and on December 9, the film will be "The Grinch" - with freshly-popped popcorn at each.
- First Reconciliation takes place the evening of November 16.
- The Confirmation Class will make Prayer Blankets with Rebecca Suchy's team on Friday evening, November 18. Blankets will be blessed at the Masses that weekend.
- There are enough supplies for 45 families to participate in Advent Wreath-Making

the afternoon of November 27, the first Sunday of Advent.

- The second Children's Mass is scheduled for December 11.
- The Nativity Story will be presented Friday evening, December 16. And although RE students will read Scriptures, accompanied by their families, everyone is welcome. Participants will bring their favorite Christmas cookies.

Christian Services

- Holiday basket time is in full swing. Thanksgiving boxes will be assembled this Sunday, November 20, and distributed the following Monday. The Ministry Fair was very helpful in finding new volunteers to help with the process – including shopping.
- There is a funeral Mass here on Friday, which opens to the door to the question of repasts. Are we ready to resume sit-down repasts in the hall? Or do we continue providing food that is dropped off with the family?

Social Activities

The Senior Thanksgiving Dinner takes place this Saturday. About 78 guests will be served, which is a comfortable number.

Worship and Spiritual Life

The Harvest Festival on November 23 was fun for all, and the Youth Ministry has a few ideas percolating for December.

Art and Environment

Jessica and Kim have it all under control.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- The numbers of volunteers aren't all calculated yet; however, there were fewer volunteers for the Saturday Mass in general, and some ministries, such as Christian Services, did much better than others.
 - Seven new Arimatheans signed up, and there is a Stop the Bleed class scheduled for November 28.
 - Andy and Allison Britto stepped up to coordinate the altar servers. Seven new children signed up – although it's still just Ephraim on Saturday.
 - All of the ministry coordinators will be contacted and the numbers of volunteers for each will appear in the bulletin.
- There were 120 ballots cast in the Parish Council elections. Kate Gallaher-Carson, Gale Britto and Anne Savastano were elected and will participate in the December meeting.
- The Memorial Mass was beautiful There were 20 lit votives across the altar

representing deceased loved ones. Quite emotional!

- A discussion ensued regarding the streaming. Deb Harrison has provided a lengthy and detailed proposal. There is a donation to cover the equipment so there will be no cost to the church.
 - YouTube is not an option because of the minimum number of viewers required. Twitch seems to be the best option.
 - There is no doubt we have to upgrade equipment as the Twitch app won't work with a phone. Streaming will definitely be improved, but there are still no guarantees, with upgraded equipment.
 - Should streaming only one Mass be considered because there is only one person to set up on Saturdays, which isn't fair? Also, that might encourage people to return to church.
 - Where should the equipment be placed? There was a glitch last week when someone accidentally knocked the plug out of the laptop. So screwed into the wall? There's a beautiful view from the balcony, but the acoustics don't work.
 - Fr. Sean has given the OK to purchase the hardware and to go with whatever platform the expert deems best.
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- The Pine Bush Community Band will perform Monday evening, November 28.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Fr. Sean has asked Maxine to prepare a simplified financial report, which she hopes to have done by the end of November. When he spoke to Sal Lucido about the letter from the Finance Council that we discussed last month, it became clear that much of the confusion results from the fact that there was no context for the letter. It was decided it made sense to announce the increased giving campaign with the financial report so people could see what the problems are. Thereafter, Sal could focus on the WeShare campaign.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the timing of this presentation – in December or after the New Year? Should it be done before Christmas when people are feeling generous, have received bonuses, etc.? But if the situation is that dire, shouldn't parishioners know sooner rather than later?. But then there's the perception that we're always asking for money – or worse, that parishioners might be alarmed during a joyful time of year.

No decision was made. Fr. Sean will discuss it further with the Finance Committee.

The meeting closed at 7:47 p.m. with prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, December 12, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti