



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – October 10, 2023

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

Elected Members Absent: Tom Fobert and Michael McGovern

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow and Peg Hoblin

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

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

The minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2023, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

- Income and expenses are basically what had been predicted budget-wise, so we are in good shape right now. However, the parking lot will have to be sealed and striped after winter, and beforehand, there will be snow removal to contend with. A mild winter would be most welcome.
- Sal Lucido is working on how and when to distribute the gift certificates that were donated as a WeShare incentive in the increased-giving campaign.
- There has not even been an inquiry about the Religious Education coordinator position. Jessica, Peg and four others are holding it together, but this is not a long-term solution.

Education and Faith Formation

- Nothing to report with regard to Religious Education.
- The first five sessions of Discovering Christ have been completed, and the retreat is

this weekend. Afterward, there are two more sessions. Participants have been very generous with goodwill donations; the food costs have been covered.

Fr. Sean commented that he's very happy with what the program is doing. As he has moved from table to table, he has noticed how much richer the discussions have become and that friendships are forming.

Christian Services

- The holiday basket season nears and the organizational process has begun.
- The Giving Tree will be live this year, the weekend of November 11 and 12.

Social Activities

The Senior Thanksgiving Dinner will take place after Mass on Saturday, November 18. It is for seniors only – although no one enforces the definition of a “senior” – and at no cost for parishioners. Parishioners can bring a guest; the guest ticket is \$10.

There will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner, and perhaps an international dinner in January.

Worship and Spiritual Life

The Youth Ministry is planning:

- Online Scripture discussions to begin October 16.
- A Harvest Festival on October 27.
- And to assist with the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner.

Art and Environment

Anne Savastano, the new coordinator, will be meeting with Jessica Carpino, the former coordinator, to discuss Christmas decorating details.

Archangels

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- Anne Savastano is moving full steam ahead with the Ministry Fair. Tables will be sprinkled throughout the hall (with tables for the Prayer Blanket Ministry Bake Sale in the center). Some ministries will have an individual table; others will be grouped. Along with displays that describe the ministry, whenever possible there will be a representative to talk about it. Not every ministry needs a volunteer right now, but those that do will be highlighted. In general, the Saturday Mass has the greatest need for volunteers. Finally, follow-up will be ensured for those who do sign up.

- We do not need to hold Parish Council elections this year as each of the three nominees is willing to serve. The new members are Joan Miller, Jim Lancellotti and Marisa Block. The new members will join the December meeting but are not official until January.
- The Parish Council will resume meeting via Zoom next month through the winter. It was agreed that because of frequent Monday holidays, and Monday is also Fr. Sean's day off, that meetings will now take place on Tuesdays. And it was agreed that the time will be changed from 6:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. In-person meetings can be considered again when the days become longer and the threat of snow and ice has passed.
- Planning is underway for the annual Memorial Mass on Saturday, November 4, (the first Saturday in November). There are a lot of details to cover. Peter and Liz are working on the list of names to read and the accompanying pamphlet. A time of fellowship will follow.

Vicar's Report

Nothing to report.

Other Business

Hector Hernandez brought up the importance of the Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound. He and Gail Van Tassel brought the Eucharist to Deacon John at Campbell Hall Rehabilitation Center. He was so happy to see Gail and held her hand the entire time.

The meeting closed at 7:15 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti