



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – October 8, 2024

Elected Members Present: Gale Britto, Julie Laurenzi, Joan Miller, Anne Savastano, Kate Galleher-Carson and Marisa Block

Elected Members Absent: Beth Schick, Hector Hernandez and Jim Lancellotti

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Tony Mazzeo

The meeting began with prayer at 7 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2024 were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

- The 2024-2025 Religious Education year has begun:
 - Catechists were blessed at Mass on September 15. Deb Hilgenfeldt was honored for 35 years of teaching and Patty Brooks for 30.
 - Classes for Grades 4-8 began Wednesday, September 18, along with the 8th Grade Confirmation Enrollment.
 - With classes for Grades 1-3 on Sunday, Children's Liturgy of the Word attendance has skyrocketed as compared to last year. There were 36 children on the first day of class and more than 30 participants the following two Sundays.
 - The kitchen and classroom 5 are being used as parent breakrooms for

those who wish to stay while their children are in session. The hope is that community will be built.

- Peg has met with Dennis Branham, the Archangels coordinator, to discuss the annual fire drill and related matters.
- The Faith Sharing group led by Pat Davies, Sunday Scripture Study, the Book Club and the third in the ChristLife series are now in full swing.
- The Youth Ministry's annual Harvest Festival was well attended. There were 12 decorated cars with trunks filled with treat. And about 50 people of all ages wandered in and out throughout the evening, which opened with a blessing of animals. About 12 dogs and one lizard were present to mark fall as well as the feast day of St. Francis.

Christian Services

- Jessica Lancellotti's Funeral Mass was September 24, followed by a Repast. Her mother's eulogy and Fr. Sean's homily were particularly moving.
- The Bereavement program begins October 26, and the Memorial Mass is scheduled for November 2.
- The Bake Sale for the Prayer Blanket Ministry is scheduled for October 26. Blankets will be made with the Confirmation candidates on Friday, November 1, with the blessing of the blankets to take place that weekend.
- The Giving Tree will be offering 175 angels this year – from the Orange County Department of Social Services, St. Simon Stock and options for siblings through the Children's Home in Orange County. They will be distributed on November 17 after the 10 a.m. Mass and then on November 23 after the 5 p.m. Mass. Gifts are due back by December 15.

Social Activities

- The parish picnic on September 15 was a great success. About 90 parishioners enjoyed a day filled with sun, fun and food. St. Paul's and Helen Schwarting split the 50/50 – with each receiving \$135. The Youth Ministry organized games, and volleyball was a huge hit.
- The Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, open to registered parishioners who own up to being "seniors," will be served after Mass on Saturday, November 23. The guest ticket is \$10, just like last year. Confirmation candidates and the Youth Ministry will help serve the traditional meal, which begins with appetizers and ends with a plethora of desserts. The ChristLife retreat is the same day. However, participants will be able to attend the retreat and then enjoy the dinner.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

The Christmas ordering process has begun with poinsettias from Laurel Grove. The bows were saved from last year's wreaths, and there is a list of volunteers to help with the decorating.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

- The second Listening Session is scheduled for October 20. For the first session, some parishioners responded, others just showed up. I am looking forward to as many people this time.
- Parish Council elections will take place the last weekend of October, along with the Bake Sale. Rick's team will ensure there is coffee and water. The nominees are Julie Laurenzi, Beth Schick, Chris Murphy and Tony Mazzeo.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing to report.

Other Business

The Rosary Team is growing. It started at Carlucci's Home, on the upper floor of the bilevel-style residence where the women are higher functioning. It has been very meaningful for them. Last week, the team also said the Rosary with downstairs residents. One woman, whom they thought was asleep, grabbed the rosary beads and began mouthing the prayers. There is a team that also visits Campell Hall Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and that has been well-attended.

This ministry will appear in the bulletin as a "Spotlight," which will hopefully attract a few more Rosary Team members.

The meeting closed at 7:25 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti