



# SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## St. Lawrence Church Parish Council Meeting November 30, 2023

**Members present:** Fr. Joe DeCosta, Donna Lebert, Melissa Ferrara, Karen Shea, Bob Demarini, Lou Hosking, Dawn Walczak

Others in attendance: Al Karg, John Kuzminski

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with a welcome from Donna Lebert and a prayer from Fr. Joe. All council members in attendance previously read and reviewed the minutes from the last meeting, which was sent via email. The minutes were approved as presented. Melissa Ferrara's last day on the Council is today, we thank her for all of her time and contributions over the many years. A motion was made by Donna Lebert to vote Regan Cutillo onto the Council as recording secretary and Melissa Ferrara seconded it.

### Ministry Committee Reports:

- **Liturgy:** There is one person who recently inquired for the music minister position. He has previously played at St. Lawrence during funerals. He, John L, has stated he won't be free until after the school year ends (June 2024) when he plans to retire as a teacher and he also currently plays for some Masses for St. Pio. He will be at St. Lawrence in 2 weeks, for the Christmas concert, which would be a great time for him to meet our Choir members. It was suggested that Fr. Joe asks him to start playing at some Masses sooner. Fr. Joe said he will still need to set up a formal interview. We appreciate that Tom and Nancy are continuing to fill in. Donna Lebert wants to make sure that Tom and Nancy are updated and she, or Fr. Joe, will discuss it with them the next time they see them. The Indeed posting was taken down for now but the application is still on the Yale School of Music site. The previous person that was scheduled for an interview was a no show. All Souls Day was a nice service organized by Margaret Whiteman. Advent/Christmas plans- Trying to get families to sign up to light the Advent candles at masses. Lighting should be after intentions and before mass begins. It will be determined if Eucharistic Minister/lectors will be asked to communicate/organize with families. The Christmas Concert is planned for 12/10 at 2 pm.
  - The Christmas Pageant will take place at the Christmas eve 4 pm Mass. Julie Loin will organize the pageant (a flier will be published and added with a future Church bulletin).
  - Father Joe stated he would like to start a monthly staff meeting (Father Marty, the Deacons, Music staff and Eileen) to improve communication. He said he would organize this. There is still still no movement on resurrecting the Liturgy Committee.

- **Finance:** No formal update was submitted. Father Joe reported we are currently in the black. He also stated that the Bishop mentioned the lawsuit status has been extended until March. He has not yet been notified if we would need to be asked to provide funds for the attorney fees.
- **CCD:** No formal update from Diana. Confirmation went very well, 26 students were confirmed. Next year's class is currently 5-6 students from St. Lawrence and 10-11 from St. Peter. Fr. Joe mentioned that Bishop Cote is planning to retire in June.
- **TIA:** Currently there are 32 members, 6 just joined this year! 9 TIA members were of the teens confirmed in November. October 28th TIA helped at Sweets for saints. November: November 5-16th TIA members and 4 adults helped winterize & clean up The Sacred Heart retreat center in Higganum. CHWC fundraisers: November 18th 4 TIA members & 3 adults helped at the St. Peter's Christmas Fair selling religious jewelry. December: December 2nd TIA will be helping at the St. Lawrence Christmas fair & selling religious jewelry. December 2-3rd TIA will be selling religious jewelry after all 3 masses. The Christmas party will be on 12/22 and next meeting is 12/3. The TIA has adopted a family (4 boys) 14/13/9/8 from HKYFS, gifts are due December 8th. CHWC Trip Wilmington, DE July 14-20 \$425 for each camper.
- **Healing Ministry:** Alice Lucas submitted a report- The stations and Mary's statue have been covered for the winter. Plans for making this area a welcoming and peaceful area starting in the Spring. Our St. Anthony statue has disappeared from the garden. White and about 18" tall and an important part of our plans for the future of the garden. Please be on the look-out.
- **Hospitality:** Sign up for greeters last weekend did not have a good outcome. Bob Vissers working on creating an online sign up and reminder tool.
- **Stewardship:** Not aware of any meetings.
- **Plant & Facilities:** As previously discussed there is an issue with the Hood fire suppression system access hatch (where technicians need to get in to service the system). The technician mentioned that the access should be changed. John K received one quote for \$3,000 to move the system to provide easier access. John determined that a different option would be to remove the current unused blower vent, outside of the rest rooms, and utilize that area for access. Price for that option will need to be quoted but is expected to be much cheaper than moving the suppression system. For now, the system has been serviced and the kitchen is open. No updates on the clearing of the trees near the electrical lines from Route 81 to the hall and rectory. Donna Lebert mentioned that the yardwork to the right of the Unborn area that was cleaned up looks great. Joe Vitalie has removed the St. Lawrence sign and Carol Pleines is restoring it. Eileen B received a quote to replace the center floor section of tile in the hall. The vendor also stated that there is no asbestos in the glue but did not officially test it. The Council is recommending a second quote as it seemed very high and to have the glue tested for asbestos. There is no possibility of doing a layover for

flooring. Eileen B also attained a quote for the Church Doors to replace the two doors near the altar and only weather stripping the front double doors. Donna L is working with a different carpenter to quote the door replacements. That contractor stated that it was not worth repairing the altar doors as it would only last a year or two. Donna will send the first quote to Deacon Bob for his review.

**Website/Communications:** Bob Vissers will be asked to revise the website with the Parish council member changes.

**Suggestion Box** – nothing in the suggestion box

**Old Business:**

- How long will the Friday prayer group last? Donna to follow up with Fr. Marty
- Organ repair – on hold
- Child advocate for safe environments open position.
- Sound system: Eileen will be asked to contact the sound system vendor. Fr Joe stated that not only the Narthex speakers aren't working but neither are the Chapel speakers. The Council still feels that there is a problem with the microphone at the ambo and the position of the speakers. Fr. Joe said someone has been adjusting the controls which is causing issues. A suggestion is to leave the system locked all the time but there doesn't seem to be proper ventilation to leave it on all the time.
- Liturgy and bereavement committees? n/a
- Christmas Fair 12/1 and 12/2.

**New Business:** NA

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm with a prayer by Fr Joe.

The next Parish Council meeting will be **January 25, 2024 at 7 pm** in the parish hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Regan Cutillo, Secretary