

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 4, 2025

ATTENDED: Flavia Feltner, Liz Hackett, Jim Whiteman, Red McDowell, Joe Bonacci, Lisa McLeod, Nancy New, Lori Tisdale, Father Rafael Ghattas, Trudy Edgington, Mike Niermann, Fran Cummings, Bill New, Deacon Bob Jones

NOT ATTENDED: Karen Durand

Opening prayer: Father Rafa

1. Liturgical Notes - Deacon Bob

- a. Don't Move the Book of the Gospel if Deacon is absent
- b. NOT called host - they are called altar bread
- c. Nudge Ambo - Leaving the chairs on either side of the door.
- d. Bill New will add these notes to the next lector schedule
- e. Altar servers will have bells separate from the daily mass bell
- f. Bells don't need to be rung too long - just ring once.
- g. No room for a wheelchair at mass - need to clear out chairs to make room
- h. Bulletins will be given out at the beginning of each mass.
- i. Starting in Advent - We will no longer use hymnals, we will buy an annual one license subscription for access to hymns and put a weekly insert into each bulletin
- j. Eucharistic ministers are to always come up each week even when Deacon Bob is in attendance

2. Ushers

- a. The size of our congregations has increased so we need to utilize pews to the maximum capacity. To do this we need Ushers to seat people and fill the pews. The idea would be to appoint a coordinator to recruit, schedule and advise three teams of Ushers.
- b. Jim Whiteman has been appointed the Usher Coordinator - We will put a notice in the next few bulletins looking for Ushers.
- c. Ushers to Greet, Seat, Hand out Bulletins and handle the collection.

3. 100 Years. Our church turns 100 years old in 2029. What should we consider at this point?

- a. The church will be 100 years old in 4 years.
- b. Tents/ Picnic, Mass Outside, Photo Parishioner Directory
- c. A committee needs to be created
- d. Piece of memorabilia to sell or give away - Bracelet "Dare to be 100"

4. #I Give Catholic for St. John Church. What will we raise funds for and what is our goal?

- a. What is our goal?
- b. What do we want to raise money for?
- c. \$10K goal
- d. Put in bulletin
- e. Need a committee
- f. Parish Growth
- g. Write a letter of why we need the money.

5. Volunteer appreciation event. We talked about this a year ago but never did anything.

- a. Hold off until the bathroom is done
- b. Thanksgiving week meal - after 11 am mass Sunday before Thanksgiving November 21

6. School Report

- a. Ms. Karen will be speaking at mass on August 2 and 3 about our Adopt-a-Student program. Grants for many of our students were wait-listed because the state reached the cap quickly. Families that were counting on this grant won't have it, so the school will need to fundraise to help those families stay. This grant is for families below the poverty line.
- b. August 3rd, Father will be blessing students heading back to school. Following the 11am mass, Ms. Karen will be distributing yearbooks and would like to encourage people to stay and socialize.
- c. August 5th, teachers return and will end the week with a retreat with Brother Ed. Father Rafa will end our time with mass and a blessing for our team.
- d. August 9th is the school's Open House from 10-12 for returning families and 9:30-12 for new Families.
- e. August 11th and 12th school begins just for our First Steps K4 class from 8-11. Our whole school begins on Wednesday, August 13th.
- f. August 25th Ms. Karen's father is getting a pacemaker. Please keep him in our prayers along with our teachers and students returning to school. Also, please pray that Ms. Karen leads the school in the way that God wants her to.
- g. Sainly Singers will be singing once a month Starting in January

7. Maintenance Report

- a. Status of Hall bathroom
 - i. Bathroom is still in progress. Hall has been marked as busy until mid-July
- b. Rectory Hot water on-demand - this will be looked at again when diocese renovates the rectory. Father meets with the diocese on August 9.
- c. Pilot Light - leave on from now on
- d. Hall damaged gutter and fascia. Gutter repair is \$350; cost to install new fascia is \$1200 - Total is around \$1500.
- e. Sidewalk repairs - front of Parish Hall, grind down near the rectory
- f. Confessional room soundproofing - found the leak - where the window is near the loft stairs
- g. Church ductwork cleaning and encapsulating - hasn't been cleaned in a very long time.
 - i. Father meeting with insurance company and will speak to them about fixing it.
 - ii. Mike is working on quotes for ductwork replacement.
 - iii. Quotes between \$5 - \$12 K for replacement (Possible #igc?)
- h. When is the next round of Grants?

8. Fellowship

- a. When is our next church dinner/breakfast?
 - i. Beer and Wine social after 5pm mass on Saturday
 - ii. **Scheduled for November 1 after 5pm mass.**
- b. Bishop England has armies of about 20 students that can make/serve food, clean, build, paint, repair and lawn care. If we need them for 2 hours, they will send juniors. If we need them for 4 hours, they will send seniors and BE staff will supervise. Do our kitchens need cleaned/organized? Does anything need painted, raked or trimmed? Does the Ladies Guild need anything? Mike, what property assistance could you use?
 - i. Mike to send powerpoint to Father with ideas

9. Next Meeting: Meetings will be on the 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise stated. The next meeting will be on Sunday, August 24 at 9:30 am in Flavia's classroom in the school.

Closing Prayer: Father Rafa

10. OTHER/ TO DO:

- a. Christmas Concert
 - i. Fran suggested opening front doors for line to be inside.
- b. #igivecatholic - thinking to the future
 - i. biggest challenge is not enough voice - need someone to lead this.
 - ii. better preparation needed
 - iii. small videos of "why you love Saint John Church"
 - iv. Plan early, schedule early, videos early
 - v. paper checks are better than giving online
 - vi. work on schedule and marketing over the summer
 - vii. give out IGC envelopes at mass