

St. Teresa of Calcutta
Parish Council Minutes
May 15, 2025

Present: Father Peter, Rob Parkerson (President), Lisa Murphy-Cipolla (Vice-President), Cindy Niedbala (Secretary), Claire LaCourse, Joyce Leach, John Paholski,

Present on Zoom: Cathy Cooke, Angela Paholski, Regina Wiegert

Absent: Mike Baldi, Robert Healey, Cathy Jenkins (Trustee), Deacon Bill Kaiser, Deacon Larry Money Penny, Anne Marie Smith (Trustee),

Opening Prayer

Father Peter opened the meeting with prayer at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Upon review of the April minutes, Regina Wiegert motioned to approve. Lisa Murphy-Cipolla seconded. Unanimous approval.

Car Show

Father Peter reported on the success of the Car Show, stating that 50 cars were on display. The rainy weather of the morning deterred more cars from participating; however, by early afternoon, many spectators attended the event. Specifics regarding revenue from the day were not available.

Columbarium

Father Peter presented the Parish Council with a plan to have a columbarium built on the grounds of the St. Joseph Church cemetery, as the cemetery is filling up with the number of available ground plots. Father sought direction from the Diocese and was granted permission to have a columbarium built. The columbarium is a structure that would hold cremated remains of loved ones. The proposed structure will hold 48 niches, allowing for a maximum of two urns per niche. The proposed plan calls for three structures to be built on the church grounds. Father reported that he currently has one of three bids available for consideration. More information about the costs and proposals will be available at the next Parish Council meeting.

Memorial Day Mass

Father Peter reported that the Memorial Day Mass will be held at St. Joseph Church cemetery on Sunday, May 25 at 10 a.m. Mike Joia is arranging for the chairs for the attendants.

Ministry Update

Father Peter explained a ministries meeting was held six weeks ago. Since April 26/27, each weekend showcased one of the following ministries: altar society, eucharistic minister/lectors, and altar servers. Father reported that volunteers stepped forward for the altar society (Our Lady of Sorrows-3; St. Joseph Church-2), lectors/eucharistic ministers (Our Lady of Sorrows-3; St. Joseph Church 3). No volunteers for altar servers.

For the Ministry of the Sick, Father will discuss the need for volunteers in the upcoming week. Father will call another Ministry Leaders' Meeting to discuss next steps. He will keep the Parish Council updated at the next meeting.

Old Business

Cindy Niedbala reviewed her idea regarding the possibility of having a social event following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. She noted that Anne Marie Smith would be willing to help plan and coordinate. Cindy commented that the social hour would be considered to begin in September, given the short notice in planning and parishioners being away on summer vacations.

By way of email, Cathy Jenkins reported that the Annual Birthright Rose Sale, held before and after Masses over Mother's Day weekend, was a success. She noted that STOC parishioners donated \$477 and a thank you note with details has been placed in the upcoming bulletin.

New Business

Regina Wiegert shared her optimism regarding the appointments of the new bishop and the new pope. She cited information about the growing numbers of young men returning to the Church. Father Peter concurred with knowledge of dioceses in California with growing numbers. In our own diocese, Father Peter noted that the new vocations director, Father Jeff Ellis, would like to visit parishes to discuss vocations. Father has invited him for October.

Claire LaCourse inquired about having a special prayer for the Pope. Father Peter explained that prayers for the Pope are incorporated in the Mass during the Prayers for the Faithful. Also, he noted that the diocese has not directed any additional prayers for the Pope at the time.

Father Peter made some observations about the growing life of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, with more young families attending Mass, more people coming to confession. Father was asking for ideas on how to create activities to involve the whole parish, specifically ways to bring people together. Council members were asked to brainstorm and bring ideas to the next month's meeting.

Cindy inquired about the possibility of having outdoor Masses during the summer. Father acknowledged that there needs to be something meaningful for having the Mass, such as the Memorial Day Mass. Discussion centered on the pros and cons of the outdoor Mass. Father is opened to having the outdoor Mass in conjunction with the Parish Picnic in the Fall. Sue Feaster is coordinating the Parish Picnic. Father will bring date to the Parish Picnic to next meeting.

Claire reminded the group that the Parish Tag Sale is happening this upcoming Saturday, May 17, 2025. It's part of the townwide Chester Tag Sale. She informed members that baked goods are needed and can be dropped off by 8 a.m. Saturday.

Father Peter proposed a change in starting time for future Parish Council meetings, to begin at 6 p.m. rather than 7 p.m. Members will be polled with the possibility of a time change for the June meeting.

Joyce Leach reported that the Confirmation classes have ended for the school year. She has planned several specific sessions with speakers for the Fall. She asked Father Peter to consider being one of the speakers. He agreed.

Closing Prayer

Father Peter closed the meeting with prayer at 7:43 pm.

The next meeting is Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., in-person at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Murtha Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia (Cindy) Niedbala