

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Council
Meeting Agenda – February 18, 2025, 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Mission Statement

Called to be a real presence of Jesus in the Highlands, The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi joyfully welcomes all, serves those in need, and passes on the gifts we have been given.

Present – Scott U'Sellis, John Weiland, Steve Frommeyer, Alyssa Sohl, Patrick Cornett, Mary Schmidt, Father Jon, Denise Bartholomew, Donna Schmidt, Diane Butler, Jeremy Garris, Jeana Koerber

1. 6:15 Welcome and Opening Prayer

Approved minutes from last meeting – Mary Schmidt – 1st, John Weiland 2nd

2. 6:20 Review of October 2024 meeting minutes

3. 6:25 Updates from Fr. Jon, Scott U'Sellis, and Steve Frommeyer

Father Jon - Fr. Jon informed the parish council of concerns voiced by certain school families. These concerns were communicated to the Archdiocese and focused on perceptions of religious teachings at SFA. Fr. Jon shared the letter from the Archbishop addressed to all school families. Fr. Chandler will be acting as the interim pastoral administrator of the school while Fr. Jon, the Principal and the Archdiocese engage school families to resolve the concerns. Discussion ensued on developing/nurturing relationships with school families and how the specific matter might impact enrollment.

a. Stewardship form

Patrick – Need to get stewardship form out to church. Meg Gregory built a great form to send out. Father Jon – want to make sure we have a way to communicate back to those who signed up for a committee first, before we send out form. Will ask Debbie to be gatekeeper, she will communicate to committees.

Patrick – Meg set up Google form to use electronically.

David – Use online if you can vs. paper form.

Donna – Thinks it's great for heartpaths, can we add volunteer training necessary?

Denise – Some committees aren't on form, some are no longer meeting, need description for what some of the committees are, combine some.

Patrick – Add a disclosure that they can get more information from the committee rather than having to list all info on the form.

Father Jon – Phase 2 can make something accessible online to detail each committee
Need to ask Club 60 if they want to continue coffee and doughnuts

4. 6:45 Committee Updates:

a. Worship Committee – PC Liaisons: **Mary Schmidt**

Mary – Worship committee is very active and fun. Talked about replacing pews, would like to purchase Blessed Mother statue to carry in May procession.

Father Jon – Norman Horlander said he could build a carrier so kids to carry Mary statue during procession

Jeremy – looked at prior PC meeting minutes about music – saw note about Hillsong not being allowed to be played. Thinks it could be played to bring younger people into the church.

Father Jon – Could look at doing different music styles at different Masses to mix things up. Will need to talk to Patrick.

Jeremy – Passionate about music and that could bring in more youth. Lots of families do not come to church and lost their fire.

Steve - Kids resonate with more contemporary music.

Father Jon – recovery is something we always want to do, bring back lapsed brothers and sisters, how do we draw them back? Wants to emphasize on bringing in new families.

David – School families are feeling lost and left out, and don't like that the pivot to welcoming in new families so quickly. We need to put bigger emphasis on school families and bringing them back, not totally on new families.

b. Service Committees (Parish Life and Parish Outreach) – PC Liaison: **Denise Bartholomew**

Denise – Parish outreach has a lot of activity, CLOUT is having annual meeting in April, ecological committee trying to do no plastic at Fish Fry's. Hopefully will get more interest in parish life.

Denise – talked to person who used to head up Service committee and they used to do potluck dinners or coffee and pastries.

Scott – used to do potlucks to talk about committee opportunities, should bring back

Patrick – don't have service committee head, but will function under Denise as liaison for now.

c. Formation Committee – PC Liaison: OPEN

John – Formation Committee met in November – did brainstorming and held pre-advent retreat, 16 people attended. In Spring, looking to do something around evangelization.

d. Finance Committee – PC Liaison: **Donna Schmidt**

Donna – Theresa Horlander sent out finance committee minutes. School has to submit tuition amounts. Discussed stewardship form. Collections are behind. New school refund policy will go in place next year.

David – might need to look at end of capital campaign, people might have lapsed in their giving.

Father Jon - Facilities is trying to put together maintenance schedule. Would like to build maintenance reserve. Jeremy volunteered to be liaison for facilities committee.

e. School Board – PC Liaison: **Alyssa Sohl**

Steve – school board's work on stewardship form was big part of last school board meeting. Facilities – no end to the projects with a 100 year old building. Trying to prioritize the most important things to do that are essential for long-term stability. Hope to get that done within the next couple of facilities meeting.

f. Building and Grounds Committee – OPEN

Scott – Need snow removal team added to stewardship committee

5. 7:00 Old Business

6. 7:05 New Business

a. Frequency of parish council meetings

Father Jon – Now that he is in the rectory, would like to meet once a month. Need meeting for March. Need OK from OLSJ to move their parish council meetings. Could be March 18. Need to move time to 6:30pm.

Father Jon – Been here 2 years, have seen how the worship schedules have worked. Now have high attendance for weekday evening Masses. Sunday morning Mass – would like council on. OLSJ has Noon Mass currently and time has been hard. Looking to move back to old schedule of 7am, 9am, 11am (OLSJ). 7am would not be full Mass and would have no music. Would be SFA style of Mass. One thing would be different - every other week praying to Archbishop Fabre and the next week to Bishop Lopes. Jeremy recommended 9:30am as a compromise to changing 10am Mass time.

Steve – Recommended later Mass for youth. Sunday evening Mass?

John – When ordinariate members are not coming because of the noon Mass time, where are they going? **Father**

Jon – neighborhood churches, SFA

Scott – Could we rotate that Sunday evening Mass with other churches? **Father Jon** – challenging because then people sometimes won't know which church to go to. Good opportunity to add different kinds of music

Steve – Don't agree with time change because with things the way they are now, parishioners are going to view this as another change in the wrong direction.

Alyssa – Could OLSJ do a Saturday evening Mass? **Father** – not large enough right now, but could look at in future

Donna – Asked for a comparison of number of parishioners - ~350 families (SFA) vs. 65 families (OLSJ)

Steve – can we do 10am and 11:30am?

Scott – could formation be before SFA Mass?

Summary –

Sunday evening Mass instead of 7am
9:30am – would be a better compromise

Father has asked for prayer regarding Mass times until next meeting.

7. 7:50 Closing Prayer and Adjourn