Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: Byron Albers, Jeff Stammen, Stacie Enneking, Derek Spieles, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Steve Gruber, John Stechschulte, Kate Hemmelgarn

Standing Commissions: Kay Schmiesing, Major Bernhold

Visitors:

Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically to accept the October 2024 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance (Brian Wolf)
- No updates provided

Education Commission (Jana Ranly) – submitted via email and has been condensed
- Confirmation is 2/2 - Fr. Sean Wilson (Dean) will be presiding with Fr. Ken, Fr. Mark and Fr. Vara Kumar and Deacon Roger joining him. Confirmation practice and confession with sponsors is 1/29. We have 44 students getting Confirmed with one OCIA candidate getting Confirmed with us. One student from Holy Redeemer may also be joining us if their preparations are completed in time.
- First Communion Enrollment Mass was on 1/5 with the Second grade Dragon Slayers Parent/ Student Retreat with Extraordinary Missions that afternoon. We have 61 First Communion students this year.
- Theology of the Body split male and female sessions are beginning for 8th, 10th and 11/12th grades. Marshal Brame will be leading the sessions for the 8th grade males, Jessica Luthman (8th grade teacher) as well as Danyel Spillers with Kiera Sullivan will be presenting to the 8th grade females. Mark Travis will be leading the 10th grade males, Kate Hemmelgarn and Jackie Homan (10th grade teachers) will be leading the 10th grade females. Phil Slonkosky (11/12th grade teacher) will be leading the 11th/12th grade males. Courtney Imwalle and Danae Spieles will be leading the 11th/12th grade females.
- Theology of the Body programs for 6th, 7th and 9th grade have been purchased. I noticed that those grades were not teaching TOB. With the current climate of the world, and the things our students are exposed to, I feel it is essential that all grades

teach TOB and what it means to be a child of God; created in His image and likeness.

- Catholic Social Teaching for Youth books have been purchased and will be added to each classroom as a reference for teachers. I also ordered Made This Way; a book that helps explain Catholic Social teachings to a variety of ages. Both books reference the Catechism and offer age- appropriate guidance. Once all books are in, there will be a teacher meeting to discuss when/ how to utilize these tools.
- Together with The Holy Haus Preschool, we had 153 children sign up and participate in the Children's Christmas Play on 12/18. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive regarding the play being moved from before Christmas Eve Children's Mass to its own day. We plan to keep the play on its own day going forward.
- Planning for this summer's vacation bible school has just begun. We will once again be teaming up with The Holy Haus for this. Our hope is to form committees to help with the planning, execution and clean up of VBS.
- Every classroom in the Parish Center is full on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. In order to make room for the necessary increase from our current two 8th grade sections to three sections for next year, the Jr/Sr group will decrease from three sections to two sections. When numbers are available from the school, projected incoming Kindergarten numbers will be assessed to see how we can best accommodate the K-2 students on Thursday afternoons. Currently, our first-grade class is our largest with 71 students divided in to three sections. We are thankful for our volunteer classroom aids that help with these larger numbers.

Cemetery Board (Jacque Borchers) – submitted via email

- The board received $2,000 from the Herkenhoff Foundation Trust to continue our work on repairing old headstones and foundations that have no known next of kin.

- We are in need of a new mower. We reviewed quotes from a few companies and will be trying out a couple of the new mowers in the spring. The board is considering a "new every year" program, where we can turn in our current mower and receive a new one each year.

- The board voted to increase our cemetery dues from $10 to $15 for a single person and from $20 to $30 for a family. This is the first increase in over 20+ years and will be impactful to help maintain the cemetery properly.

Mission Commission (Kay Schmiesing)

- Thanksgiving Food Drive—Pam Schmitmeyer and Bonnie Traska led this. Food and toiletries were collected and donated to Calvary Chapel and Agape in St. Mary’s and Sidney
- Rustic Hope has received 124 floor blankets, 180 burp cloths and 130 receiving blankets that were sewn by members

- Karen Dwenger makes approximately 500 rosaries each month. Linda Theiman will take 2,300 to Haiti and all confirmation and first communion students will receive one.
- On Dec 12th, members filled boxes that were decorated at the Dec meeting with fruit, homemade goodies and FFA bologna. These were then delivered with a nice visit to the elderly and home bound parishioners.
- The Angel tree program assisted 13 families. Parishioners were very generous. Almost all the angels on the trees were taken and gifts were given on time. We added laundry detergent this year to each family and pillowcases that were made and donated by Margaret Bensman and her book club. The ministry Matthew 25:35 donated meat. Assortment of canned good and ham are also purchased by the mission commission and donated to each family.
- The mission commission donated towards bringing in the speaker Dr. Mary Ruth Hackett who is coming to our area end of March, a donation to support students attending the Right to Life March in Washington DC was given. Also funds were donated to go towards the snacks and goddy bags for the Advent Service-father/Child program.
- The mission commission members came to Wilma Naber and Rick Snyder's viewing for prayers.
- Dorothy created a St. Augustine/St. Joseph mission commission Facebook page.
- Jared Post gave a presentation at the December meeting on the choir's Europe trip.
- Suggestions on starting a welcoming committee to welcome new families into the Parish and a new baby committee to welcome the recently baptized. Members were asked to consider this and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Finance Commission (Major Bernhold)

- Endowment of $250,000 was received. The church has over $400,000 in cash however they are scrutinizing expenses knowing that the repair of the steeples is coming up.
- The Archdiocese is looking at creating the Catholic Community Foundation: where interest only would be dispersed to the church.
- The church has been contacted when people want to donate money or land to the church and don't know how.

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee (Jeff Stammen)

- Reminded the members to reach out to our groups to see if there is anything they need our help with.
- Talked to Jodie Blindauer about a Day of Service here like parishoners from St. Augustine have volunteered for with Catholic Heart. Jeff would like to see something similar done here in our community. Jeff has reached out to a few individuals to see if they would be interested in helping get this off the ground. This is just in the planning stages.

EAP/ASP Committee (Amy Bergman)

- No updates provided

Elections Committee (Kate Hemmelgarn)

- It is that time for elections. Amy will be staying. Kate and Byron will be dropping off.

Old Business

Camera/Button/Lock Project Approval

- We recently requested updated quotes for the project from Secur-com of Minster and Nu-Wave Technology of Coldwater. After securing the quotes, we met with Fr. Ken, Rich and Greg from Building & Maintenance, to discuss the scope of the project and the vendor that best fits the project.
- We decided in that meeting that Secur-Com would be the better option; Secur-Com offered a competitive price and has a good knowledge of the building as they have done other projects in the buildings for us.
- TOTAL - $59,000 plus $32/month ($384 annually)
- The Finance Committee has reviewed and approved up to $65,000 for this project. We would like to have approval from the Parish Council before proceeding. Jeff Stammen motioned and John Stechschulte approved.

Steeple Preservation Update

- Quote from Wellman Brothers: $901,840
- Includes steeples/copper restoration, redoing the drainage system, and clock faces. Not included is the gilding steeple crosses and church roof crosses $103,640, which will be completed in the future
- Project fundraising goal is $1 million
- Finance Committee agreed to fund $250,000 leaving $750,000
- Based on the organ project, 600 of 1200 families contributed
- Working on a draft of a tri-fold pamphlet for the pledge card
- An amount between $1000 to $1200 with an option of pledging 1 or 2 years
- Set up a bank account at Minster Bank for the project
- Midnet Media to establish a web page and QR code
- Diane to the possibility of Ohio History Fund Grants
- Develop a FAQ list
- March 1 to have pamphlet ready
- Scaffolding to go up Fall 2025
- Project completion spring/summer 2026

Online Church Tour

- The St. Augustine Church Tour is ready for demo link if anyone wants to run it. Link: http://www.midnetdemo.com/preview/0f60d10f?t=1736798348145

Sound System Request

- Jared is at the end of his rope. He has shopped it around and is getting the same answer from everyone. He believes that we have the best that we are going to get. Educate the parishoners on what has been done. Did they test music, lecture, priest? There seems to be a dead spot in the middle of church.

New Business

- March is the target date for all parishes will have 1 bulletin. Dealing with figuring out how to get all of the information in the bulletin with that many parishes.

Father Ken's Comments

- Fr. Schnipke talked about Fr. Kummar coming in. Some culture shock for him. But he is adjusting well.
- Talked about Fr. Alt's semi retirement. He will continue to live at St. Johns. He will help with confessions and continue 1 weekend mass and 1 weekday mass.
- They are looking at adding a weekend mass. 8:00 am mass on Sunday at New Bremen will most likely be the mass added.
- Sarah Mescher is the new director of communications. From New Bremen. She is the CRE at Holy Redeemer.
- The 3 goals for the family of parish is being used at all faculty meetings and would like to have these used at all organizational meetings. Seeing where we were and where we are going.
- The Archdiocese is ending their relationship with the Girl Scouts. They have given the girl scouts a year notice.
- Evangelization events to be in the bulletin.

Next Meeting Date: 3/18/2025, 7:00pm

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Executive Session

Approval:

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Chairperson, Steve Gruber Date

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