

ST. PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 9, 2025

6:00 p.m. in Bona Room

"Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a growing Catholic Community of Disciples, who Know, Love, Serve and Share, the Good News of Jesus."

President Debbie Verhagen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Debbie Verhagen led the opening prayer.

ATTENDANCE

Father Bob Stegmann, Debbie Verhagen, Pat Schmidt, Jim Milhaupt (Secretary Trustee), Judy Hurlburt, and Michelle Otto.

MINUTES

Judy Hurlburt made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2024, meeting with the correction that Judy Hurlburt was also in attendance at the December meeting. Jim Milhaupt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Father Bob explained that the Conversion of St. Paul is January 25. Since St. Paul is the Pastoral Saint of the Parish, Father Bob explained that he is planning to use the Readings for the Conversion of St. Paul for the weekend Masses on January 25-26 and not the Readings for January 26.

Father Bob said he attended the Development Day in Brillion. Judy Hurlburt asked Father Bob if it was helpful. Father Bob said that some parts were helpful. Father Bob also mentioned about two weddings happening in 2025 that he is doing the Religious Preparation with the couples. Father Bob helped Father Matthew with the Mass Celebration on January 6. This Mass celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope for 2025 and the 25th Anniversary of Bishop David Ricken's Ordination to Bishop. Father Bob stated that January 22 is a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, as per the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Everyone agreed that the new Christmas trees by the Altar looked very nice with all the lights and the shape. The new trees didn't take as much manpower and time to set up.

Father Bob asked our thoughts on the times of the New Years Day Masses. He said that the Mass times were the same times as the normal Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning Masses. One person suggested that maybe an earlier time for New Years Eve, so people could attend Mass and then go to their New Years Eve parties. Another person suggested

having the morning Mass at 9 a.m. so anyone who celebrated New Years Eve didn't have to get up as early as for the 8 a.m. Mass.

There was a discussion on the Christmas Eve Masses. Debbie Verhagen stated that she was disappointed with the 4 p.m. Mass because there was no choir. Also, Debbie would like to see the Faith Formation students have an opportunity to be involved in the Mass in some way. She said that the 4 p.m. Mass felt like a weekend Mass and not a special Mass for Christmas. Jim Milhaupt said that Bill Stevens sang the Christmas Proclamation before the 9 p.m. Mass, but otherwise Jim also thought that there was no special feeling of Christmas for the 9 p.m. Mass. Father Bob said there was some available room in the Church for the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. Father Bob reported some visitors to the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 4, for Epiphany loved the Mass. The Choir did sing at the 4 p.m. Mass.

FAITH FORMATION

Debbie Verhagen reported that as a teacher for First Grade, everything is going well. She said that the lesson plans and planning activities can be time consuming but very rewarding.

Debbie brought up the subject about attracting younger families to come to Church. She said that her family, including her daughter's family, attended other Churches recently. Debbie's grandchildren loved the Children's Liturgy at St. Paul, compared to staying in Mass for the entire time.

Some people talked about attending Mass with your "Church Family", especially if you attend the same Mass most of the time.

DONATIONS

Judy Hurlburt reported that the Mitten Trees have been emptied. All the donations have been delivered to the locations for the Adult and Family Pillars, Adult Pillars, and COTS.

Judy Hurlburt is working on donations for Leaven, St. Joe's Food Pantry, and St. John's Food Pantry from Christian Services.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO SANCTUARY AREA

Father Bob reported that he is working on a letter to the Diocese about the plans to move Our Lady of Fatima to the Sanctuary area along with a donation of a St. Joseph Statue to the Sanctuary, too.

LENT

Father Bob said that the book "An Introduction to Prayer" by Bishop Robert Barron will be given to Parishioners with Lent.

OFFICE SECRETARY AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

Deb Runnoe, our Parish Secretary, is working three half days a week. She is helping with entering information into the computer regarding our Parish Census and who has all received the Sacraments in our Parish. The Diocese of Green Bay requested this information. Bill Stevens has been hired as the Coordinator of Sacred Music -Music Director.

MARY'S GIRLS

The Rosary continues the 13th of every month. The January monthly meeting will be January 26.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Father Bob reported that the electrical work in the kitchen that the Knights requested will be done soon along with a new electrical box.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

Bids are in for the Marquee. Hopefully, a decision will be made soon on the Marquee. Also, the information to replace the thermostats is being looked into. Also, the Jerry and Rosemary Kamps area in the Faith Formation wing is getting closer to completion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Debbie Verhagen, a teacher for the Faith Formation program, is concerned about children's safety after leaving Faith Formation. She was explaining that a youth was standing in the parking lot alone when Debbie was getting ready to leave. Debbie used her phone to call the youth's parents. The mother came right away to pick up the youth.

There was a discussion about getting more volunteers for "Welcoming" people to Mass at the doors of the Church along with other volunteers for Mass. It was suggested to have a notice put in the bulletin to see if anyone is interested in volunteering.

NEXT MEETING DATE - Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6 p.m.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Father Bob did the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Prepared by Pat Schmidt, Parish Council Secretary