

ST. PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 13, 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 6:02 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. Kelly Buechel was attending as a guest.

MINUTES

Judy Hurlburt made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2025, meeting with the correction that Father Bob was only in attendance at the January 6, 2025 Mass at the Cathedral. He did not help with any part of the Mass as indicated in the January minutes.

Debbie Verhagen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Maggie Melchior gave Father Bob an explanation about the youth that was standing outside after a Faith Formation Class one Wednesday. Parents are asked to come inside to pick up their children/youth after classes are done so no child is outside by themselves.

Debbie Verhagen questioned why Bill Stevens doesn't play the music at all the weekend Masses. Father Bob said that Bill Stevens is not scheduled to play the music at all weekend Masses. Bill is a parttime employee.

Debbie Verhagen was still wondering about a children's choir, especially for the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. There was mention of the Christmas Pageant that was done several years ago when Erin Schuessler was working with the Youth Faith Formation Program. It was mentioned how there were no Christmas music preludes before any of the Christmas Masses this year.

Father Bob also explained about the Decree from Bishop Ricken about the new guidelines for The Eucharist. Father Bob mentioned some of the guidelines as he was still studying what needed to be changed at St. Paul Parish. He talked about providing kneelers if someone wants to kneel to receive the Eucharist. He said that Lay Eucharistic Ministers can say God Bless You to anyone not receiving the Eucharist, like small children. Father Bob was trying to decide how to handle anyone getting the host in a pyx to take to the homebound or sick. He also mentioned that the pyx should be in a burse (a small bag that hangs on a person's neck).

Father Bob said the Grand Baby Piano is in place in the Choir space. A humidifier and a dust cover are still needed for the Grand Baby Piano.

FAITH FORMATION

Everything is good with the program.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE SANCTUARY AREA

Father Bob said he sent 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. He is waiting for approval from the Diocese. Father Bob also showed us three pictures of St. Joseph statues to see which statue we liked better.

LENT

Father Bob said that the parish bought 100 books titled *An Introduction to Prayer* by Bishop Robert Barron to hand out the weekend of March 1-2 to parishioners. Maggie has notes for weekly small group discussions during Lent. She is looking for hosts for the discussion groups.

MARY'S GIRLS

Pat Schmidt reported that Mary's Girls will be setting up the St. Joseph's Altar again this year. The large St. Joseph's Altar will be set up in the narthex with a small table set up with treats by the West Entrance. The baked goodies and treats will be available for people to pick up after the Masses the weekend of March 15-16. Saying the Rosary on the 13th of each month at 2 p.m. continues. The next monthly meeting is on Sunday, February 23 at 2PM.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Father Bob said that the Knights were talking of having a breakfast on Sunday, April 6, if the floor is completed in Vandenberg Hall.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

The sump pump installation was started on Monday, February 10. Hopefully, it will be completed by tomorrow (February 14). The concrete has to cure before the new floor can be started.

The new Gathering Space donated by the Jerry and Rosemary Kamps Family has been completed and will be dedicated and blessed on Sunday, February 16. The children of Jerry and Rosemary Kamps will be providing refreshments after the Sunday Masses in the new Gathering Space for everyone. The plan is that the parking lot will be done in time for Nico's First Mass on June 22. The marquee sign is in the process of being completed in the spring.

OTHER BUSINESS

Debbie Verhagen explained that Kelly Buechel came to the meeting to see about becoming a member of the Parish Council. Everyone agreed that she would be a great addition to the Council and she accepted to be a member of the Council.

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

ADJOURN THE MEETING -Father Bob did the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Prepared by Pat Schmidt, Parish Council Secretary