

OCTOBER 2023 MINUTES

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes for Meeting that took place on Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Elected members in attendance: Donna Bodkin, Kevin Sims, Kelly Hartwig, Bill Keuper, Margie King, Karen Litteral

Elected members not present: Denise Blum

Ex officio members in attendance: Fr. Jim Wedig, Jenni Petrey **Finance members attending:** Bill Campbell, Tom Perazzo

Recording secretary: Janice Stentz

Opening prayer

September minutes: Approved

Parish specific news

- There has been one funeral liturgy since the last PC meeting for Tony Peter.
- The St. MM Book Club met on Sept. 19. Attendance was good with several coming from other family parishes. The book they will be reading is *Beautiful Eucharist*.
- CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) – CLOW resumed Sept. 24. Attendance has been low so far as people get back into a school year routine. Will continue to evaluate.
- The annual Mass of Remembrance will be on Sun., Nov. 5 at the 10 a.m. Mass

Parish Finances

The finance report ending on Sept. 30 was presented. Sunday collections continue to be over what was budgeted for in the 2023-24 budget, but the parish will continue operating at deficit.

Buildings & Grounds:

- There were no major building expenses during September.
- Bill Johansing has purchased fall flowers for the outdoor containers around the grounds and for use on the altar.

Social Committee: Donna reported

- The parish Celebrate St. MM dinner is on Sat., Oct. 14. Krimmers is catering and will deliver the food. Several parish council members have volunteered to help with set-up, serving the food, and selling tickets for the raffles. The Mega Split-the-Pot drawing will take place during the dinner. As of the meeting, the split amount is at \$1,900.00. The baskets for the raffle during the dinner will be on display in the HFR the weekend of Oct 7/8 for anyone who wants to purchase tickets and may not be going to the dinner. The winners will be drawn during the dinner.
- It has been decided to not have the Turkey Dinner this year since it would be close to the Celebrate St. MM dinner.
- The next Donut Sunday will be on Nov 5. Jenni will check with Denise about a date for the next Wine & Cheese gathering.

Communications Committee (CC): Janice reported

The team has not met. The Ministry promotional materials are being updated for the Celebrate St. MM weekend dinner and will also be available in the HFR for Mass attendees during the weekend. Janice will provide Jenni with a message/invitation to be sent to the family priests so they are aware of the Celebrate St. MM weekend dinner and the Feast of St. MM being observed in the parish.

Faith Formation: Jenni reported

- There is currently one person from St. MM who is interested in the RCIA program. Deacon Tom Crooker from St. James will be helping with their formation.
- Confirmation preparation is taking place through St. James and there is one student from St. MM who will be joining them. They will be having a retreat on All Saints Day. Confirmation will be in February at the Cathedral Basilica.
- Jenni will be ordering the "Little Books" for Advent. Bill K. recommended a large print version (if available) for the people he ministers to at the Clovernook nursing home.

Old business – Heritage Room will be open on Sun., Oct. 8

The Heritage Room will be open immediately following the 10 a.m. Mass and until 2 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 8.

Old business – AED purchase for St.MM

A total of \$1,864.33 was collected for an AED for the parish. It's been purchased and is on order. The total cost was \$1,524.00 for the device and \$116.15 for the storage cabinet. The additional amount of \$223.88 that was collected will go towards offsetting some of the cost of training of the ushers and staff. CPR training with the device has been scheduled for Oct. 25. More details to come.

Beacons of Light/Family of Parishes news

- Fr. Jim attended a convocation for all pastors on Sept. 28. The status of Beacons and information about the upcoming deanery meetings that will be taking place around the Archdiocese for members of the families of parishes parish councils were provided. It was clarified that each family's parish council will be tasked with developing a vision for when it is one parish and then identifying steps towards reaching that goal.
- The Mary, Queen of Heaven Family PC meeting took place on Sept. 20. It was suggested that members register to attend the deanery meeting that will take place at St. James on Oct. 23 since they are part of our family of parishes.
- The future of the Hispanic community's use of St. MM Church and facilities is still uncertain. They continue to have Mass at noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. It was suggested that at some point a plan should be made for a meet and greet to get to know each other.
- General discussion continues related to St. MM's long-term finances and ways to help lower expenses where possible. Tom and Bill C. were able to share their insights and ideas from the Finance Committee's perspective and answer questions and concerns raised by PC members.

Winterizing the school building

- Bill Campbell met with a representative from Duke Energy to evaluate the gas and electric configurations in the parish buildings. They found that the electric for the church and school buildings are connected so that the electric cannot be turned off in the school while keeping it on for the church, however the gas is not connected to both buildings. This means that the school can be winterized with the gas and water being turned off for the winter months and turned back on in the spring. This will be done as a cost saving measure since the cost of utilities continues to rise and the building typically has little use during the cold months. Any activities normally taking place in the winter will be moved to a warmer time of year. It is expected this will save the parish about \$20,000 for the year.
- Parish meetings will begin taking place in the meeting room under the church, starting with the next PC meeting on Nov. 9.

Closing Prayer

Next PC meeting: Thurs. Nov. 9 at 6:01 p.m.

— NOTE DIFFERENT DAY OF THE WEEK AND WEEK OF THE MONTH IN NOVEMBER —

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz