

St. Columbkille
Parish Council Meeting
November 9, 2023
Submitted: November 27, 2023

Mission Statement

We are a Catholic community, drawing people to follow Jesus and his message of love.

Meeting Attendees: Father Rich Clement, Deacon Joe Petruskas, Patty Petruskas, Debbie Harris, Brian Quinn, Mike Ondo, Charlene Wysocki, Barbara Zolnowski, Heather Sochko, and Lori Psota.

Opening Prayer: Father Rich Clement

Review & Approval of Minutes: The October 19, 2023 minutes were approved via email by Mike Ondo and Debbie Harris.

New Business:

Council Openings: An ad will be placed in the bulletin for four weeks beginning the weekend of November 11 and 12. Three opening are available.

Council Chair: Patty Petruskas' term is ending this year. A member will take on this role beginning January 2024.

Council Member Duties: Per the bylaws, members should be a liaison with a committee of the parish. Members will come to the meeting and report on the activities of that committee. A discussion ensued regarding the current committees represented and if a revision is needed.

Committee Reports:

Evangelization: Presented by Deacon Joe Petruskas

- Sharing Christ, the 3rd part of the Christ Life series on the New Evangelization completed on Saturday, October 21st. 32 parishioners were commissioned by Fr. Rich as Evangelists of the New Evangelization during the Saturday Vigil Mass, along with all past Sharing Christ evangelists who were in attendance.
- Planning is underway for the 2024 Discovering Christ program to begin during the Lenten season as in the past.
- I was appointed Director of Evangelization of our St. Columbkille Knights of Columbus Council. Supreme Council has requested each council to consider starting a men's program for all men in the parish that would meet on a regular basis for Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity. This new program, called "Cor" which translated means "heart" is being considered. Looking at potentially begin in January, on Saturday mornings. More to come on this next month.

Human Concerns/St. Vincent DePaul: Submitted by Corky Pishock

Notes from the Human Concerns Ministry meeting on November 1, 2023:

- **Bereavement Committee** - nothing new to report
- **Pro-Life - Baby Shower for Birthright:** Many items were donated, plus monetary donations. The people at Birthright were excited to see all the diapers because they were very low on them.
- **Coat Drive for St. Luke's Clothing Rack** - Although there were not as many coats/shoes donated this year as in past years, the volunteers at the Clothing Rack were very grateful for everything that was brought over.
- **Christmas Cards for Nursing/Assisted Living Facilities** - (November 11/12 and 18/19, 2023) Christmas cards will be available in Quinn hall for parishioners to sign.
- **Love Lights for John Paul II Learning Center:** November 25 through December 10, 2023
- **Warming Tree** - (November 25 through December 10, 2023) – Items will be delivered to Boyertown Multi-Service.
- **Clothing Drive for Hope Rescue Mission in Reading** - We will be hosting a clothing Drive for Hope Rescue Mission the weekend of April 13/14, 2024.
- Next meeting: December 6, 2023.

Raise Right/Finance: Presented by Brian Quinn

- Raise Right: October results not finalized. Letter will be placed in the bulletin hoping to promote sales.
- Finance committee meets in January 2024.
- The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pa., who we are pursuing liquidation of funds from will be used to pay the bills for:
 - The painting of the church
 - Facilities Faith Life II renovation final billing
 - Removal of the trees from the Rectory grounds

Fundraising: No report. Next meeting November 12.

Knights of Columbus: Presented by Deacon Joe Petrauskas

- First breakfast of the season took place on November 6. It was well-attended. Final report regarding income is not finalized.
- Trivia Knight will be held Saturday, November 11.

Youth Group: Presented by Heather Sochko

- **Core Team Updates:**
 - One of our core team members, Colleen, got married in October to Brandon Frederick. Congratulations Colleen and Brandon!
- **YG Meeting:** Our first YG meeting was October 15th in Iona Hall from 11 – 1 p.m. We had 8 teens come – no new students, all returning. We played games and talked about what our students want to see this year in Youth Group.
- **Mum Sale:** We made approximately \$125 from our mum sale. We sold out so fast. Next year we will take pre-orders again and order more.
- **Corn Maze:** We had 2 teens sign up and attend our corn maze outing on 10/28.

Coming up...

- 11/12: Turkey Olympics from 11 – 1. Does Musical Hot Turkey, Thanksgiving Price is Right and a Cranberry relay sound like fun to you?! Teens will be in teams to determine

who is the "Turkey Olympics Champion" this year and get a picture with our Turkey Trophy. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate.

- 11/17: Craft fest set-up and craft night from 5 – 9 p.m. We will be helping set up for the craft fest. Then dinner will be served while we craft the night away.
- 11/18: Craft Fest table from 8 – 2. Volunteers are needed to help sell our crafted items. Proceeds from the craft show go directly to the Youth Group.
- Poinsettia Fundraiser: We will take pre-orders from November 18 – December 3. Pick-up is December 16 & 17.
- 11/30: Tree decorating from 7 – 7:45 p.m. Volunteers needed to decorate our tree at Boyertown Multi-Service. Signup by 11/28.
- Next meeting: November 12 – Turkey Olympics

Building & Grounds:

- Father Rich discussed creating a memorial area for the unborn. He has an angel statue that could be placed in that area.

Parish/Staff Items:

- Additional comments were noted regarding multiple groups hosting their meetings on the same evening – especially Monday nights.

Closing Prayer: Father Rich Clement

Our next meeting will be held December 21, 2023 at 7:30 (following daily Mass).

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Psota
Recording Secretary