



ST. JEANNE JUGAN PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

CHURCHES OF: HOLY FAMILY, ST. BERNARD, ST. PATRICK, ST. MARTHA, ST. ADALBERT

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Date: Nov 7, 2023

Location: SB Church – Father Fitzmaurice Hall

The meeting of the St. Jeanne Jugan Parish Council was called to order by President, Josh Sullivan, at 7:00 p.m.

Member Attendance: (X – present, G – guest) Council quorum is in attendance.

<u>X</u> Fr. John Golas	<u>X</u> Dcn. James Marco	<u>X</u> Dcn. Vince Motto	<u>X</u> Josh Sullivan
<u>X</u> Vicki Mitchell	<u>X</u> Joe Kubinski	<u>X</u> Sue Cotter	<u>X</u> Kristen Fitzsimons
<u> </u> Richard Dooley	<u>X</u> Susann Douglas	<u> </u> Donna Doyker	<u>X</u> Pat Keck
<u>X</u> BJ Gomeau	<u> </u> Dave Goyette	<u> </u> Donna Honan	<u>X</u> Don Mongeau
<u> </u> Andrea Krajewski	<u> </u> Walter Kruzel	<u>X</u> Ray Mercik	<u> </u> Darlene Saucier
<u> </u> Charlene Mongillo	<u>X</u> Henrietta Montagna	<u>X</u> Sophia Oppenheimer	<u> </u> Ralph Williams
<u>X</u> Donna Jones Searle	<u>X</u> Faith Scavetta	<u>X</u> Marianne Tittarelli	<u> </u> Kerri Work
<u>X</u> MaryAnn Zaleski	<u>X</u> Michael Smyth	<u> </u> Dave Villanueva	<u> </u> Marie Pyznar
<u>X</u> Ryan LaRoche	<u>G</u> Susan Carlo	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Opening Prayer: Fr. Golas read from Matthew 25:1-12. In life, we are preparing for the Lord's coming while doing good deeds of faith. Our focus question was – what am I preparing for now?

Agenda Items:

Approval of minutes from the meeting of Sept. 5, 2023: Motion to accept minutes as amended by Kristen Fitzsimons, seconded by Don Mongeau. Motion carried.

Committee Reports (S – as submitted by committee)

Facilities (No chair): NA

Legion of Mary (Jackie Proto):

(Secretary's note – report covers activity of past year and is presented in full because of gap in previous reports. Future reports to be only activity between meetings)



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The Legion of Mary (Our Lady of the Holy Family Praesidium) Report covering the last twelve months: 9/15/2022 to 9/15/2023. Our Praesidium reports monthly in person to the Hartford Comitium.

We have 13 Active Members and 63 Auxiliary Members. Our Spiritual Director is Reverend John Golas. Our meetings are held on Tuesday at 2pm at Holy Family Church. Our former President Lucille DiBella resigned as of June 27, 2023. Jacqueline Proto is now the president as of July 19, 2023.

The focus of the Legion of Mary is on outreach to multiple kinds of groups in relation to the Catholic Church, and under the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit.

(1) Recent outreach to non-Catholics has involved those who inquire about the Faith in one-to-one conversations, with a desire to learn more. Otherwise, there may be the possible interaction with non-Catholics who see and hear the weekly Legion of Mary Rosary (that has been requested by the Catholic residents at elderly care sites). All residents are welcome to join in the Rosary.

(2) A second form of outreach is to fallen-away Catholics. Many of the opportunities are occurring through eight sites of Elderly Care during weekly Rosary recitations, so that fallen away Catholics, too, have an opportunity to join in Catholic prayer, experiencing the start of reunion with other believers. Rosaries beads are made available, as well as miraculous medals, pamphlets and/or prayer cards. Another outreach is through the catechesis of older teenagers and adults who are missing all or some sacraments (particularly Confirmation). This is currently being addressed by two legionaries (due to a request for catechists, from the Director of Religious Education to the Legion of Mary).

(3) Another form of outreach addresses the multiple needs of Catholic individuals who may be longing for Catholic gathering, or they may be grieving or confined to bedrest or needing assistance getting out and about for appointments, etc. At the eight elderly care sites, legionaries may stay around after the Rosary to engage in conversations with the elderly. Recently one Legionary designed large booklets of the Rosary prayers and mysteries to assist the elderly at one site who struggle to see or remember now. Additionally, some of our Legion's clients are fortunate that there are two Eucharistic Ministers among us who do bring the Eucharist (by approval of the pastor) to members of the Church who are unable to come to Mass now. Legionaries may also be requested by a family to pray the Rosary for their deceased family members before the Wake hours begin, of which we had six requests this year.

(4) Hopefully, there will again be a parish ministry fair in November, at which the Legion of Mary hopes to have tables (at two church sites) where Legionaries are available to speak with interested people after the weekend Masses. Also, it may be a possibility in the future that our children could be offered participation in a Legion of Mary "Junior Praesidium", which has been suggested by Father Golas. Correspondence has been initiated.

(5) Outreach also may foster opportunities for education or devotion. There were three legionaries in 2023 who assisted in bringing travelling statues of our Lady of Fatima to one home and to a local church and each of these opportunities were announced.

(6) **THE LEGION OF MARY:** The legionaries themselves are also involved in personal and spiritual growth through the Legion prayers recited each day, and daily Mass or Adoration. Intercessory prayer is also important to the Legionaries. Readings in the Legion Handbook also strengthen the legionaries



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for their works. A stress on the power of the Holy Spirit and the example of the humility of Our Blessed Mother are necessary focal points. Visits to pilgrimage sites foster devotion to Our Lord and to Our Lady and are often extended to the parish at large.

We welcome new members to join our joyful Catholic Legion of Mary!

Submitted by Jacqueline Proto, 10/4/2023.

Prayer Shawls/Bears (Debbie Reith):

Senior Lunch (Claire Bronson):

Rosary Guild (chairperson TBA):

Pro Life Committee (Donna Doyker):

The prolife committee had a very successful Baby Bottle Fundraiser, raising almost \$12,000! We are very grateful to all in the Parish who supported our efforts to "PROTECT ALL LIFE." We have already made a \$1,000 donation to Students for Life, in response to an emergency appeal. They are an organization that is active on high school and college campuses, and whose mission is to "change the minds of their peers, connect women and families with non-violent support, and advocate for public policy that protects both mother and child." We will also be supporting several local pregnancy centers, St. Joseph's Residence for the Aged and procuring 3' by 4' prolife signs which will be installed on the lawn areas of all our churches in the Spring. We are working with D&G Graphics to make the signs.

During this fundraiser, we held a coffee and doughnut get-together after all the Sunday Masses in the parish in October, and it was enjoyed by all that came. We want to acknowledge the help we received for the doughnut deliveries from the Knights of Columbus Council 14600, and from each church captain...Michelle Zukowski from St. Martha's, Ann DiMaria Haines from St. Patrick's, Vicki Mitchell from Holy Family, and Donna Doyker from St. Bernard's.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 at Holy Family Church, Room 5.

Submitted by Vicki Mitchell on behalf of Donna Doyker

Religious Education (Pat Keck):

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

- Our new year is off to a great start for Grades K-9.
- We have switched to Pflaum Publishing Gospel Weeklies for our curriculum in Grades K-8. Each week the lesson surrounds the gospel reading for the coming weekend. This has been working extremely well for both teachers and students.



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- Our All-Saints Day Party was held Saturday, October 28 at Holy Family Church. Students came dressed as their favorite saints to mass at 4:30 p.m. with fellowship in the hall of a Pasta and meatball dinner for all families.
- Grades 3-4-5 will have a pancake breakfast on Sunday November 19 with the families in the church hall at St. Bernard after attending mass at 10:30 a.m. We will be discussing the season of Advent. Students and families will make an advent wreath for their home.
- Saturday, December 9th Parents will be invited to a Christmas Breakfast after they drop off their students in grades K-5 at 9 a.m. Deacon Marco will be there, and he will be teaching great ways to pray as a family.
- Our Annual Chrismon Tree Lighting is in December with students playing various roles in the Christmas Pageant at Holy Family. All students in the parish will be invited to join in the pageant.
- All students in Grades K-9 will have a Christmas party with a movie about the nativity this December and receive a nativity ornament from the parish.
- Grades 6-7-8 participated in an impromptu stations of the cross at St. Martha Church. The new stations were installed and finished on a Thursday, so we took advantage of going into the church.
- 9th Grade Confirmation started in October, and we are happy to say we have a very nice class this year and we are looking forward to all the activities planned. Our next class, Donna Doyker from the Pro-Life Committee will come and talk with our teens, as well as past student Adrianna Gomes who sings in Voices for God giving her testimony on how the Lord plays a role her life as a teenager.
- 10th Grade Confirmation Students were confirmed on Saturday, September 30th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. A beautiful day was enjoyed by all.
- We had a Children's Mass on Sunday, November 5th at the 10:30 a.m. mass at St. Bernard with fellowship of Coffee and Donuts in the Hall. Our next children's mass is Sunday, December 3.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Has been suspended on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings allowing the Neocatechumenal Way to have their meetings at St. Bernard Church. They will resume shortly.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

We have had seven candidates in our Adult Confirmation class, and they are being confirmed this evening at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

RCIA

RCIA will start Tuesday November 14 at St. Bernard Church. We have two candidates this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Keck

Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation – SJJ Parish



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St. Bernard Schools (Charlene Mongillo):

12/3 Family Mass 10:30am at SBC and Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

12/20 Christmas Concert 6:00pm @ SBS

LA is still working on a date for their Christmas Concert

12/25-1/2 – Christmas Break

1/27/24 – Purse Bingo

1/28-2/3 – Catholic Schools Week

2/4 – Family Mass at 10:30am @ SBC and Open House at SBS 1-3pm

Submitted by: Charlene Mongillo

St. Vincent dePaul – Holy Family (Dave Goyette):

The St. Vincent de Paul conference of Holy Family held a most successful closet restocking drive the weekend of oct. 28-29. We also housed several identified homeless folks referred to us by the Dept. of Social Services in town.

We are also participating in the Christmas adopt-a-family program established years ago. Kerri Work is chairing this fundraiser for needy families at Christmastime.

We are giving our over 30 families that we serve monthly stop and shop gift cards for their holiday meals for thanksgiving and Christmas as well as monthly food gift cards and help with other related expenses.

David Goyette – President

St. Vincent dePaul – St. Bernard (BJ Gomeau):

Sept 5th meeting Virtual: 6 members in attendance.

Aug 2023, we served 5 clients:

1. Helped a homeless woman with 3 nights at Motel 6. Also gave her some help with groceries and food gift cards.
2. Helped an elderly Enfield woman with her water bill.
3. Helped an Enfield resident with his cell phone bill.
4. Helped a homeless Enfield woman with 2 nights at Motel 6



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5. Helped a local Enfield resident with Food from our pantry and some grocery gift cards.
 - 5 members gathered for a summer get together at Wood 'n Tap for Dinner in August.
 - We completed and submitted our report due to the Mary Banning Fund.
 - The first Saturday of Aug we served between 40-50 people at Enfield loaves and Fishes.
 - Set up to have a collection for Gift Cards from Parrish for the families we serve at Christmas time.

Oct 2nd meeting virtual: 6 members in attendance
Sept 2023, we served just 1 client.

- We helped one woman with 2 nights at Motel 6
- Enfield Loaves and Fishes contacted us to inform us that we are being replaced with another organization to serve clients on the first Saturday mornings of the month. SVDP has been volunteering for approx. 25 years at the Soup Kitchen.
- We will be submitting our annual report at the end of October.
- Andy Cote attended the Hartford Council meeting.
- Next meeting is Monday Nov 6th. I will report on this at our next Parrish Council meeting.

Submitted by BJ Gomeau

Women's Guild (Faith Scavetta & MaryAnn Zaleski):

Our September meeting was a "Welcome Back Potluck Dinner". Thirty-nine members shared their culinary specialties. Guild members enjoyed helping at Deacon Vince Motto's 40 anniversary celebration.

At October's meeting we created holiday themed charcuterie boards and enjoyed the creations as our refreshment. How to pamphlets were available through email. Thirty-five members attended.

November will be a game night and a cookie swap. Also, in November is the Fall into Winter Bazaar on November 18th from 9 am to 3 pm at Holy Family Church Hall and classrooms. Carol Frappier coordinates the event with many guild members helping. Stop by and start your Christmas shopping. Tell your family and friends!

Our current membership is fifty-seven with members from all four churches. Women of the parish may join at any Women's Guild meeting.

There will be no meetings in December and January. Meetings will resume in February,

Faith Scavetta and MaryAnn Zaleski - SJJ Women's Guild Co-presidents



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Worship & Parish Life (Sue Cotter):

The first meeting of the W&PL group committees was held on Monday, September 18th. At this time the Liturgy Committees are planning Masses of Remembrance at both Holy Family and St. Bernard Churches. The Mass of Remembrance at HF will be held on Sunday, November 5th, at 2:00. The Mass of Remembrance at SB will be held on Sunday, November 12th, at 2:00. The committees are also planning for the upcoming Christmas Season, including scheduling of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, preparation for the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Bernard Church, setting up the Chrismon Tree and planning for the Christmas program at Holy Family Church, setting up Christmas decorations at both churches for the Advent and Christmas Seasons, and the Breakfast with Santa event at St. Bernard Church/Fr. Fitzmaurice Hall.

Submitted by Sue Cotter

Youth Ministry (Kristen Fitzsimons):

Youth Ministry met twice in October. On October 1st, students gathered for Mass before joining with the grade 9 CCD students for a special presentation from the Neocatechumenal Way. On October 20th, Youth Ministry met for a night of fun. Students engaged in a Lectio Divina Scavenger Hunt Tag game and enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Youth Ministry met for Mass on Sunday, 11/3. The next meeting is Friday, 11/17 when students will engage in their fall service project, making cookies to be donated to Cookies for Camouflage. These cookies will be sent to service members stationed away from home for the holidays. In December, our Youth Ministry students will assist with the parish Christmas pageant.

Submitted by Kristen Fitzsimmons

Old Business:

Bylaws Subcommittee

Vicki Mitchell reported that the process is ongoing due to availability of committee members with other commitments. She pointed out some non-compliance issues, such as committee members' absence from meetings, and the requirement for elected council members to be serving on an active committee. This generated some open discussion of the council. Fr. Golas acknowledged awareness of issues due to extenuating circumstances, such as Covid and the merger, and stated that is why we have this process and encouraged the bylaws committee to prepare a draft copy of new bylaws that can be first reviewed by the executive, and then released for the full council to review. Vicki stated her view that revisions be made to the current standards that are creating non-compliances. She hopes for the subcommittee to put forth proposals for bylaws revision within the next two meeting cycles.



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Neocatechumenal Way

Fr. Golas reports that there are between 40-65 people that participated. There was a penance service, and the group is leading up to a retreat to take place Nov 17-19 at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. The stated goal of the group is to make an announcement of Jesus and the Good News to the parishioners. Fr. Golas pointed out the retreat date conflicts with the Craft Fair and the SBS fundraiser. Resolution on the time conflict is in process.

New Business:

Sale of St. Adalbert Church, Alden Ave, Enfield, CT

Fr. Golas reported that there is a current offer for purchase of St. Adalberts by Harvest Time Ministries of Wethersfield, CT. The property was appraised at \$525,000 and listed on the market for \$695,000. There is a current offer of \$650,000 which is for the property as is. We were reminded that the estimate to repair St. Adalbert was between \$400,000 to \$450,000. If the sale is approved, a conversion process will be enacted for relegation of the property from sacred to profane, to make it a secular property. A committee is in place from St. Raymond of Penafort (St. Patrick and St. Adalbert) that will look to transition all items in the church for proper dispositioning. The St. Raymond of Penafort council and finance committee already voted approving the sale in August of 2022, and now there needs to be an approval by the St. Jeanne Jugan council to accept the offer so the sale can proceed. Fr. Golas requested a motion of the council to approve the sale of St. Adalbert Church, Alden Ave, Enfield, CT, to Harvest Time Ministries of 48 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. A motion was made by Kristen Fitzsimons, ex-officio member and Youth Director, and was seconded by Vicki Mitchell, council vice president. Following a brief discussion, a vote was called by council president Josh Sullivan, and the motion was carried by voice vote and show of hands, with no opposing votes.

St. Adalbert Cemetery Endowment

Fr. Golas informed council that proceeds from the sale of St. Adalbert's church will go to fund the St. Adalbert Cemetery Endowment.

Committee Reports to OneDrive (SharePoint)

Josh Sullivan acknowledged the hardships of committee members to post to OneDrive. The site will remain, but the preferred method will be for committee chairpersons to submit their reports to both the Council President (Josh Sullivan) and Secretary (Joe Kubinski). The Secretary will put all reports into a Word document that will allow viewing of all submitted reports and have these emailed to all qualified Council members approximately 3 days before the Council meeting date.



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Pastoral Report: Fr. Golas

- St. Adalbert's Cemetery paving. There have been delays. Permission letter from the Diocese was received to begin work. A subsequent letter has been written and sent to contractor and diocesan attorneys, but with time growing short for 2023, expected start date is spring of 2024.
- Paving of the parking lot at St. Martha's. Response from subcontractor regarding engineering specifications was delayed in turn delaying the paperwork to be submitted to the diocese for permission to proceed. The expected start date is now spring of 2024.
- St. Patrick's Church. Duplex that was damage by the freeze last winter is being repaired.
- Parish Center & Old Convent. The finance council is still reviewing the work to be done.
- Knee Surgery. Scheduled for Dec. 28, 2023. Recovery time expected to be 4 -6 weeks. Diocese will be sending priests to come help during the convalescence period, and Fr. Matthew will arrange his schedule to increase his availability.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday January 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at:

 x Fr. Kerwan Hall of Holy Family Church
 Father Fitzmaurice Hall of St. Bernard's Church

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Golas

Motion to adjourn was made by Josh Sullivan, seconded by Faith Scavetta

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Kubinski
Secretary