



DIVINE GRACE PARISH

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025 Zoom Call - 6:30p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom by Father Jim, who opened the meeting with a prayer.

Attendees:

Father Jim, Judy Shearer, Angela Maloney, Valerie Bucek, Beth Markovitz, Devin Cortez, Carol Nocera, and Joyce Gaydosz.

Judy proposed a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, which was seconded by Valerie Bucek. The motion was carried unanimously.

1) Ritzert Hall

- The Ritzert Hall, located at the former St. Matthias Parish in Evans City, requires significant maintenance. Currently, the parish is losing approximately \$20,000 per year due to expenses such as insurance, upkeep, utilities, and maintenance.
- The Butler Department for Aging rents the facility once a week; however, this rental income is insufficient to cover the ongoing costs.
- Father Jim will be discussing the future of the property with the Financial Council next week. Afterward, the decision will be presented to the parishioners for approval.
- With rising costs and low usage, maintaining the hall is becoming unsustainable. The hall's small size and limited parking further reduce its appeal. It is rarely rented except for events such as funeral luncheons, baptisms, or confirmation parties, none of which generate enough income.

2) Updated Staff Chart

- Father Jim shared the latest staff chart, highlighting recent staff changes
- Rose McGinley, formerly the Administrative Secretary for Faith Formation, will now serve as the new Parish Census Coordinator.
 - The parish has 7000 independent households.
 - The parishioners' database has not been updated prior to July, 2022. Rose will contact each family to update their information and clean up the existing records.



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- Emma Sabados has been appointed the new Coordinator for Faith Formation and will take over Rose's previous duties.
- The parish is also seeking to hire an Assistant Coordinator for the Youth Ministry, based in Ellwood City, to focus on expanding the youth program in Ellwood City and assist with the other churches and youth programs.

3) Bishop Zubik Spring Visits

- Novena of St. Anthony on May 6th at Holy Redeemer
- Confirmation on May 31st at St. Ferdinand

4) How are the welcoming calls to new parishioners going?

- Carol and Beth continue making welcoming calls to new parishioners. While many are happy to receive the call and ask many questions, they are often unable to reach everyone.
- Carol, Beth, and Shalini, along with Jennifer Livorse, continue preparing welcoming bags for new members.

5) Should we be doing anything more related to our NGP priorities and goals? Should we create a short survey for us to use to gather some feedback? Who can help create it?

- Father Jim suggested for the PC to create a short survey to gather feedback from parishioners.
- Laura volunteered to create the survey.
- Father Jim emphasized the importance of gathering feedback from parishioners regarding the progress of the three NGP priorities:
 - Evangelization Outreach
 - Youth/Young Adult Ministries
 - Church Unity
- Father Jim asked that each member of the Pastoral Council reach out to ten different parishioner households to conduct the survey and create a report to share with him and the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm with a closing prayer. The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13th.