

**St. Matthew Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, September 12, 2022

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Youth Room

Attendees

Father Peter Naah – absent, travel
Mr. Jonathan Aguilar – absent, travel
Ms. Kelly La Londe
Ms. Jane Witham
Mr. Daryl McKneely

Deacon Dan Sorady
Ms. Jennifer Alberto – absent, travel
Ms. Christine Martinez
Mr. Tyler Rodriguez

Dr. Lei Ann Galvez
Ms. Erica Keegan – absent
Mr. Christopher Sillman
Mr. Anthony Michalski

**Italicized names are potential Parish Council members invited for the Council Retreat and Discernment*

CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

- Ms. Elizabeth O’Parka had asked for a release from the Parish Pastoral Council following the June meeting, preceding her anticipated move away from the local area.
- Ms. Keegan has asked for a release from the Parish Pastoral Council, as a new mother and as a very recent resident of Fredericksburg, VA.

OPENING PRAYER

OLD BUSINESS (0 minutes)

- No old business items discussed.

NEW BUSINESS (60 minutes)

1. Parish Council Retreat (35 minutes)

- a. Called to Serve. Deacon Dan led a “speed retreat” for our Council, touching heavily on the theme of service. The Parish Council should be of service to the parishioners, welcoming to the people, and being present for the people.
 - We are called to read signs of our times, be aware of what is happening in the world, and to call on Christ, careful to heed His Word.
 - We are also called to put on Christ, to be knowledgeable of scripture, and to be eager teachers and examples of Christ – in the model of “priest, prophet, and king”. Through these actions, we grow in our own faith, and bring others to a faith in our Risen Lord.
 - Our Church – our parish, our diocese, and the body of the Catholic faithful – is diverse: we are men and women who vary in age, position in family life, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and approaches in the devoted practice of our faith. Our Parish Council is strongest when we are representative of the make-up of the parish.
- b. Constitution and Bylaws. Mr. Sillman discussed finding parishioners to fill positions on the Parish Council, ideally a total of 12, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Parish Council. He added that he’d like to encourage participation and representation from the ministries and small faith groups, to help the Council better understand the challenges within the parish. Ms. LaLonde provided the counterpoint, that participants of other small faith groups volunteer within our parish in other ways and serving in the Parish Council would add an obligation.

- c. Discussion and Discernment with Potential New Members. Mr. Sillman recommends Mr. McKneely, Mr. Michalski, and Mr. Rodriguez to the Parish Council. Mr. Sillman recommends Ms. La Londe to the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. The position of Secretary is vacant, and will need filling at the next meeting of the Council. There was not an affirmation or vote held at this meeting to confirm nominations to the Council or to positions on the Council, allowing for discussion with Father Peter on his return from personal travel.
2. Parish Council Lines of Effort (5 minutes). Mr. Sillman proposed a document (enclosure 1) to document three “lines of effort” that have been approved by Father Peter, for the consideration of the Parish Council at the next meeting. The document highlights three themes: Improving Communication, Active Participation, and Evangelization.

The document also outlines “resources” – our ministries, small groups and faith formation groups – and our “end state”, which had the mission of our parish. The document could serve to drive discussion during Parish Council meetings: any topic up for discussion should link a resource through a line of effort, to the mission. Mr. Sillman indicated that he’d like to consider a “more actionable” mission; Deacon Dan reminded the Council that while the mission may need a revision, its current iteration had been approved not that long ago by Father Peter.

3. Parish Planning Calendar Review, in Summary (10 minutes)
 - a. September Parish Events. Dr. Galvez reported on the church and school’s Feast Day activities, in her coordination with Ms. Myriam Coleman: the parish is planning on 350 people to celebrate the Feast Day following the 10:00a Mass; the school is providing drinks, adult volunteers will serve food, and teachers and staff will provide games and activities. The Ministry Fair will be in the school’s small cafeteria – guests will be provided a punch-card when they enter the cafeteria, and if they visit a requisite number of tables (and receive a ‘punch’), guests may enter to win a basket prize. Many of the parish’s small groups, ministries and clubs are supporting the Ministry Fair with tables.
 - b. October Parish Events. Dr. Galvez reported that the school’s PTG was planning to host a Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 28, at 6:00pm. This is an opportunity for parish involvement, and an opportunity to deconflict similar efforts (the Knights of Columbus had planned similar events prior to COVID mitigations).
 - c. November Parish Events. While we anticipate the beginning of a new liturgical year and Advent, we did not discuss parish events in November.
4. St. Matthew School Update (5 minutes).
 - Dr. Galvez briefly highlighted school enrollment: 491 students, comprising 350 families, of which 295 are Catholic (84%), and of which 93 families are registered at St. Matthew Catholic Church (27% of all families, 32% of Catholic families).
5. Other Business (5 minutes). Mr. Sillman offered consideration for contributions in the purchase of the chasuble given as a gift from the Parish Council to Father Peter on his Twenty-Fifth Jubilee.

CLOSING PRAYER

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm. Proposed Next Meeting: Monday, October 3, 2022



St Matthew Catholic Church

Parish Lines of Effort / 90-day Outlook

MINISTRIES

EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Confraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz
 Legion of Mary
 Respect Life

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
 Finance Council
 Money Counters
 Physical Plant Management
 Web Management

SERVICE MINISTRIES
 Food Pantry
 Women's Club
 Knights of Columbus
 Men's Club
 Parish Pastoral Council
 Parish Nurses
 Prison Ministry
 Meals on Wheels
 N.E.S.T.
 St Vincent de Paul Society
 Sunshine Club
 Bereavement Group

FAITH FORMATION

Baptism
 RCIA
 Adult Formation
 Youth Ministry
 Children's Religious Education
 St Matthew School

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

PROJECT A
 PROJECT B
 PROJECT C

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

PROJECT A
 PROJECT B
 PROJECT C

EVANGELIZATION

PROJECT A
 PROJECT B
 PROJECT C

PARISH MISSION

We, the faithful of St. Matthew, commit to continuing the work of Jesus in the world.

We are dedicated to full participation in the life of the Church – through liturgy, evangelization, promoting of Catholic education, Christian formation, and continual conversion.

We acknowledge that we are all created in His image and likeness.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

OCTOBER EVENTS

NOVEMBER EVENTS